

Accreditation Visit of Agronomy, Entomology, Plant Breeding and Genetics and Soil Science Degree Programs at PMAS- Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi

November 8-9, 2021

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Barani Commission, constituted to review and recommend measures for the development of rainfed agriculture and uplift of the poor masses through education, research, and development of technology, the Government of Punjab established Barani Agricultural College, Rawalpindi which was later upgraded to University in 1994. The mandate of the University is to produce high-quality agricultural scientists and to form an organized scientific infrastructure for research to develop of dryland regions of the country. The university building is situated on Murree Road, almost in the center of the twin, cosmopolitan cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. There are 05 faculties, 07 institutes and 37 departments. Total strength of academic staff is 246 and currently students (Spring-2021) enrolled are 10,493.

Four Accreditation Inspection Committees (AICs) comprising of Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Secretary NAEAC as a convener and Prof. (Retd). Dr. Riaz Ahmad, Department of Agronomy, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF), Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akmal, Department of Agronomy, The University of Agriculture, Peshawar (UAP), Prof. Dr. Ahmad-Ur-Rahman Saljoqi, Dean, Faculty of Crop Protection Sciences, UAF, Dr. Muhammad Arshad, Associate Professor, Department of Entomology, UAF, Prof, Dr. Syed Dilnawaz Ahmad Gardezi, Vice Chancellor, University of Kotli, AJK, Prof. (Retd). Dr. Hafeez Ahmad Sadaqat, Department of PBG, UAF, Dr. Abdul Rashid, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Islamabad, Dr. Ali Raza Gurmani, Associate Professor, Department of Soil Science, The University of Haripur as members conducted accreditation visit of the respective departments of PMAS- Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naeem, Chairman, Department of Entomology coordinated the visit activities. Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman, Vice Chancellor, PMAS, Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi welcomed NAEAC and AICs team and informally presented the salient achievements of the university including the mega research projects being executed by the university. Accreditation certificates were awarded to HoDs of Forestry and FST degree programs evaluated last year.

Afterward, AICs moved to respective departments where each HoD of the department presented the current scenario, as per itinerary, including student graduated, faculty positions and research projects in hand. AICs visited infrastructure including departmental labs, classrooms, library and faculty offices beside the University Research Farm comprising of 235 acres (1880 Kanal) near Chakwal. AICs also visited the institute of Hydroponic near Mandra. This is unique facility (size and automation wise) with UAAR available with any other university in Pakistan. Earlier AICs held individual meetings with faculty members to know the level of satisfaction and students of the departments to get an insight of teaching/working environment in the departments. In the exit meeting, program evaluators shared their observations with the Vice Chancellor and other officials. Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman, Vice Chancellor thanked NAEAC team and assured that the recommendations made by AICs would be implemented to raise the standard of education and to improve the skills of the graduates.

