



Sustainability Research Policy

1. Purpose

The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) recognizes research as a critical driver of sustainable development and societal progress. Through research, innovation, and knowledge creation, the University seeks to contribute to addressing environmental, social, economic, technological, and governance challenges at local, national, and global levels.

This Policy establishes a framework for promoting, supporting, and recognizing sustainability-related research across the University and aligns research activities with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- Promote research that contributes to sustainable development.
- Encourage interdisciplinary and collaborative research.
- Support innovation that addresses societal challenges.
- Strengthen sustainability-related research capacity.
- Enhance the University's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Encourage faculty and student engagement in sustainability research.
- Promote partnerships with industry, government, civil society, and international organizations.
- Increase the visibility and impact of sustainability-related research.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to:

- Faculty members
- Researchers
- Students
- Research centers
- Academic departments
- University-affiliated research initiatives

across all colleges, schools, and academic units of IoBM.

4. Definition of Sustainability Research

For the purpose of this Policy, Sustainability Research refers to research, scholarship, innovation, creative work, and applied inquiry that contributes to environmental sustainability, social development, economic resilience, responsible governance, technological advancement, or achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainability research may include, but is not limited to:

Environmental Sustainability

- Climate change
- Renewable energy
- Water conservation
- Waste management
- Circular economy
- Biodiversity conservation
- Sustainable infrastructure

Social Sustainability

- Education
- Public health
- Community development
- Social inclusion
- Gender equity
- Poverty reduction
- Human development

Economic Sustainability

- Sustainable business practices
- ESG and responsible investment
- Sustainable entrepreneurship
- Sustainable supply chains
- Economic development

Technological Sustainability

- Artificial intelligence for sustainability
- Smart cities
- Data-driven sustainability solutions

- Digital inclusion
- Sustainable innovation

Governance and Policy

- Public policy
- Sustainable governance
- Institutional effectiveness
- Regulatory frameworks
- Corporate responsibility

5. Research Priorities

IoBM shall encourage research that contributes to:

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- National development priorities
- Community needs
- Industry challenges
- Environmental stewardship
- Social progress
- Technological innovation
- Evidence-based policymaking

Research priorities may be periodically reviewed to reflect emerging challenges and opportunities.

6. Interdisciplinary Research

The University recognizes that sustainability challenges often require interdisciplinary solutions.

IoBM shall encourage collaboration among:

- Academic departments
- Colleges and schools
- Research centers
- External partners
- International institutions

Interdisciplinary approaches shall be encouraged in sustainability-related projects and initiatives.

7. Faculty Research Support

The University shall seek to support faculty engagement in sustainability research through:

- Research grants and funding opportunities.
- Research collaboration initiatives.
- Conference participation support.
- Publication support mechanisms.
- Research networking opportunities.
- Recognition of sustainability-related research achievements.

Support mechanisms shall be subject to institutional priorities and available resources.

8. Student Research and Innovation

IoBM recognizes students as important contributors to sustainability research and innovation.

The University shall encourage:

- Capstone projects.
- Final year projects.
- Undergraduate research.
- Graduate research.
- Innovation challenges.
- Community-based research projects.

Students shall be encouraged to explore sustainability-related themes within their respective disciplines.

9. Sustainability Research Fund

Subject to available resources, the University may establish a Sustainability Research Fund to support:

- Faculty research projects.
- Student research initiatives.
- Interdisciplinary collaborations.
- Community-based research.
- Pilot and seed projects.
- Sustainability innovation initiatives.

Funding priorities may be determined by the relevant research authorities of the University.

10. Research Partnerships

IoBM shall promote partnerships that strengthen sustainability research.

Potential partners may include:

- Government agencies.
- Industry partners.
- Non-governmental organizations.
- International organizations.
- Academic institutions.
- Research networks.

Collaborative initiatives shall seek to generate meaningful and measurable impact.

11. Research Dissemination and Impact

The University shall encourage dissemination of sustainability research through:

- Scholarly publications.
- Conferences and seminars.
- Workshops and symposiums.
- Public lectures.
- Policy briefs.
- Industry engagement activities.
- Community outreach initiatives.

Research should seek to contribute to both academic knowledge and practical solutions.

12. Recognition and Awards

IoBM may recognize outstanding sustainability-related research through:

- Research awards.
- Faculty recognition programs.
- Student awards.
- Innovation competitions.
- Publication recognition initiatives.

Recognition mechanisms shall encourage continued engagement in sustainability research.

13. Sustainable Development Goals Alignment

The University shall encourage researchers to identify and communicate the SDGs most relevant to their research activities.

Where appropriate, sustainability research outputs may be mapped to one or more Sustainable Development Goals to demonstrate societal impact.

14. Sustainability Research Targets

By 2030

IoBM shall strive to:

- Increase sustainability-related research output.
- Increase interdisciplinary sustainability research initiatives.
- Strengthen faculty participation in sustainability research.
- Increase student involvement in sustainability-related projects.
- Expand sustainability research partnerships.
- Promote dissemination of sustainability research outcomes.
- Enhance the University's contribution to SDG-related knowledge and innovation.

Progress toward these targets shall be reviewed periodically.

15. Monitoring and Reporting

The University shall monitor:

- Sustainability-related research projects.
- Research funding allocations.
- Scholarly publications.
- Student research initiatives.
- Research partnerships.
- Sustainability-related conferences and events.

Performance shall be reported through the Sustainability Reporting Framework and Annual Sustainability Report.

16. Responsibilities

Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization

- Coordinate implementation of this Policy.
- Support sustainability research initiatives.

- Monitor research performance indicators.

Academic Departments

- Encourage sustainability-related research activities.
- Support interdisciplinary collaboration.

Faculty Members

- Pursue research that contributes to sustainable development.
- Share research outcomes with relevant stakeholders.

Students

- Participate in sustainability-related research and innovation activities.
- Contribute to solving real-world sustainability challenges.

17. Review

This Policy shall be reviewed every three years or earlier if required.

18. Effective Date

This Policy shall take effect upon approval by the President of the Institute of Business Management.

Approved By:  _____

President, Institute of Business Management

Date: December 1st, 2025

Version: 1.0