

Glasgow Caledonian University,  
Glasgow UK  
7-10 June 2021

The conference will explore the Re-Imagining of Higher Education Quality in an Age of Uncertainty through four emerging themes in higher education:

- Digital disruption for HE brings disruption for quality assurance
- New quality agendas for external and internal quality assurance
- Quality assurance supporting changing learner journeys
- Maintaining trust in the face of uncertainty

It is an opportunity for International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) members, senior representatives of quality assurance agencies, quality professionals and academics to explore these key themes.



# NAEAC

## e-Newsletter

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**National Webinars to Finalize NAEAC Policy Guidelines for Blended Education**

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## National Webinars

July 8-9, 2020

A global pandemic (Covid-19) hit the world at the start of the year 2020 and adversely affected the normal lives of the people across the world. The governments tried to curtail the severity of this disease by imposing lockdown and implementing different SOPs.

The Government of Pakistan imposed lockdown and directed the Educational Institutes to shift online teaching methodology instead of On-Campus teaching.

NAEAC sensing the need to implement a policy for Blended Education, organized two consultative virtual webinars on 08.07.2020 and 09.07.2020 with the administration and faculty of relevant HEI's across the country.

The suggestions of all the participants were noted and later on Policy Guidelines for Blended Education were formed.

### NAEAC Policy Guidelines for Blended Education

The salient features of Policy Guidelines for Blended Education are:

3- It should be ensured to get all students on board and the quality of education must be maintained. All students should attend online lectures and those who could not access the lectures online, the institute shall devise mechanism of making course material available online or sending all recorded and reference materials on CDs/USBs to home addresses of the students at some periodic intervals in time. No student should be left out for any reasons to have access to the online lectures.

4- All HEIs should take special initiatives to strengthen quality of online programs and should focus on capacity building of faculty and relevant field and lab staff by devising appropriate mechanism and nominating departmental focal persons for online quality education. IT committees should be formed to coordinate with all departments/campuses/colleges to provide training (Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Moodle, Skype for business, Google classroom and other softwares) as well as data for mapping gaps and need assessment for continuous improvement. All such records must be kept saved for NAEAC accreditation inspection committee (AIC) as and when required in future.



### A- Teaching

1- Course teaching mode must be clearly defined online or requiring physical presence/or mix. In agricultural education large number of courses require lab/fieldwork, practical modules that may be developed by the relevant teacher recorded in the field or lab (Academic Studios) and made available for necessary demonstration work and shared with the students through most convenient means (Online sharing, USB, CD's etc.). Efforts should be made by HEI's to create a parallel system of academic studios for the recording of lectures/practicals/fieldwork by designated and trained staff having sufficient equipment so that the teachers should only focus on academics.

2- In certain cases where applicable HEI's may facilitate the students to conduct field/practical work/projects in nearby agricultural research stations by devising a foolproof monitoring mechanism. Students should record all the activities they conduct as proof and should be submitted to the relevant faculty.

5- In certain cases where applicable HEI's may opt to conduct practicals /lab and field work in batches by allowing limited number of students to join campus under strict compliance to SOP's due to any operational difficulties in providing online/offline video/audio recordings.

6- Despite all the efforts for successful and productive online teaching if a student wants to withdraw based on inaccessibility or any other issue with online teaching, he/she may be allowed to do so, without having any adverse impact on his enrollment, provided a minimum CGPA is maintained as per semester rules. In such a case, the course(s) will be treated as "freeze" and no fee shall be charged for re-enrolment at a later stage for the students who are interrupted in an ongoing semester.

7- In all such specialized teaching conditions HEI's must follow the HEC uniform semester rules in true letter and spirit to avoid any spiteful situations in future. Other rules and regulations of



accreditation process as approved in NAEAC bye-laws will remain same.

8- Beyond doubt, mix teaching (face to face/online/offline) takes a lot of toils so teaching load should be reduced and limited to maximum of 3 courses (9 credit hours) for teacher to ensure quality.

9- In order to be prepared for such situation in future online classes should be a mandatory part of regular teaching. HEI's are encouraged to devise a sustainable mechanism across the board in all degree programs.

