



National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURE EDUCATION ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

(31 January, 2011)

The fifth meeting of the National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) was held on January 31, 2011 at 11:00 A.M. in the Mural Hall of Higher Education Commission (HEC), H-9, Islamabad. The meeting was Chaired by Dr. M. E. Tusneem, Chairman-National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) and attended by 16 of the 22 Council Members representing agricultural universities, research institutes, agro-industry and R&D institutions in public and private sectors. There were two proxies and six apologies/absentees. (Annex-I).

2. After recitation from the Holy Quran, the Chair welcomed the Council Members to the fifth meeting of the Council. He reviewed the annual progress of the Council and highlighted achievements over the past two years and future plan of work for next 2 years. The Council members were informed that HEC would like NAEAC to fast track its accreditation activities so that it could accomplish first round of accreditation and rating of all the degree programs by the end of FY 2013-14.

3. The Chairman noted that the Quality Enhancement Cells (QEC's) established by HEC in agriculture institutions are assuming increasingly greater role, although some has very limited capacity. Strong working relationship and linkages are being established by the NAEAC with these QEC's who are working on internal assessment/evaluation of degree programs and on learning innovations.

4. With a view, to fast track its activities, HEC has allocated NAEAC as additional grant of Rs.1.00 million for FY 2010-11 despite its overall financial constraints. The Executive Director, HEC recently reviewed the performance of four Councils engaged in accreditation work and encouraged them to achieve the targets. Should budgetary constraints arise, he would be willing to provide additional funding. In addition, ED, HEC stressed the importance of training of evaluators and need for effective communication strategy to disseminate the results of accreditation for the guidance of prospective students and their parents.

5. Responding to the introductory remarks, the Council members commended the performance of the Council despite its very limited budget and staff. They congratulated the Chair for his dynamic leadership and the Secretariat for its dedication and hard work. The Members assured full cooperation of their institutions in achieving the targets. They noted the need for burden sharing; but expressed their limitations due to their own budget deficits.

6. After the introductory remarks of the Chair and Members comments thereon, the Secretary, NAEAC presented the formal agenda to the Council. A summary of the decisions taken in the meeting is given below.

Item #1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of NAEAC

7. The minutes of the Fourth meeting of NAEAC were presented for review and approval. The members pointed out some typos and the need to attach the list of participants which they found missing.

Subject to these corrections, the Council approved the minutes of its fourth meeting held on January 23, 2010 at Mural Hall of HEC, Islamabad

Item# II: Consideration and Approval of the Reports of Accreditation Inspection Committees (AICs)

8. The Council members were informed that NAEAC had undertaken accreditation of nine disciplines and 18 degree programs at four major Institutions namely PMAS AAU, Rawalpindi (8), University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (4), KPK Agricultural University, Peshawar (4) and Institute of Plant Pathology, Punjab University, Lahore (2). The reports of the Accreditation Inspection Committees (AICs) was compiled and submitted to the Members in advance of the meeting. A summary of the result/ accreditation rating of degree programs is given below:

Summary of On-site visits of AICs for Accreditation/Rating of Degree Programs

Sr. No	University/Department	Date of Inspection	Degree Program Rating ¹		AIC Composition
			B.Sc (Hons) Agriculture	M.Sc (Hons)	
PMAS Arid Agriculture, University, Rawalpindi					
1.	Deptt. of Plant Breeding & Genetics (PBG)	Second week of December, 2009	X	X	Dr. Hidayatur Rehman Professor Dr. Dil Nawaz Gardezi Dean
2.	Department of Soil Science and SWC	Second week of December, 2009	X	X	Dr. Zahir Shah Chairman Dr. Kaleem Abbasi Dean
3.	Department of Agronomy	First week of March, 2010	X	X	Dr. Tariq Jan, Professor Dr. Abdul Majeed Consultant ICARDA
4.	Department of Plant Pathology	First week of March, 2010	X	X	Dr. Nazir Javed Chairman Dr. Arif Chouhan Chairman
University of Agriculture, Faisalabad					
5.	Department of Agronomy	Second week of May, 2010	X	X	Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Chairman Dr. Bismillah Khan Head
6.	Department of Entomology	Second week of May, 2010	X	X	Dr. Afzal Chaudhry Principal Dr. Muhammad Naem Professor
KPK Agricultural University, Peshawar					
7.	Department of Soil Science	Fourth week of June, 2010	X	X	Dr. Safdar Ali Chairman Mr. Tahir Saleem Ex. Project Director
8.	Department of Plant Pathology	Fourth week of June, 2010	X	X	Dr. Irfan-ul-Haq Chairman Dr. Afzal Akhtar CSO (Rtd), PARC
University of the Punjab, Lahore					
9.	Institute of Plant Pathology	Fourth week of June, 2010	Y	Y	Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed D.G NARC Dr. Irfan-ul-Haq Chairman

¹ **W: Degree Program fully meeting the set criteria**
X: Degree Program having minor shortfalls
Y: Degree Program not meeting some of the major criteria
Z: Degree Program seriously deficient

It was observed by some Council members that according to the summary results, all degree programs are rated in 'X' Category. It points to need for evaluation criteria to be made more specific for more objective assessment or the accreditation categories be further subdivided into sub-categories such as X1, X2, X3 with quantitative scores for each degree program. The Chair explained that the final rating in fact is based on the quantitative numbering system based on HEC approved criteria and sub-criteria. These details are given in the detailed reports of AICs but not provided here. Nonetheless, The NAEAC Secretariat would revisit the evaluation manual/tool kit. A copy of the Evaluation Manual (tool kit) will also be forwarded to all the Council members for their valuable input.

