



**AIC Report**

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**March 20, 2014**

**Department of Soil & Environmental Sciences**  
**University of Haripur**

## **Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences, University of Haripur, Haripur**

- **Department History and Main Features**

The Department of agricultural sciences was established in April, 2008 under the umbrella of Faculty of Sciences at Haripur Campus of Hazara University and classes of B.Sc (Hons) soil and environmental sciences major were started. University act of University of Haripur was approved in July, 2012.

Presently the department leader and other related staff of the department are housed in the recently renovated building along with other departments.

### **Degree programs offered**

- B.Sc (Hons) Agriculture with major soil and environmental sciences
- M.Sc (Hons)

### **3. CRITERION ANALYSIS**

#### **Criteria I: Strength and quality of Faculty**

The Faculty members of the Department of soil and environmental sciences, University of Haripur are two Assistant professors and two lecturers. Two of them are Ph.D while remaining are M.Sc (Hons). Range of experience of faculty members; vary from 2-6 years. Department is running graduate and post graduate programs. There is a need of permanent/regular appointment of assistant professors, associate professors and professor to justify the work load and to fulfill the HEC criteria. Participations of students in seminars and conferences are limited. Funds and facilities are not available for participation of students in seminars/conferences.

Faculty research publications in national and international journals are not adequate in number. Contribution toward publication of books, chapters and proceedings is also not encouraging and need improvement. Faculty perception about degree program is clear. The student teacher ratio is good.

### **Criteria II: Curriculum Design and Development**

The Department of soil and environmental sciences, at University of Haripur, is at its initial stage. They are using curriculum that has been revised by the Department as well as HEC. Curriculum is well defined with clear objectives. Still, there is continuous revision of the curricula for B.Sc (Hons) text books and reference books are available in low number main library. However, there is no book bank of the Department and available one is for the whole university. The budget for books is available for main library of the Faculty and not for the department. There is urgent need for separate departmental budget for books plus research journals. Credit hours and contact hours are not justified for existing staff. All of the teachers are over burden with courses

All students of this department are not well informed and fully aware about course program, admission policy, enrolment, withdrawal and course break up. Course files verified by the AIC are maintained but need some improvement that has been pointed out by the committee. QEC of the university is at initial stage of its development. QEC has started its work for evaluation of teachers, course files, and teacher evaluation by the students.

### **Criteria III: Infrastructure and Learning Resources**

There was no lab facility of the department. Class rooms are not enough for teaching and working of students. There is need of fully equipped departmental labs and class rooms.

### **Criteria IV: Students Support and Progression:**

Scholarship to the students are available on merit and need basis however, these are insufficient. Students are getting scholarships from different sources or donor agencies. Hostel accommodation for boys is not available. Transport facility is adequate with 2 coasters (32 seats) and 4 buses (55 seats) but limited sports facilities are available. Record of attendance has been verified by the AIC. Medical and transport facilities are adequate. However, there is need in improvement of computing facilities, research funds, and internship allowances.

## **2. SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE DEPT DEGREE PROGRAMS**

*(A brief SWOT of the Deptt. of soil and environmental sciences, University of Haripur, Hazara, is presented herewith)*

### **STRENGTHS**

N.A

**WEAKNESS**

- Shortage of separate Faculty of Agriculture Sciences including its relevant departments
- Shortage of permanent and senior/experienced Faculty members as professor and associate professors
- Access to the international Journal is needed.
- Relevant course books are short.
- Department has not sufficient PhD faculty.
- Limited and unskilled supporting staff of the laboratories
- Limited infrastructure as teaching facilities, Teacher offices, seminar room, staff rooms.
- Lack of periodicals and journals for faculty and students
- Lack of departmental library and internet facilities

**OPPORTUNITIES**

- Hiring of more Faculty is possible
- More opportunities for expansion of programs

