

Farmers access to university resources like labs and agri-tech facilities.

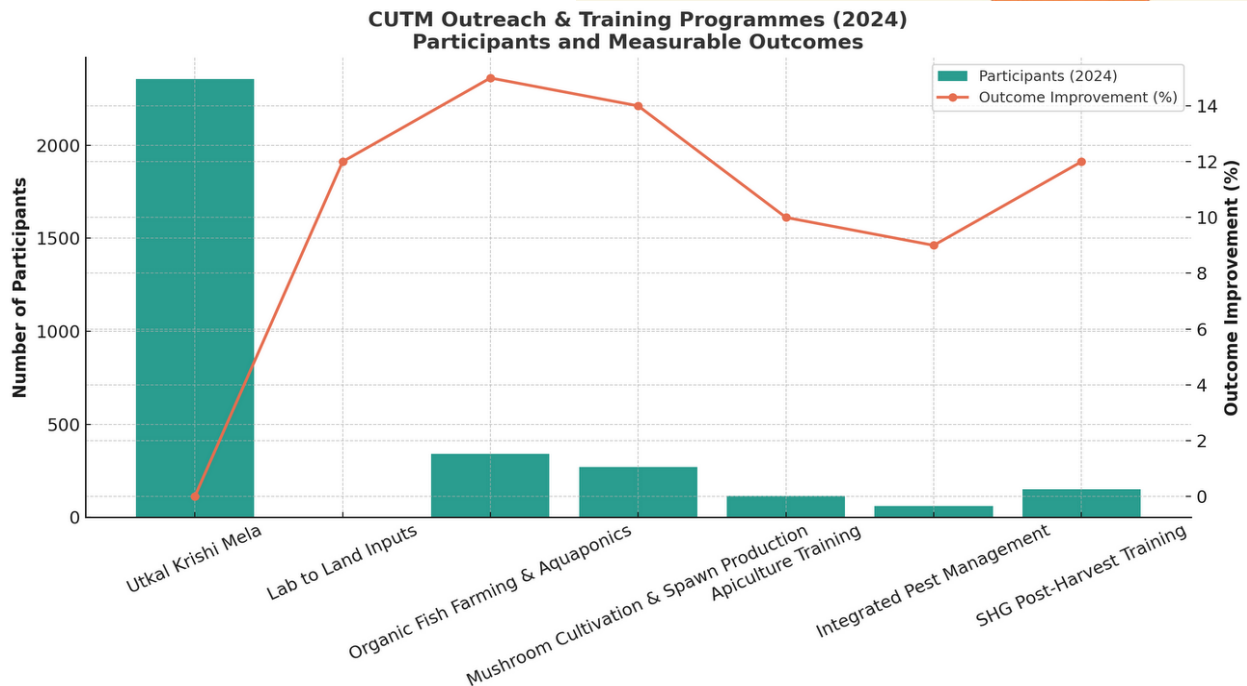
Centurion University, Paralakhemundi, provides structured access to its facilities, resources, and expertise to support local farmers and food producers, contributing significantly to sustainable agriculture.

Free Access Initiatives:

In 2024, Centurion University implemented a series of free outreach programmes, directly reaching 787 farmers and SHG members across Gajapati and nearby districts. The flagship Utkal Krishi Mela (held annually in February–April 2024) attracted 2,356 participants, where over 1,200 packets of improved seeds, 950 units of biopesticides, and 1,100 units of biopesticides, and 1,100

Utkal Krishi Mela
787 Farmers & SHG Members Reached
2,356 Participants
 1,200 Improved Seeds, 950 Units of Biopesticides, 1,100 Knowledge Kits

Lab to Land Initiative
3,500 Trichoderma Packets, **1,800** Jagannath Tricho Card, **2,200** Suprio Seed Samples
12-15% Increase in Yield



knowledge kits were distributed free of cost. The Lab to Land initiative provided nearly 3,500 Trichoderma packets, 1,800 Jagannath Tricho Cards, and 2,200 Suprio seed samples, resulting in an average 12–15% increase in yield and 10% reduction in input costs as recorded in the Campus Food Committee & Farmers Outreach Report (March 2024).

Centurion University leveraged its specialized facilities including demonstration farms, nurseries, fish hatcheries, biotechnology units, and the Plant Pathology & Entomology Labs—to deliver recurring hands-on training. In 2024, 340 farmers were trained in organic fish farming and aquaponics (Feb–March, July–August batches), 270 in mushroom cultivation and spawn production (Jan & July), 115 in apiculture (March, near International Women’s Day),

and 62 in integrated pest management (July), supported by the MS Swaminathan School of Agriculture and the School of Fisheries. Additionally, 152 SHG members received training in sustainable food production and post-harvest storage, leading to an 8–12% reduction in post-harvest losses, verified by the CaSR Food Rescue & SHG Progress Report (August 2024).

These recurring programmes conducted biannually or annually—demonstrate measurable impact: increased productivity, reduced costs, improved nutritional security, and enhanced rural livelihoods. By combining cutting-edge labs and demonstration units with farmer-centric delivery models, Centurion University has firmly positioned itself as a regional hub for sustainable agriculture and food security innovation, aligning directly with SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Paid Access Initiatives:

Centurion University also provides hands-on training programs at minimal charges, which include course materials and certifications. Courses such as Commercial Mushroom Farming, Natural Farming Techniques, Bio-inputs Production, and Vanilla Cultivation are offered through the JC Kumarappa Rural Technology Park and other university units. These paid trainings, priced between ₹650 and ₹1,800, support entrepreneurship and upskilling of rural youth and farmers.