Decision: The Council endorsed the AIC reports for 16 out of 18 degree programs and agreed with the recommended ratings of the AICs as 'X' Category for both BSc(Hons) and MSc(Hons) degree programs but raised concern on AIC Report on Plant Pathology, University of Punjab and recommended to place the degree programs in the 'Y' category of HEC implying that these degree programs do not meet some of the major criteria vis-à-vis relevance and background of teaching faculty.*

Item# III: Review and Approval of Annual Work Plan for Financial Year 2010-11.

9. Annual Work Plan 2010-11 was presented to the Council members. It was intimated that Council plans to almost double its accreditations covering 32 degree programs during 2010-11 versus 18 in 2009-10. It would also continue to organize awareness seminars for its stakeholders so as to cover all agriculture institutions. So far, ten Awareness Seminars have been organized at different agricultural education institutions to create awareness among the stakeholders and sensitize them on the significance of accreditation process for quality assurance, learning innovations and capacity building. Similarly, at-least two Council meetings shall be convened in a year. In addition, second meeting of the Council for the year 2010-11 shall is planned for June 2011 subject to availability of funds.

* Department of PBG, Soil Science & SWC, Agronomy and Plant Pathology of PMAS AAU, Rawalpindi; Department of Agronomy and Entomology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad; Department of Soil Science and Plant Pathology, KPK Agricultural University, Peshawar.

The Council was informed that regular updating and maintenance of roster is obligatory and needs to be implemented. At present 80 Program Evaluators/Experts of different disciplines of agriculture are on the roster of NAEAC. Brief CVs of the program evaluators are maintained. The website needs further upgrading and improvement in timely updating so that it has the latest information including AIC reports, minutes of the Council meetings, manuals and procedures, etc. New communication strategy of NAEAC shall be designed for effective dissemination of information to stakeholders.

Decision: The Council commended the efforts of the Secretariat and approved the work plan of the Council for FY 2010-11. They complimented the Chair and Secretariat for accomplishing large volume of work with meager resources.

Item# IV: Approval of Annual Report for FY 2009-10.

10. Compilation of Annual Report is a regular and mandatory activity. The Council has prepared its third annual report highlighting various activities and achievements of the Council during 2009-10.

Decision: The Council members approved the Report and commended NAEAC for producing an excellent and presentable report.

Item# V: Consideration and Approval of NAEAC Budget Breakup for 2010-11.

11. The budget breakup proposed for the year 2010-11 was presented to the members of the Council. The Council members were of the view that budgetary provisions for such an important and technical task are nominal, need to be increased substantially. It was told that HEC has ensured the availability of the funds as and when required. A few corrections/modifications in the budget breakup were proposed by the Council which were carried out accordingly.

Decision: The budget Break up for 2010-11 was approved by the Council members.

Item# VI: Renewal of Annual Service Contract of NAEAC Staff.

12. *Decision: The Council approved the contractual appointment of NAEAC Secretariat Staff from September 2010 to September 2011 as proposed.*

13. Concluding, Chairman thanked the Council Members for their kind words of appreciation, support and guidance for its next year's program. The Chair asked the members from private sector / agro-industry to make tangible contribution and patronize the Council activities as their valuable input and support is essential to upgrade the standard of agriculture education. The better the quality of graduates, the greater the impact on industry in improving their productivity and international competitiveness in agriculture. A Member from the Sugar Industry agro-sector committed to look for ways and means to help generate additional resources for the Council. Fund paid such as contribution from the Sugarcane Cess by the Sugar Industry to the Provincial Governments.

14. The Meeting adjourned with vote of thanks to the Chair and from the Chair to esteemed Council Members.

List of Participants of Fifth Council Meeting held on January 31, 2011

1. **Dr. M.E. Tusneem**
Chairman - NAEAC
2. **Prof. Dr. Shahana Urooj**
Pro-Vice chancellor,
Head –Immunology and Infectious diseases Research Laboratory,
University of Karachi-Karachi-75270, Pakistan.
3. **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq**
Dean Faculty of Agriculture,
University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.
4. **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Munir**
Dean Faculty of Food & Crop Sciences,
PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi.
5. **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naeem**
Dean Faculty of Crop Production
KPK Agricultural University, Peshawar.
6. **Dr. Shamasuddin Tunio**
Prof & Dean Faculty of Crop Production
Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam.
7. **Dr. Abdul Jabbar Malik**
Dean Faculty of Crop & Plant Sciences,
Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water & Marine Sciences, Lasbella.
8. **Dr. Mahmood Khan**
DG Agriculture Research, Tarnab, KPK, Peshawar.
9. **Qazi Bashir Ahmed**
DG Agriculture Research, Sariab Road, Quetta.
10. **Mrs. Samaira Samad**
Additional Secretary, Planning (Agriculture),
Agriculture Department, Government of Punjab, Lahore.

Contd...

11. **Rana Kahlid Naseer**
Additional Secretary (Development),
Government of Balochistan, Civil Secretariat, Quetta.
12. **Dr. Muhammad Tariq**
(Rep. of Dr. Noor-ul-Islam, D.G A.R.I), Faisalabad
13. **Mr. Muhammad Arif Khairi**
Deputy Secretary (Technical)
Agriculture Department, Govt. of Sindh, Karachi
14. **Mr. Sherzada Khan**
(Rep. of Mr. Gul Nawaz Khattak , Chief Planning Officer, Agri. Dept.), Peshawar.
15. **Mr. Saifi Chaudhry**
Chief Executive
Shehzan International Ltd, Bund Road, Lahore.
16. **Mr. Iskandar M. Khan**
Premier Sugar Mills & distillery Co. Ltd,
20-A, Markaz, F-7, Islamabad.
17. **Mrs. Dur-e- Shahwar Aamer**
(Rep. of M.D QAA, HEC), Islamabad.