



**AMRITA**  
VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM

DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY UNDER SECTION 3 OF UGC ACT, 1956

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

*Chancellor's Initiatives*



## Nurturing Nature

Rooted in the vision of universal love, selfless service, and compassion towards all beings, our Chancellor, Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma) has pioneered a unique model of environmental stewardship that integrates sustainability science, indigenous wisdom, community participation, and climate resilience. Across continents, Amma's initiatives have mobilized communities, researchers, volunteers, youth networks, policymakers, and local governments to restore ecosystems, nurture biodiversity, empower vulnerable communities, and create self-reliant sustainable futures. What distinguishes Amma's environmental philosophy is its deeply holistic approach, one that recognizes nature not merely as a resource, but one that sustains all life.



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“Nature is our Mother and Father. The mother who gave birth to us may allow us to sit in her lap only until the age of two or three. However, Mother Nature keeps us in her lap for an entire lifetime. She lovingly does this to all beings, not only human beings. Nature is the visible form of God. It is not enough to create awareness about protecting and preserving nature. We must also develop an attitude of love, respect, humility and worshipfulness towards her.”

**Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi,**  
Chancellor, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham



## Highlights

**1**

Million+  
Trees Planted  
Globally

**2**

Million+  
Seedballs  
Produced

**200,000+**

Women Empowered  
Through Community  
Networks

**5**

Activities  
Across  
Continents

**23**

Indian States  
Environmental  
Programs

**500,000+**

Volunteer Field  
Hours

**150+**

Communities  
Practicing  
Organic Farming

**95%**

Waste  
Recycled at  
Amritapuri  
Campus

**450,000+**

Saplings Distributed  
Through Cultural  
Environmental  
Campaigns



## Planting Trees

Globally, over 6 million trees have been planted to restore ecosystems, strengthen biodiversity, and nurture climate-resilient communities.

**6 Million+** Trees Planted Globally

Member Organization of UN Billion  
Tree Campaign

**30,000** Trees Planted Along 13 km  
of Tsunami-Affected Coastline

Community-driven afforestation  
programs in rural and urban regions



## Seedball Campaign

The Global Seedball Campaign was launched with an aim of producing 1 Million Seedballs as a part of Civil 20 India 2023 to promote environmental sustainability and restoration of ecosystems. This is an extension of the existing seedball initiative launched by Amma as a holistic solution aimed at ecosystem restoration.

**2 Million+** Seedballs Produced

**1.8 Million+** Seedball Disbursed

**5** Continents

**11** Indian States



## Culture-based Approaches

For a Greener Future

A unique culture-based initiative in Kerala, India, where the traditional practice of Vishukaineetam during Vishu has been transformed into Vishuthaineetam, encouraging elders to gift tree saplings to younger generations instead of material offerings, symbolizing hope, renewal, and environmental responsibility for a greener future.

**450,000+** Saplings Distributed

**350+** Events Conducted



## Eternal Forests

Novel Afforestation Initiatives

Amrita Vanam is a reforestation initiative that encourages communities to plant and nurture saplings, including native species, in public spaces and ecologically vulnerable regions. As part of the initiative, greenhouses are being established to independently generate over **100,000** saplings bi-annually, supporting long-term ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation.

Launched in 2002

**100,000+** Trees Planted



## InDeed

Campaign for Nature

Born from Amma's vision of restoring harmony between humanity and nature, the campaign encourages simple sustainable actions that individuals and communities can adopt in their everyday lives through six easy commitments.

- Conserve Water
- Plant a tree
- Carpool
- Reduce your carbon footprint
- Grow your own vegetables
- Build a house for birds or bugs

The campaign launched in 2013, continues to improve the health of our planet's environment. In 2014, the InDeed Campaign for Nature was officially recognized by UNESCO as a project of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.



## Birdhouse Project

Muttathoru Pazhathopp, Mukalil Oru Kilikkoodu, translated as “An Orchard in the Yard, a Birdhouse on the Treetop,” is a community-based initiative launched to promote biodiversity conservation and protect native and migratory birds during extreme weather conditions. As part of the initiative, fruit-tree saplings and bird feeders are distributed among households to provide food, water, and shelter for birds.



## Ecovillage for Sustainable Living

As part of Amma’s vision for regenerative and self-reliant communities, the Ecovillage at La Ferme du Plessis in Pontgouin, France, promotes a sustainable and supportive way of life rooted in ecological harmony and collective responsibility. Developed using permaculture principles, the ecovillage integrates ecological agriculture, renewable energy, water conservation systems, soil regeneration, biodiversity enhancement, and sustainable housing practices. Built with bio-sourced materials and eco-construction methods, the initiative serves as a living model for environmentally conscious, community-centered, and climate-resilient development.



## Empowering Communities

*For Resilience to Climate Change*

Launched in the wake of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, AMRITASREE SHG was established with the goal of empowering communities for resilience to climate change. The initiative has supported economically vulnerable women across India through self-help groups by providing skill development, livelihood opportunities, and support for establishing small-scale cottage industry enterprises.

