

Accreditation, Zero/Pre-Accreditation Visit and Awareness Seminar of Agriculture & Allied degree Programs at University of Karachi

May 9, 2023

The University of Karachi was established by an act of parliament in June, 1951. The present campus, to which the University shifted in 1959, is spread over 1279 acres of land, situated 12 Km away from the city center. At present teaching at the University campus is conducted under six faculties including Faculty of Science. Currently enrolled students in Faculty of Science are 4,496 and teaching faculty (Permanent + Visiting) are 945 with 487 PhDs. The University of Karachi is also an affiliating and examining body and at present, 145 colleges and institutions are affiliated to the University.

Three Accreditation Inspection Committees (AICs) comprising of Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Secretary NAEAC as a convener, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naeem, Dean, Faculty of Crop & Food Science, PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, Dr. Abdul Hayee Qureshi, Ex-Director, Agricultural Economics Research Institute, National Agricultural Research Center, Islamabad as members conducted Accreditation visit of Plant Protection and Agribusiness Management and Prof. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar, Chairman, Department of Plant Pathology, PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi as member conducted Zero/Pre-Accreditation visit of Plant Pathology at University of Karachi.



Dr. Jawaid Akram, Deputy Director, QEC, University of Karachi and Dr. Saboohi Raza, Chairperson, Department of Agriculture & Agribusiness Management, University of Karachi received the guests. Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi, Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi formally welcomed NAEAC and AICs team. He chaired the inaugural session and presented a brief overview of the University. During the session, Registrar, Dean, Faculty of Science, HoDs of the relevant Departments, Director Finance and other members of QEC, University of Karachi were present. Later, Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Secretary NAEAC shared the previous AIC visit recommendations of the department of Plant Protection and Agribusiness beside a brief account on importance and significance of accreditation.

Then AICs moved to relevant departments where detailed presentations and discussions were held. Each HoD presented the departmental achievements as per itinerary and evaluators verified the information given in the revised tool kits. AICs visited departmental infrastructure including labs, classrooms, library, faculty offices, experimental research area and held meeting with students of the department to get an insight of teaching environment in the departments. After lunch, 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.

A Quality Assurance & Accreditation Awareness Seminar was also conducted on May 9, 2023 at University of Karachi, Department of Physiology where they offered a new subject (Poultry Science) for undergraduate students. The seminar was started with the recitation of Holy Quran. Then Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Secretary NAEAC delivered his talk on "Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education". The main objective of this presentation was to explain the overall process of accreditation and its significance in maintaining the quality of education. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar introduced the NAEAC, explained the evaluation criteria of accreditation process which comprised of 8 standards and 73 substandard and impact of accreditation on quality improvement through the data of last 14 years. The presentation was followed by a very informative Q & A session. The future aspects of the degree accreditation process were further discussed in the Q & A session by the students and faculty.

In the concluding session of the visit, the program evaluators/experts shared their observations with Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi, Vice Chancellor, Dean, Faculty of Science, Registrar and other HoDs/officials/faculty members. Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi thanked NAEAC team for their day-long deliberations and inspection visit and assured that the recommendations made by AICs would be implemented to increase the standard of education and to expand the skills of the graduates. At the end Vice Chancellor presented "Ajrak" to NAEAC team.

