

Accreditation visit of Agriculture and Allied degree Programs at University of the Punjab- Lahore

February 13-14, 2024

University of the Punjab was formally established by convening the first meeting of its Senate on October 14, 1882. It was first to be established in the sub-continent at Lahore in a Muslim majority area. The university comprises of five campuses, 19 Faculties, 08 Constituent Colleges, and 138 departments, centers, and institutes. The University also has 658 affiliated colleges. It has 991 full-time/regular and 300 part-time faculty members involved in teaching/research and 49,520 on-campus students. (29,588 Morning, 18,838 Evening and 1,094 Diploma students).

Three Accreditation Inspection Committees (AICs) comprising of Prof. Dr. Fayyaz-ul-Hassan, Chairperson NAEAC as a convener, Dr. Ghulam Qadir, Associate Professor, Department of Agronomy, PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, Prof. Dr. Ijaz Rasool Noorka, Chairman, Department of PBG, University of Sargodha, Dr. Ghulam Rasul, Principal Scientist, Soil & Water Testing Lab for Reserch, Lahore Agriculture Research, Govt. of the Punjab as members conducted Accreditation visit of Agronomy, PBG and Soil Science degree programs at University of the Punjab, Lahore.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Arshad Javed, Chairman, Department of PBG, University of the Punjab, Lahore received the guests on February 12, 2024. Prof. Dr. Sajid Rasheed, Acting Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Director QEC, University of the Punjab, Lahore along with HoDs of relevant departments and other faculty members received and welcomed NAEAC and AICs team on February 13, 2024. The inaugural session was held in the seminar room of Faculty of Agriculture where Prof. Dr. Tehmina Anjum, Chairperson, Department of Plant Pathology, University of the Punjab, Lahore presented a brief overview of the University & Faculty of Agriculture and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shafeeq Rana, Director QEC, University of the Punjab, Lahore formally welcomed all subject experts and also highlighted the major accomplishments and future plans of the university. Later, Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Secretary NAEAC shared the accreditation rubrics (8) and subcriteria (73) besides the importance and significance of accreditation along with previous AICs recommendations of Agronomy, PBG and Soil Science degree programs. In the afternoon, accreditation certificate of Plant Pathology, FST and Horticulture degree programs were distributed to relevant HoDs by Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Acting Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore and Chairperson NAEAC.

Then AICs moved to relevant departments where detailed presentations of departmental accomplishments as per itinerary were given by relevant HoDs. AICs visited departmental infrastructure including labs, classrooms, library, faculty offices, experimental research area, support facilities and held meeting with students of the department to get an insight of teaching/working environment in the departments. On February 14, 2024, two major activities (curriculum review and meeting with individual faculty) were carried out. Each course file was checked for its contents like lecture breakdown, assignments and results. AICs held individual faculty meeting to know the working environment and job satisfaction level and student teacher interaction.

In the concluding session of the visit the program evaluators shared their observations with Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Acting Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore and Prof. Dr. Sajid Rasheed, Acting Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of the Punjab, Lahore. In this session, Director QEC, HoD's and other faculty members were present. Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood thanked NAEAC team for their two day-long deliberations and inspection visit and assured that the recommendations made by AICs would be implemented to increase the standard of education.

On February 14, 2024 6th region-wise training workshop of newly nominated program evaluators/subject experts was arranged at University of the Punjab, Lahore in the afternoon. About forty nominated program evaluators from different HEIs from Lahore participated. The trainers included Chairperson, Secretary and IT Coordinator NAEAC. The main emphasis during training workshop was on toolkit, SWOT analysis and AIC report writing. At the end, Prof. Dr. Fayyaz-ul-Hassan, Chairperson NAEAC distributed the training participation certificates among the trainees and all trainees appreciated the efforts being undertaken by NAEAC for conducting this region-wise training.