**13,500+** SHGs Formed

**200,000+** Participants



## Cleanliness Drive

*Towards a Cleaner & Greener Future*

Launched in 2010, the Amalabharatam Campaign works towards improving public health and promoting environmental cleanliness.

**7,500+** Clean-ups conducted

**6,500+** Workshops organized

**1 Lakh+** Volunteers mobilized

**500,000+** Field Hours

**'Fourth Sunday Clean Sunday'** Campaign in villages

National & International clean up drives

**27** States Across India



## Sustainable Practices

Community led Initiatives

**BABEL Project:** A unique beehive project in France for large-scale beekeeping and soil fertilization

**Seedbanks:** Preservation of Heritage seeds by preparing seedbanks across India, Europe, the Americas, and Australia



**Organic Farming Initiatives:** Cultivation and consumption of organically grown vegetables in 150+ communities in India and across Europe. Tens of thousands of seeds have been distributed to women of all social stratas to grow organic vegetables to feed their own families.

**Kitchen Gardens:** Supports impoverished people to grow organic vegetables on their own land. The villagers cannot afford to buy such produce in local markets, so growing their own helps them obtain essential vitamins and nutrients.



## Waste Management Practices

The recycling center at Amritapuri Campus, serves as a model for professional and sustainable waste management designed to address the needs of India's rapidly growing population. The center also functions as an educational and awareness hub for visiting students, teachers, policymakers, business leaders, and waste management professionals, promoting responsible waste practices and environmental sustainability.



**95%** waste is recycled.

Multiple waste collection centres helping **5000** people/day.

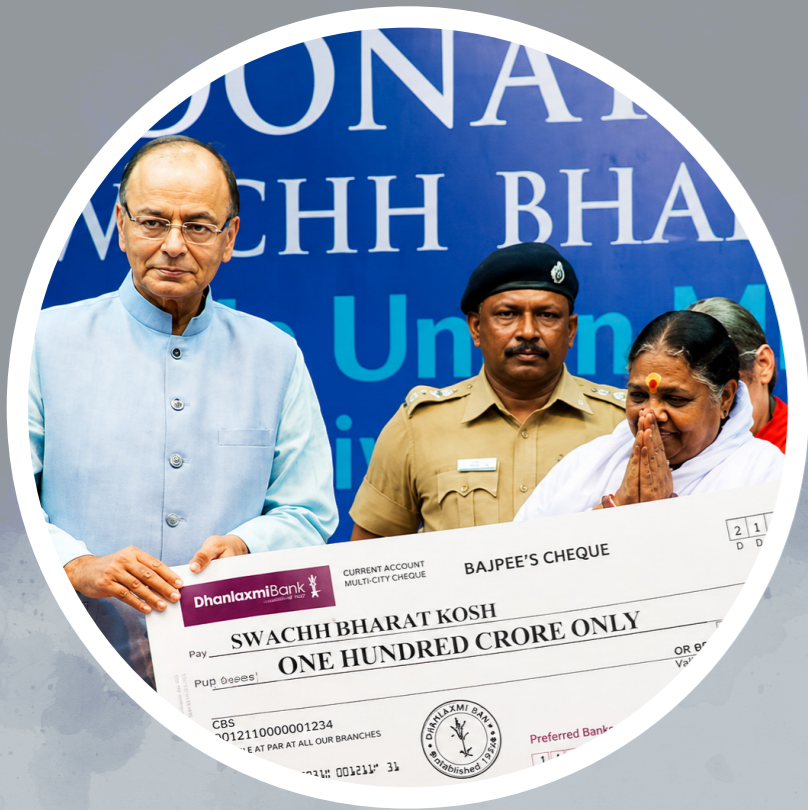
Waste segregated in to **100+** categories.

**100%** organic waste is composted at Ashram Centres

**10-20 tonnes** of waste per month is sold and upcycled.

**1-2 tonnes** of organic waste is composted daily.

Regular tours and awareness sessions for visitors & students



## Namami Gange

*Integrating Environmental Sustainability  
with Public Health*

Recognizing the close connection between environmental sustainability and public health, Amma has supported large-scale sanitation and river conservation initiatives across India. As part of the Namami Gange and Swachh Bharat missions, Mata Amritanandamayi Math pledged ₹100 crore towards sanitation and environmental improvement initiatives focused on hygiene, dignity, and the protection of water ecosystems through toilet construction, sanitation awareness, and community-led public health interventions.

**₹100** crore Pledged towards Namami Gange



## Blue Economy & Coastal Sustainability

To empower coastal women through sustainable livelihoods and climate-resilient aquaculture, Amma launched community-led seaweed cultivation initiatives focused on ecological restoration and blue economy development. Under the “Blue is the New Pink” initiative, women are trained in sustainable ocean farming, marine safety, and value-added seaweed enterprises, supporting income generation, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience across coastal communities in India.