## B- Learning

1- Online Academic Council (OAC) should certify that every course must have a set of learning outcomes. These learning outcomes should be achieved during the online/amalgamated educational approach in a progressive manner. Thought provoking assignments, conceptual quizzes and their evaluation by faculty must be executed on weekly basis. Results of assignments and quizzes must be shared with the students in the same week they are conducted for continuous improvement of the learning process.

2- HEI's must have secured Learning Management System (LMS), Bandwidth and IT support to enable sustained delivery of online classes maintaining all essential records (Timetable, class status, student's attendance, course material etc). Students should have easy access to all helping materials and other assignments as well quizzes through digital means.

3- Efforts should be made to facilitate students to conduct final research project/internship in safe and healthy conditions by devising alternative mechanisms to traditional forms. However, the essence should remain the same to a greater extent.

4- As this is new mode of learning for the students therefore teachers should design the course in such a way that it creates interest among the students, and they should be eager to be a part of this new mode of learning. In order to make the lectures effective the teachers should split the lectures into multiple segments of 10-15 min and after each segment the teacher may ask questions to retain student's attention.

## C- Assessment

1- Student's assessments are core to learning. Therefore, HEIs are guided to plan courses in such a way that it replaces face-to-face Teaching Learning, Assessment (TLAs). Students should be assessed regularly during studies in a semester and should be marked in a single scheme of evaluation all through the departments. Assessment record should be managed preferably in a Learning Management System (LMS) for online evaluation. However, in case of some limitations in LMS system, as observed during ongoing assessment, an alternate/substitute online assessment system (e.g. google Forms, WhatsApp etc.) may be used with the approval of OAC. For more details on assessment tools HEC COVID 19 guidelines should be consulted.

2- Regular departmental meetings be conducted online to promote knowledge sharing and collaboration for healthy academic environment and dissemination of SOP's for health and safety of teachers/students/staff under COVID-19.

3- Proper monitoring & feedback /evaluation mechanism be developed to record student's participation and time spent on course platforms. It includes off-line listening to recorded lectures and timely addressing the assignments, quizzes, projects etc.

4- Assessments, number of quizzes and type of assignments should cover learning outcomes of the courses pertinently. Timely marking of assignments should be ensured by focal person online quality education and the assessments must be shared with students online.

5- Assessment records for assignments, quizzes, projects, exams etc of all online courses should be kept for record. Evidence must be shared with NAEAC as and when required.

6- In order to facilitate office of controller of exams in keeping assessment records and notifying results, HEI's should devise uniform assessment (marking/ weightage for midterm, practical, final, quizzes, assignments etc) models for all departments.

## VIRTUAL ACCREDITATION

In order to save time and meet the ever increasing demand for accreditation by HEI's virtual accreditation will be carried out in two phases:

### Phase-I

NAEAC would virtually carryout all the components of the accreditation itinerary including opening session with the Vice Chancellor, Dean, Directors and Faculty Members, presentation by relevant HOD, meeting of AIC members with faculty members and interaction with students as well as virtual visit of infrastructure. Provisional AIC assessment report will also be provided to HEIs after completion of all formalities. HEI's opting for virtual accreditation must have the following:

- An approved SOP for online teaching by OAC under the guidelines provided by HEC.
- Effective and accessible online records (LMS/Google Forms) for the AIC.
- Online meeting with the Vice Chancellor, Dean, HoD and faculty. Interviews with faculty, students, staff, alumni etc.

### Phase-II

Execution of normal accreditation in physical mode may also be carried out to validate the AIC provisional report after normalization of the situation.

In order to get Policy Guidelines for Blended Education approved from Council, on July 14, 2020 an online meeting (Zoom) of NAEAC was held.

# NAEAC 15<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

July 15, 2020 via ZOOM

The Chair warmly welcomed senior and new council members and complimented them for their support and commitment to participate in an urgent meeting on short notice to discuss serious challenges arose due to COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair also appreciated and acknowledged Prof. Dr. Nadeem Akhtar Abbasi, PVC, PMAS-AAUR, Ex-Vice Chairman, NAEAC (2016-2020) for his meritorious services, hard work and dedication to advance council whereby it is recognized and valued across Pakistan.

