



# Ethical Sourcing Policy

## Purpose

The Ethical Sourcing of Food and Supplies Policy at Iqra University aims to guide responsible and sustainable procurement practices that reflect the university's commitment to environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and fair labor standards. This policy is designed to ensure that all food and supplies sourced by the university adhere to ethical practices that benefit society, the environment, and the university community.

## Scope

This policy applies to the sourcing, purchasing, and distribution of all food and supply products at Iqra University, including items used in dining facilities, campus events, research activities, and daily operations. It is applicable to all departments, faculty, administrative units, and third-party vendors engaged in procuring food and supplies for the university.

## Introduction

Iqra University's commitment to protecting the environment and implementing sustainable measures in our everyday processes, with the goal of reaching Net Zero Emissions by 2030, plays a central role in strategic decision-making and future initiatives.

Building on the commitments outlined in the Environment Strategy, this policy emphasizes our dedication to promoting a sustainable environment within the university community. By embracing eco-friendly practices and minimizing both plastic and paper consumption, we aim to instill environmental consciousness across the IU community.

## Policy Statement

Iqra University is committed to supporting ethical and sustainable sourcing practices for food and supplies. The university strives to procure items that are produced responsibly, minimize environmental impact, and promote fair labor practices. To uphold these values, the university adheres to the following principles:

### 1. Prioritize Sustainable and Environmentally Friendly Sourcing

- Procure food and supplies that are sustainably sourced, organic, or have minimal environmental impact whenever possible.

- Give preference to items with environmentally friendly packaging, such as biodegradable, compostable, or recyclable materials.
- Minimize reliance on single-use items by promoting reusability and supporting products made from renewable resources.

## **2. Support Fair Labor and Ethical Standards**

- Work only with suppliers who comply with fair labor standards, providing safe working conditions, fair wages, and no child or forced labor.
- Prioritize partnerships with suppliers that hold fair trade certifications, particularly for food items like coffee, tea, and chocolate, to ensure ethical production and fair compensation for workers.
- Monitor supplier practices to verify their adherence to these standards and encourage improvements where necessary.

## **3. Source Locally and Support Community-Based Suppliers**

- Favor local and regional suppliers to reduce the carbon footprint associated with food and supplies transport and to support the local economy.
- Partner with community-based producers, including small businesses and cooperatives, to promote local job creation and social inclusion.
- Engage with vendors committed to fair hiring practices that empower marginalized groups such as ethnic minorities, women, and differently-abled individuals.

## **4. Ensure Transparency in Sourcing Practices**

- Maintain transparent relationships with suppliers, ensuring clarity on their ethical, environmental, and sourcing practices.
- Conduct routine supplier assessments and audits to ensure compliance with Iqra University's ethical sourcing standards.
- Use clearly defined benchmarks and metrics to evaluate suppliers' adherence to ethical standards, including environmental impact, labor practices, and community engagement.

## **5. Promote Awareness and Accountability within the University Community**

- Provide training and resources to educate faculty, staff, and students on the importance of ethical sourcing and its positive impacts on sustainability and social justice.
- Encourage stakeholders to provide feedback on sourcing practices and to report any concerns regarding supplier ethics.
- Publicize the university's progress and achievements in ethical sourcing to encourage accountability and transparency.

## Implementation and Monitoring

The University's Procurement and Sustainability Departments will oversee the implementation of this policy. They are responsible for ensuring that food and supply procurement aligns with ethical standards and maintaining regular evaluations of suppliers' practices. These departments will also be tasked with reporting progress on sustainable sourcing efforts and implementing policy improvements as necessary.

## Reporting

In accordance with milestones and key targets developed by the Procurement Department, the concerned department will report their quarterly performance to the Office of Sustainability.

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<b>Associated Policies</b>	<a href="#">Environment Policy</a> , <a href="#">Environment Strategy</a> , <a href="#">Sustainable Investment Policy</a> , <a href="#">Sustainable Procurement Policy</a>