- Implemented Across Coastal Communities in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka
- Focus on Seaweed Cultivation & Seagrass Restoration
- Women-led Sustainable Aquaculture Enterprises



## *School for Sustainable Futures*

Amrita School for Sustainable Futures (ASF) is dedicated to making sustainable development a reality for all, especially vulnerable communities. Through experiential learning and community-driven initiatives, ASF promotes sustainability education, ecological stewardship, and innovative solutions that support the creation of self-reliant, resilient, and sustainable ecosystems.



**84** Students

**16** countries

**9** Thematic Areas

**\$5.1 Million** in Funding

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The first cohort of the fully funded E4Life PhD Program in Sustainable Development graduated in 2025, with 23 scholars from 9 countries.

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### **Sustainable Management of Sacred Groves**

The study focusses on preserving the endangered ecological and cultural elements of Kerala's sacred groves. It explores socio-cultural aspects, management, and threats to these sites, with a goal of devising strategies to safeguard their socio-cultural significance, ecosystems, biodiversity, and heritage.

### **Pond Water Contamination: Risks, Societal Impacts, and Sustainable Remedies**

This study examines pond water contamination caused by human activities, including improper waste disposal, wastewater discharge, and surface runoff. The resulting water quality degradation affects aquatic ecosystems, public health, fish production, and livelihoods. The research investigates contamination pathways and impacts while evaluating sustainable mitigation measures to support ecosystem restoration and rural water resource management.

### **Agroforestry**

Land degradation especially affects people in rural regions, who are dependent on land for provision of food, fodder, livelihood and shelter. The research seeks to apply system thinking approach to ecological restoration to understand the interplay of biophysical and anthropogenic factors leading to land degradation and develop community-led restorative solutions.

### **Study on the Impact of Water Hyacinth Infestation in Kerala**

The study assesses water hyacinth's impact on the community and develop cost-effective biofuel production, leading to better water quality, economic empowerment, and reduced carbon emissions by implementing a sustainable business model. this creates employment opportunities, enhances livelihoods, and optimizes the growth and harvesting of water hyacinth for environmental sustainability and the creation of recreational opportunities.

### **Reviving Wetlands through Sustainable Solutions**

Amrita researchers are pioneering sustainable solutions, like Vetiver Grass Technology (VGT), to combat the degradation of water ecosystem. VGT aids environmental protection in flood-prone rural Indian river communities. It uses vetiver grass to restore riverbanks, reduce soil erosion, conserve rainfall-runoff, improve groundwater recharge, remove water pollutants, and mitigate flooding risks. This interdisciplinary approach also explores livelihood opportunities through vetiver crafts and localized vetiver oil distillation.

# Awards & Accolades



## THE Awards Asia (2024)

Amrita received the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Award for Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership, recognizing the impact of its Live-in-Labs® experiential learning program



## Global Climate Innovation

*SGP Best Innovator Award (2026)*

Awarded the prestigious International Best Innovator Award for Women-Led Grassroots Climate Action by the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) at the World Sustainable Development Summit 2026.



## Elite Green Certifications

*IGBC Platinum & LEED Gold*

- **Campus Excellence:** Earned the highest possible Platinum Rating under the IGBC Green Campus Rating system for unparalleled energy efficiency, water conservation, and a distinct path toward full carbon neutrality.

- **Healthcare Benchmark:** Conferred LEED Gold Certification (2024) by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), establishing the university's healthcare facilities among the largest sustainable medical complexes globally.



## Flawless Operational Compliance

*7-Year Consecutive KSPCB Excellence*

Honored with a monumental, unbroken string of Excellence and Best Environmental Practice Awards (spanning 2015 to 2025) by the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB).



AMRITA UNIVERSITY  
RANKED **1<sup>ST</sup>** IN INDIA  
& **41<sup>ST</sup>** IN THE WORLD

The Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings are the only global indicators to assess universities' progress towards the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In its 2025 assessment, THE has rated Amrita 1st in India and 41st in the world. The rankings include 2,540 universities from 130 countries and regions.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

5<sup>TH</sup>  
IN THE  
WORLD



6<sup>TH</sup>  
IN THE  
WORLD



14<sup>TH</sup>  
IN THE  
WORLD



29<sup>TH</sup>  
IN THE  
WORLD

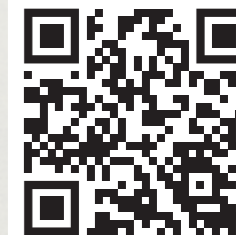


Sowing The Seeds of A

*A Better Future*

Amma's ecosystem restoration initiatives embody her deep love and reverence for nature, reflecting a lifelong commitment to environmental sustainability and the well-being of all living beings.

Through compassion-driven action, community participation, and sustainable practices, these initiatives continue to restore ecosystems, strengthen climate resilience, and inspire humanity to live in harmony with nature, sowing the seeds for a more peaceful, balanced, and sustainable future for generations to come.





UNESCO Chair on  
Gender Equality and  
Women Empowerment

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham  
Kerala, India



UNESCO Chair on  
Experiential Learning  
for Sustainable Innovation  
& Development

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham  
Kerala, India



UNESCO Chair on  
Assistive Technologies  
in Education

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham  
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