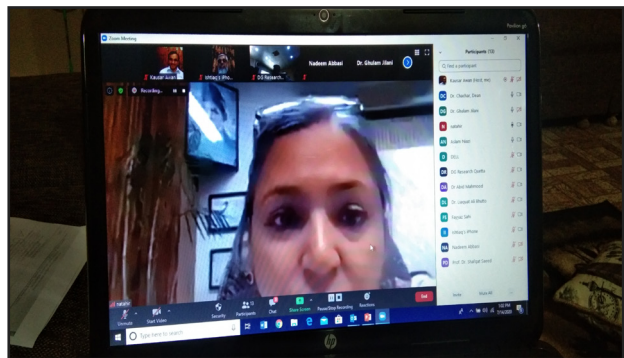
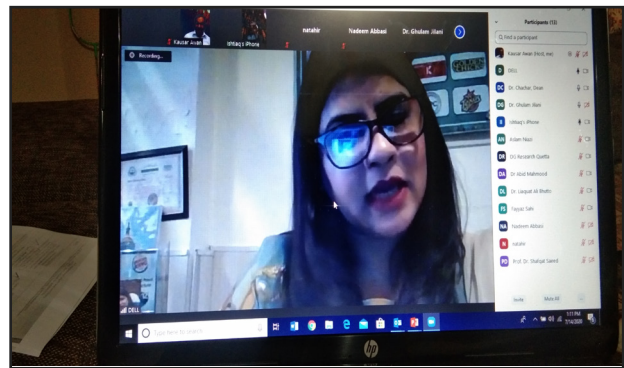
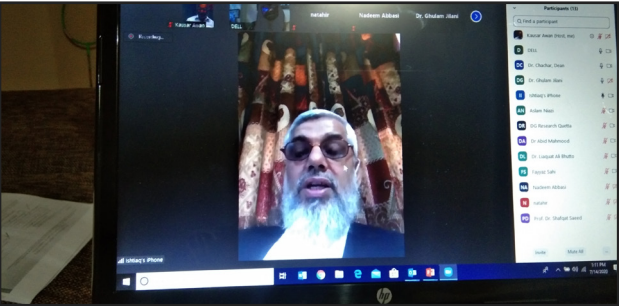
Chairperson highlighted the operational activities and achievements of the council during 2019-20 including twenty three accreditation and evaluation visits, in which 34 degree programs in eight HEI's across country were evaluated, eight zero visits of 16 degree programs, two review meetings with the Heads of Agriculture Education Institutions, five quality assurance & accreditation awareness seminars and one training workshop for departmental focal persons of HEI's from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were conducted. The Chair informed honorable house that, due to COVID-19 pandemic the regular accreditation visits couldn't be carried from March 2020 onwards so, council in consultation with relevant HEI's created a history by conducting two virtual accreditations in Institute of Agricultural Sciences, University of the Punjab, Lahore and Faculty of Agriculture, University of Sargodha. The house appreciated the efforts made by council secretariat and ensured their sustained support to carry new initiatives under challenging environments. After the introductory remarks by the Chair; item-wise agenda of the meeting was presented before council members for consideration and approval.

## Agenda Item No. 1

Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the council were presented for confirmation before the council members. In the absence of any comments and objections, the minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the council were approved as presented.

## Agenda Item No. 2

# NAEAC Policy Guidelines for Online Teaching



Chairperson briefed the honorable members for the imminent need for drafting Policy Guidelines for Online Teaching (PGOT) due to COVID-19 pandemic which has forced almost all HEI's to opt for online teaching. He further added that this draft was prepared after two consultative virtual webinars conducted on 8th-9th of July, 2020 with the administration and faculty of forty seven HEI's across Pakistan. After presenting PGOT chairperson requested the honorable members for their valuable suggestions in order to improve the drafted policy. After detailed discussion policy guidelines for online teaching were approved by the council unanimously. In the concluding remarks Chairperson thanked all participants for attending the meeting and sharing their valuable suggestions.



## Recruitment of Staff

Since inception, NAEAC has been operating with limited working staff. Recently new initiatives have been taken like initiation of e-newsletter, registration of agricultural graduates and inclusion of new subjects under purview of NAEAC. Also due to the sad demise of founding secretary of council Mr Naseer Alam demand for devoted and self motivated staff members was felt to keep the progress at pace. Accordingly council recruited new staff after completing all the codal formalities.