**THREATS**

- Less number of well equipped labs.
- Limitation of well developed soil and environmental sciences department and Departmental budget
- Lack of books, journals and internet facilities for digital access.
- Difficulties in establishment of Departmental infrastructure.
- Irrelevant faculty hiring (i.e. one is Agri. Engineer & second is Water Engineer out of total four faculty members)

### **3. ACTIONABLE RECOMENDATIONS**

- Some of the immediate actionable points emerged from the discussion are as under:
- Establishment of separate Faculty of Agriculture Sciences including its well defined relevant departments like soil and environmental sciences
- The department is at its initial stage of establishment and need financial grants for strengthening.
- Limited research facilities especially scientific equipments, instruments and chemical on share basis. Therefore, special funds may be arranged to strengthen the facilities at departmental level.
  
- Teaching staff is not enough and experienced rather 50% is irrelevant. There is need to provide two associate professor and one professor.
- There is a shortage of experienced supporting staff, especially laboratory staff (Lab Assistants and Lab Attendant). The department may be provided with enough trained laboratory staff.
  
- There is need of establishment of seminar room, staff rooms and Departmental library with computer/internet facilities
- Provision of more space (separate or shared office) for all teachers, labs and classrooms
- Need of budget for chemicals, glassware, books and other facilities.
- There is need for installation of own Green Houses at University campus.
- Library facilities may also be strengthened for purchase of books and Journals.

### **4. LIST OF ANNEXURES**

1. Evaluation Criteria and Program Ratings
2. TOR of the Committee

The Secretary NAEAC, HEC,  
13-5-2014

Islamabad

**Subject:** Comments on Draft Reports of Six Disciplines of Department of Agriculture

Please refer to your email and telephonic conversation on the subject matter, find attached comments on draft reports of our six disciplines for onward submission to the experts.

**Agronomy:** Cordial thanks are extended to Prof. Dr. Fayyaz- ul- Hassan for such encouraging and positive remarks about accreditation of B.Sc (Hons) Agriculture degree program at the University of Haripur.

It is requested to the subject expert of Agronomy to please revise his view on the continuation of M.Sc (Hons) Agriculture degree program in Agronomy.

**Horticulture:** Kindly refer to the draft AIC accreditation report, received through email. The report is highly encouraging and we may jointly struggle and ensure that the deficiencies/weaknesses pointed out by the AIC program experts are addressed and rectified accordingly to achieve the required standards. Furthermore, it is submitted that Horticulture is the strongest department in terms of students enrollment and experienced faculty and it has a great potential to flourish in future. The AIC expert in Horticulture may be requested to reconsider the final recommendation in connivance to the recommendations given by experts of other Departments like Entomology, PBG, and Agronomy etc.

**Soil Science:** Comments and suggestion by the HEC experts are very much encouraging and hope that section of Soil and Environmental sciences will improve in the light of recommendation made. It is mentioned in the report that currently no lab facility is available, however there is a central lab with good space to accommodate current students and has all be basic equipments to conduct routine soil tests. Therefore it is requested modify this part of the statement.

In SWOT analysis, section **THREATS** it is mentioned that irrelevant faculty (i.e. one is Agri. Engineer & second is Water Engineer out of total four faculty members) has been hired. In fact, when the university of Haripur was a campus of Hazara University the nomenclature was as “Soil & Environmental Science and Water Management” and appointments were made on this basis. Since the inception of University of Haripur, the nomenclature was pruned to Soil and Environmental Sciences only. So it is requested to omit the statement from the report.

Kindly categorical recommend the B.Sc (Hons) and M.Sc (Hons) program for accreditation please.

**Plant Breeding Genetics:** The report of PBG is ok except the respected expert should recommend B.Sc (Hons) degree Program for accreditation please.

**Food Science:** The section of Food Science & Technology should be recommended for up gradation in to a Department of Food Science & Technology. Associate Professor/full professor should be recruited to meet minimum HEC criteria.

**Entomology:** The report of Entomology is ok and encouraging. Many thanks to subject experts

**Dr. Sami Ullah Khan**  
HoD, Agriculture