SDG 17 | Indicator 17.2.4

International Collaboration on Sustainability Practices (2025)

Isabela State University (ISU) participates in the South Intensive Program (SIP) through West Flanders Synergy Pilipinas. The partnership brings Philippine and Belgian students and faculty together to examine how approaches to sustainable agriculture, climate adaptation, and rural enterprise can be applied in different community settings. ISU participated in the Philippine exchange in 2023 and the Belgian exchange in 2024, then co-hosted SIP in February 2025.

The Province of West Flanders has supported the Synergy Programme since 2018. The June 2022 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) provided for joint research, training, extension, and learning exchanges through December 2024. The 2025–2027 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) continued the partnership, providing for community case studies in coordination with VIVES University of Applied Sciences and Howest University of Applied Sciences, as well as student placements in Belgium. ISU sent six students and one faculty member to the 2023 South Intensive Program in Camarines Sur. For the 2024 North Intensive Program at VIVES in Belgium, the participant roster lists five ISU students, and the project output report records one ISU faculty member. The report records 18 ISU student participations across the three exchanges from 2023 to 2025.

South Intensive Program 2025

February 10–21, 2025 | Isabela State University, Saint Mary's University, and Nueva Vizcaya State University



ISU co-hosted SIP 2025 with Saint Mary's University and Nueva Vizcaya State University, in partnership with VIVES, Howest, and other Philippine higher education institutions. Then ISU President Dr. Ricmar P. Aquino welcomed delegates on February 10 under the theme "Bridging Education, Innovation, and Sustainability through Global Collaboration."

The Synergy Pilipinas project output report records seven ISU students and two ISU faculty members. It separately records 50 visiting students and 14 visiting faculty members from participating Philippine and Belgian institutions. Dr. Teresita C. Molano contributed to program implementation and coordination among the partner institutions.

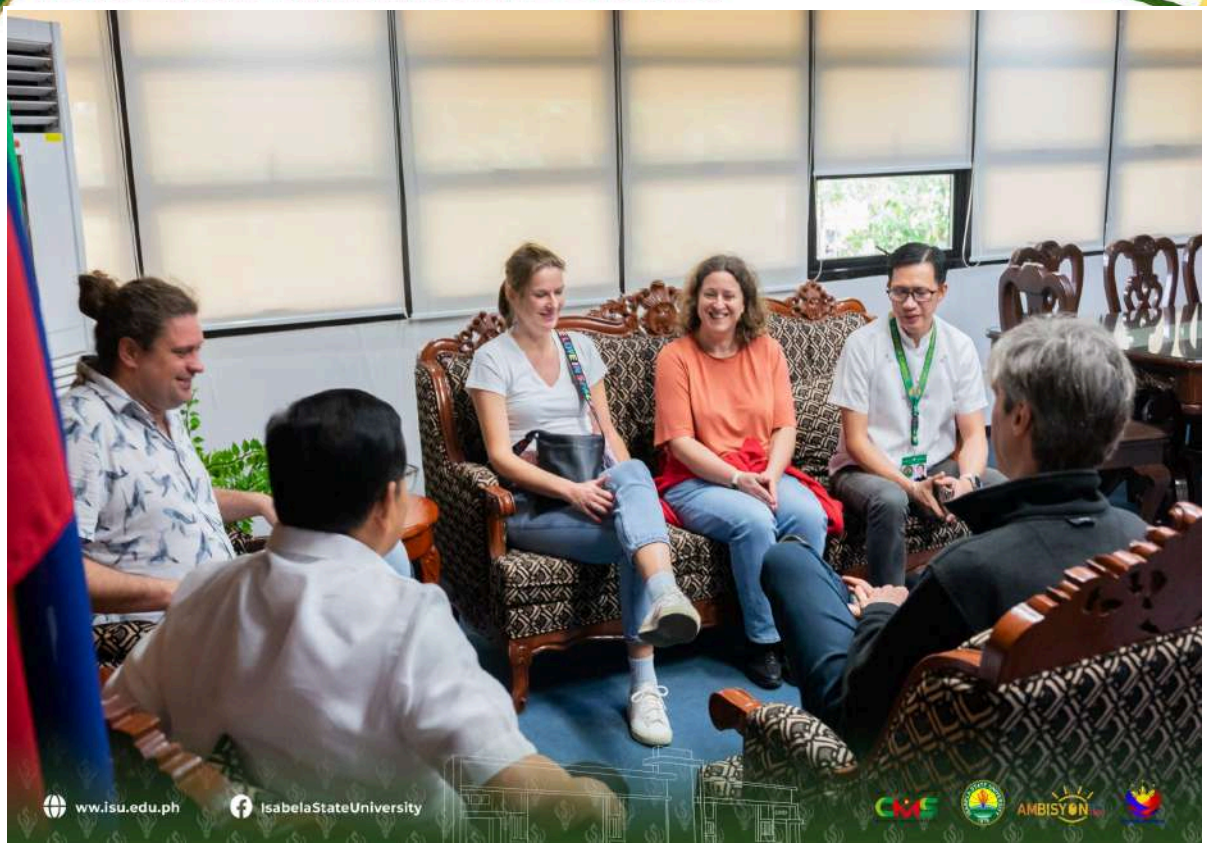
The exchange was designed around learning sessions, community visits, and joint case work. After studying local concerns in the field, Philippine and Belgian students were to work in mixed teams, compare perspectives from their disciplines and home settings, and use their observations to develop proposed solutions or prototypes for community partners.

Visiting faculty contributed through interdisciplinary instruction, research mentoring, and knowledge exchange on climate-smart agriculture, sustainable entrepreneurship, and development studies. The output report also identifies climate resilience, agri-enterprise development, and sustainable rural livelihoods as areas of applied learning and research dissemination during SIP 2025.

These activities drew on themes from the wider Synergy Pilipinas partnership, which reports work on climate risk assessment and vulnerability mapping, climate-smart agricultural models, enterprise planning, cooperative development, and recommendations for local governments. The partnership's work connects sustainable agriculture to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), enterprise development and livelihoods to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), community resilience to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and climate risk and adaptation to SDG 13 (Climate Action).


ISABELA STATE UNIVERSITY
1978
RICHAR P. AQUINO, PH.D.
PRESIDENT
ww.isu.edu.ph
IsabelaStateUniversity
AMBISYON


ww.isu.edu.ph
IsabelaStateUniversity
AMBISYON


ww.isu.edu.ph
IsabelaStateUniversity


ISABELA STATE UNIVERSITY
1978
ww.isu.edu.ph
IsabelaStateUniversity


ww.isu.edu.ph
IsabelaStateUniversity


ww.isu.edu.ph
IsabelaStateUniversity


ISU
www.isu.edu.ph
IsabelaStateUniversity


www.isu.edu.ph
IsabelaStateUniversity