Newly appointed Secretary Dr. Abdul Ghaffar has 34 year experience in R&D, research management and coordination at NARC/PARC, Islamabad. He is recipient of 7 International Travel Grants to present his research work on International forums. He won and executed four competitive research projects from national and international funding agencies: 2 funded by Agricultural Linkages Program (Genetic Improvement of Buffaloes in Pakistan [ Rs. 2.287 million] and Genetic Improvement of Selected Indigenous Naked Neck by Crossing with Exotic Poultry Breeds of Rhode Island Red and Black Australorp (14.337 million), one funded by RADP (Development of Open Nucleus Breeding Scheme for Nili Buffalo and Sahiwal Cattle at NARC (Rs 19.390 million) and one from International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Austria entitled, "Integrated Approach for Improving Small Scale Market Oriented Dairy Systems in Pakistan" (US \$ 60,000)). He is very enthusiastic and motivated to join hands with chairperson NAEAC for the betterment of agriculture education in the country.

To meet ever growing work demand an array of different positions were also fulfilled and now council secretariat seems to be in good shape.



Dr. Abdul Ghaffar  
Secretary



Kausar Saeed Awan  
Dy. Director Coordination



Malik Arshad  
Asstt. Director  
Admin & Finance



Muhammad Faraz Afzal  
Asstt. Director  
Coordination



Zafar Ali  
Software Engineer



Muhammad Shafqat  
Dispatch Rider

## Annual Work Plan

Chairperson, NAEAC approved the Annual Plan for the year 2020-21, the details are mentioned below:

### Annual Work Plan of NAEAC – FY 2020-21

S. no.	Institution	Discipline	Activity	Proposed visit schedule
1	Minhaj University, Lahore	Food Science and Technology	Follow-up visit	Sept 28, 2020
2	University of Central Punjab, Lahore	Food Science and Technology	Zero Visit	Sept 29, 2020
3	UMT, Lahore	Food Technology	2nd round	Sept 30, 2020
4	University of Agriculture, Faisalabad	Agribusiness	2nd round	Oct 26, 2020
		Seed Science and Technology	2nd round	
5	University of the Punjab, Lahore	Agronomy	Zero Visit	Oct 29, 2020
6	UAF Sub – Campus Depalpur, Okara	Agronomy	Formal Visit	Nov 04, 2020
		Soil Science	Formal Visit	
		Plant Breeding & Genetics	Formal Visit	
		Plant Pathology	Formal Visit	
7	KFUEIT, Rahim Yar Khan	Agriculture	Awareness Seminar	Nov 13, 2020
8	The University of Agriculture Peshawar	Agri. Extension	2 <sup>nd</sup> round	Nov 16-17, 2020
		Food Science	Follow-up visit	
		Plant Protection	Follow-up visit	

S.no.	Institution	Discipline	Activity	Proposed visit schedule
9	Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Science, Uthal	Plant Breeding and Genetics	Review Meeting	Nov 16, 2020
		Horticulture		
		Agronomy		
		Entomology		
		Soil Science		
		Plant Pathology		
10	Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar	Forestry	2 <sup>nd</sup> round	Nov 18, 2020
11	GCUF – Sahiwal Campus	Food Science & Technology	Follow-up visit	Nov 23, 2020
12	PMAS AAU, Rawalpindi	Forestry & Range Management	2 <sup>nd</sup> round	Dec 14-15, 2020
		Food Science & Technology	2 <sup>nd</sup> round	
13	University of Swabi	Plant Breeding and Genetics	2 <sup>nd</sup> round	Dec 16, 2020
		Food Science and Technology	Follow-up visit	
		Agronomy	Follow-up visit	
		Horticulture	Follow-up visit	
		Entomology	Follow-up visit	
14	University of Haripur	Soil Science	2 <sup>nd</sup> round	Dec 17, 2020
15	UAF Sub-Campus Toba Tek Singh	Poultry Science	Awareness Seminar	Jan 2021
16	University of Karachi	Food Science and Technology	2 <sup>nd</sup> round	Jan 2021
17	Hamdard University, Karachi	Food Science and Technology	Zero Visit	Jan 2021
18	Shaheed Z.A. Bhutto Agriculture College, Dokri	Agronomy	Review Meeting	Jan 2021
		Horticulture		
		Plant Breeding & Genetics		
		Soil Science		
		Entomology		
		Plant Pathology		
		Plant Protection		
19	The University of Sindh, Jamshoro	Nutrition & Food Technology	Formal Visit	Jan 2021
20	SAUT Sub – Campus, Umerkot	Agronomy	Zero Visit	Jan 2021
		Plant Protection		
		Soil Science		
21	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Training Workshop for Departmental Focal Persons	At SAU, Tandojam	Training Workshop	Jan-Feb 2021
22	Bacha Khan University, Charsadda	Agronomy	Follow-up visit	Feb 2021
		Entomology	Follow-up visit	
		Plant Breeding and Genetics	Follow-up visit	
23	MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan	Agri. Economics	Formal Visit	Feb 2021
		Agribusiness	Formal Visit	
		Biotechnology	Formal Visit	
		Plant Pathology	Formal Visit	
24	The Islamia University of Bahawalpur	Agronomy	Follow-up visit	Feb 2021
		Entomology	Follow-up visit	
		Plant Breeding and Genetics	2 <sup>nd</sup> round	
		Food Science	Follow-up visit	



