

Second Round of Evaluation and Accreditation Visit of AICs of NAEAC to Faculty of Crop and Food Sciences, PMAS AAU, Rawalpindi

The first on-site visit of the Accreditation Inspection Committees (AICs) of the National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) to B.Sc. (Hons) and M.Sc. (Hons) degree programs of various disciplines of Agriculture of the Faculty of Crop and Food Sciences at PMAS AAUR was carried out during 2009-2011. As a result of the evaluation process, most of the degree programs were accredited in category X of HEC. The Council has launched second round of accreditation process in January 2017 in all the main agriculture universities of Pakistan. This is the first visit of the second round of external evaluation and accreditation to PMAS AAUR. Four accreditation inspection committees (AICs) of subject experts/program evaluators were constituted to undertake external peer review of the degree programs of Agronomy, Soil Science, PBG and Entomology to carry-out the review process from October 25-26, 2017.

The four AICs were approved by the Chairman, NAEAC to carry out **second round of on-site visit at PMAS AAUR**. The AICs consisted of senior Professors including Meritorious Prof. Dr. Hidayat ur Rahman and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Dilnawaz Ahmad Gerdezi (PBG); Prof. Dr. Zahir Shah and Dr. Abdul Rashid (Soil Science); Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood and Prof. Dr. Farman ullah (Entomology); Prof. Dr. Abdul Khaliq and Dr. Rashid Ahmed Shad (Agronomy).

The on-site visit commenced with a briefing by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nadeem Akhtar Abbasi, Dean, Faculty of Crop and Food Sciences, PMAS AAU, Rawalpindi. The members of Accreditation Inspection Committees were updated on the recent developments in the Faculty of Crop and Food Sciences. It was followed by a detailed discussion on various aspects of the faculty and degree programs. Subsequently, each committee had detailed visit of the respective department which consisted of an examination of the records and documents of course files, review reports, records of meetings of BOS and BOF, assessment instruments, admission and withdrawal policies, dropouts, average CGPAs, average intake, yield index, etc. a detailed visit of the teaching and research labs., availability of text books, journals in the departmental and main library, greenhouse and experimental farm was also performed. Besides interaction with each faculty member, meeting with the groups of undergraduate students was organized to obtain their views about the on-going degree programs. Participatory SWOT analysis with all the faculty members as well as with students was carried out to validate the SAR contents. The Committees had a wrap-up meeting with the Dean and shared their findings and observations before leaving on 26 October 2017.

Quality assurance is a planned and systematic review process of degree programs carried out by a peer team to determine if the acceptable standards are being met, maintained and enhanced. The Council is consistently striving and urges the Institutions to improve the quality and strength of teaching faculty, upgrade and strengthen infrastructure and learning resources and facilities to improve the standard and rating of their degree programs. The overall objective is to improve the standard and quality of agriculture degree programs to make them globally competitive.