S.no.	Institution	Discipline	Activity	Proposed visit schedule
25	BZU Sub-Campus Bahadur, Layyah	Agronomy	2nd round	Feb 2021
		Entomology	Follow-up visit	
		Horticulture	2nd round	
26	UAF Sub – Campus, Burewala	Entomology	Formal Visit	Feb 2021
		Food Science & Technology	Formal Visit	
		Plant Breeding & Genetics	Formal Visit	
27	5th Training Workshop for Departmental Focal Persons	At MNSUA, Multan	Training Workshop	Feb 2021
28	University of Swabi	Climate Change	Awareness Seminar	Mar 2021
		Plant Pathology		
		Soil Science		
29	The University of Agriculture, Peshawar	Fisheries	Awareness Seminar	Mar 2021
		Weed Science	2nd round	Mar 2021
		Agri. Economics	2nd round	
30	Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta	Plant Breeding and Genetics	Follow-up visit	Mar 2021
		Agronomy	Follow-up visit	
		Soil Science	Follow-up visit	
		Plant Pathology	Follow-up visit	
		Entomology	Follow-up visit	
		Horticulture	Follow-up visit	
31	Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan	Agronomy	Review Meeting	May 2021
		Horticulture		
		Food Science and Technology		
		Entomology		
32	The University of Poonch, Rawalakot	Entomology	2nd round	May 2021
		Food Science & Technology	2nd round	
33	University of Sargodha	Agricultural Economics	Follow-up visit	May 2021
		Forestry	Follow-up visit	
34	Ghazi University, D.G. Khan	Plant Breeding and Genetics	Follow-up visit	May 2021
		Soil Science	Follow-up visit	May 2021
		Entomology	Follow-up visit	May 2021
		Agronomy	Follow-up visit	May 2021
		Horticulture	Follow-up visit	May 2021
35	Hazara University, Mansehra	Plant Breeding Genetics	Follow-up visit	Jun 2021
		Agronomy	Awareness Seminar	Jun 2021
		Horticulture		
36	University of Swat	Forestry	Formal visit	Jun 2021
37	SBB University Sheringal, Dir	Agriculture	Awareness Seminar	Jun 2021
38	KIU, Gilgit	Food Science and Technology	Follow-up visit	Jun 2021
		Forestry	Formal visit	
		Horticulture	Follow-up visit	

## Accreditation Activities

As the Government of Pakistan allowed the educational institutes to start functioning since September 15, 2020. NAEAC decided to resume its activities with full zeal and zest. The accreditation process started with the accreditation visits of the School of Food Science & Technology (SFST), Minhaj University, Lahore, Department of Food Science and Technology, University of Central Punjab, Lahore and School of Food and Agricultural Sciences (SFAS), University of Management & Technology, Lahore.



## Accreditation (Follow-up) Visit - School of Food Science & Technology, Minhaj University, Lahore

September 28, 2020

Minhaj University Lahore (MUL) was founded in 1986 and is located in a significant place which is easily approachable from all the main areas of the city. Its campuses are situated at Township & Model Town. Degree awarding status was granted by Govt. of the Punjab. It comprises of nine faculties and has a purpose-built campus.

Keeping in view the importance of Food Science & Technology, Minhaj University established department of Food Science & Technology in the year 2015.

NAEAC constituted a three member AIC comprising of Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A. Rajwana Chairperson NAEAC as convener, Dr. Umair Bajwa Associate Professor, Institute of Home & Food Sciences, GCU, Faisalabad & Dr. Shinawar Wasim Assistant Professor, IAGS, University of the Punjab to conduct an accreditation visit on September 28, 2020.

Prof. Dr. Sajid Mahmood Shahzad, Vice Chancellor, MUL welcomed the AIC and briefed about the accomplishments of the university. Later on Dr. Muhammad Jawad Iqbal, Chairman, Department of Food Science & Technology briefed about the departmental activities and achievements.



The AIC also visited classrooms, labs, library and faculty offices. AIC held meetings with the students & faculty to acquire first hand knowledge about their issues. AIC also visited the event of open house and met the students.

In the concluding session AIC members shared their observations with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Sajid Mahmood Shahzad & his team., Vice Chancellor thanked AIC and assured that all valuable suggestions would be taken care of and at the end presented souvenirs to AIC members.







# Pre-Accreditation (Zero) Visit - Department of Food Science & Technology, University of Central Punjab (UCP), Lahore

September 29, 2020

The charter to establish the University of Central Punjab (UCP) was awarded in April 2002 by the Government of the Punjab. This was the First Private Sector University of Punjab province which acquired the status of Degree Awarding Institution (DAI). In order to conduct the pre-accreditation (zero) visit NAEAC constituted an AIC under the convenership of Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A. Rajwana Chairperson NAEAC, Prof. Dr. Masood Sadiq Butt

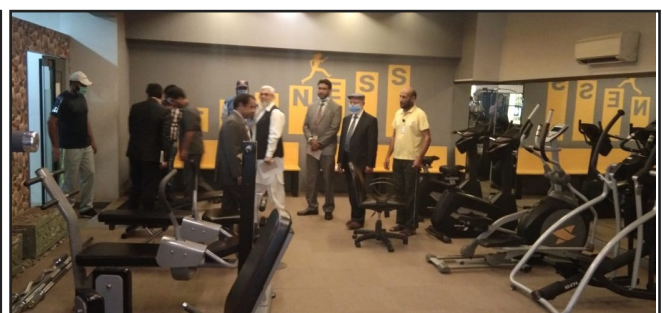
and milestones achieved so far. Chairperson NAEAC Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A. Rajwana in a very detailed briefing explained the accreditation process and services of NAEAC being carried out to assure the quality of education in relevant institutes.

AIC in its day long visit held meetings with faculty and students of the department. AIC visited labs, library, classrooms, sports complex and QEC staff of the university .

In the exit meeting the AIC members shared their observations and suggestions informally with the Provost Dr. Faisal Mustafa and his team. Provost presented souvenirs to the AIC members and thanked NAEAC for helping the uplift of the department.



Dean, Faculty of Food, Nutrition & Home Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and Dr. Imran Pasha Associate Professor, National Institute of Food Science and Technology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad as members. Provost Dr. Faisal Mustafa welcomed the AIC members and highlighted the achievements



# Accreditation (2nd Round) Visit - School of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Management & Technology, Lahore

September 30, 2020

University of Management & Technology (UMT) received degree-granting charter first as the Institute of Management and Technology (IMT) in 2002 through an Act of the Punjab Assembly. UMT offers a broad range of 140 bachelor, master and doctoral degree programs in various disciplines.

AIC comprising of Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A. Rajwana Chairperson NAEAC as Convener and Dr. Saeed Akhtar Director, Institute of Food Science & Nutrition (IFSN), BZU, Multan and Dr. Muhammad Tausif Sultan Assistant Professor IFSN, BZU, Multan visited the School of Food & Agricultural Sciences UMT, Lahore.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aslam, Rector UMT in the inaugural session highlighted the salient achievements of the university. Later Director School of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Dr. Nauman Khalid presented detailed actions taken for the improvement of the department.

Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A. Rajwana delivered a very detailed presentation highlighting the need and importance of Accreditation Process and also shared the salient achievements of NAEAC.

AIC carried out a detailed visit of the campus including classrooms, labs, library, cafeteria and held meetings with the faculty and students to get an insight about the working environment of the university.

In the exit meeting AIC shared the salient findings with the officials of UMT. Dr. Nauman Khalid, Director School of Food and Agricultural Sciences assured that all recommendations will be implemented in true letter and spirit.

