



AIC Report

**Dr. Nadeem Akhtar Abbasi
Prof. Dr. Noor-ul-Amin**

April 24, 2014

**Department of Horticulture
UAP, AMK Campus Mardan**

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Executive Summary

The University of Agriculture Peshawar, Amir Muhammad Khan campus Mardan was established in 2009 and commenced B.Sc (Hons) Agri. four year degree program. Classes at the campus were started in June 2009 in a temporarily borrowed building belongs to Regional Institute for Teacher's Education (RITE). Two batches comprising of 34 students had passed out while 3rd one is underway. Various events such as sports events, seminars and workshops are being undertaken on regular basis since the end of 2009. The land has been purchased by the main campus near Sheikh Maltoon town in greater Bacha Campus for future development. Currently students' academic related activities particularly in horticulture are undertaken. The fruit orchard (peach, plum, apricot and pear) are being established. Apart from the academic duties, the faculty is also rendering public services to the farmers regarding management of the orchard.

Mardan is considered as hub of agricultural activities in KPK and poor students are being facilitated at their door step. The operational funds are received from the main University budget Peshawar. Available number of faculty is too low. Minimum required number of faculty should be appointed immediately on permanent basis or on TTS. More text books and research journals should be added to the existing library to meet the minimum criteria. Accreditation to the agriculture degree program may be provisionally granted for a period of one year and administration may be advised to meet minimum criteria of the faculty strength, library, laboratory and other infrastructure facilities for quality education.

Introduction

The Department of horticulture, at Amir Muhammad Khan campus Mardan, is at its embryonic stage. The curriculum adopted is as per HEC guidelines, which is well defined with clear objectives. Minimal number of Text books and reference books are available but not sufficient to cater the need of students. There is no separate book bank at departmental level. Very limited budget for books is available for only main library. There is an urgent need for separate departmental budget for books and research journals. Credit hours and contact hours are not justified for existing staff. Most of the teachers are over burdened 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.

Degree programs offered

B.Sc (Hons) Agri. (Horticulture)

Criteria wise Analysis

Strength and Quality of Faculty

The Faculty members Department of Horticulture, The University of Agriculture Peshawar, Amir Muhammad Khan campus Mardan are capable of teaching both theory and practical. One teacher is quite senior having an experience of 22 years whereas, two teachers are comparatively fresh but have suitable qualifications to teach and train the students for the degree offered. So, the total strength of teachers is 3, consisting of one associate professor and two lecturers. The associate professor is Ph.D while lecturers are M.Sc (Hons). Range of experience of faculty members; vary from 3-22 years. Apart from regular teaching/research, Department is also actively involve in rendering advisory services to the local farming community. In addition to existing faculty, there is a dire need to appoint at least one Professor, one associate professor and two assistant professors to

justify the work load and to fulfill the HEC criteria. The students reported that they have participated in Agriculture Mela organized by ARI Tarnab Peshawar. Participation of students in seminars and conferences should be further increased. For this purpose funds and resources should be allocated.

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

Infrastructure and learning resources

The department lacks its own laboratory which is must. There was no independent laboratory facility of the department. For practical classes there is only one main Laboratory which is used jointly by all the major and general classes. Class rooms are not enough for teaching and working of students. Practical work and write up of practical note books is satisfactory particularly for pomology and floriculture courses, while in field of olericulture, no such activity, even a tunnel facility on campus was observed. Moreover, a small tunnel facility available on campus seems underuse. Departmental admission to B.Sc. (Hons) is not normal. There were only sixty one students in the B.Sc (Hons). Availability of academics guidance/counseling to students is insufficient.

Scholarship to the students are available on merit and need basis however, these are insufficient in number. Students are getting scholarships from different sources or donor agencies. Beneficiaries of merit scholarships are less in number similarly beneficiaries of need-based scholarships are still in process. Hostel accommodation for boys is not available. There are only six buses available at campus and can be functional on availability of budget.

Limited sports facilities are available. Student attendance is taken regularly and there is restriction for presence of 75 %. Record of attendance has been verified by the AIC. Medical facilities are available. However, there is need in improvement of computing facilities, research funds, and internship allowances.

Participatory SWOT Analysis:

Strengths

- Highly qualified, well-trained and experienced faculty.
- Department of Horticulture is number one in student enrolment. (Every year maximum students are enrolled in this Department.)
- Necessary laboratory equipment are available
- Multidisciplinary departments are available in the campus.
- There is a central computer lab at the campus and all the students have free access to Wi-Fi internet facility.
- Strong coordination with department of Horticulture main campus (UoA, Peshawar), ARS Mardan, PARC Mardan office, ARI Tarnab Peshawar and other research institutes with in KPK.
- Buses (6 nos.) are available, and can be functional on the availability of budget.
- This campus has its own property (250 acres land) at Plato beside Sheikh Maltoon, Mardan, which needs to be developed.
- Campus is surrounded by Fruit orchards and other agricultural farms.

Weaknesses

- The existing building is the property of Regional Institute for Teacher's Education (RITE) and some of the portion of this building has been under the use of AMK campus since 2009. They can take it back, if they need it.

- Limited access of public transport to AMK campus.
- M.Sc degree is not yet started due to the insufficient research facilities and number of faculty.
- Dependence on the main campus for budget approval, no specified budget allocation for the AMK campus
- Very limited books and horticulture related literature is available in the campus library

Opportunities

- Political support of one of the strongest party. Local political leaders are also quite influential which is a good opportunity for development of sub-campus.
- Excellent opportunities for the local students especially from Malakand, Swat, Dir, Mardan, Buner and Swabi etc. to get education at their door step.
- Opportunity for indigenous farmers to get contact with the experienced faculty and improve their farming system.
- The existing wider yield gap is also a great opportunity. The growers are far below the achievable potential due to meager or no agricultural education.
- The over burden of students at main campus can be overcome by further strengthening of AMK campus

Threats

- The financial hurdles in infrastructure development of AMK campus at Plato, Mardan
- Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan has also Agriculture campus just on other side of the boundary wall,
- Unstable sociopolitical and security concerns.

Actionable Recommendations

- Required number of faculty may be appointed immediately on permanent basis or on TTS.
- More text books and research journals should be purchased to meet the minimum criteria.
- Access to digital library facility should be made available.
- Faculty development program should be initiated for new faculty members.
- Transport facility should be provided for visits of faculty and students to research farms.
- Administration should be advised to meet criteria of the faculty strength, infrastructure and learning resources.

Final Recommendation

The team unanimously declared that B.Sc (Hons) Agri. Department of Horticulture, University of Agriculture Peshawar, Amir Muhammad Khan campus Mardan may be provisionally accredited only if the following issues are addressed:

- A M K must meet criteria of the faculty strength
- Quality infra structures on its own land needs to be developed
- Ensure availability and access to learning resources
- Practical facilities need to be further strengthened
- Various horticulture divisions particularly vegetable section must be further improved
- Students extracurricular activities must be encouraged

The criteria of the Faculty Strength, Quality, Infrastructure and Learning Resources should be met. The AIC may plan a second visit after one year for review and possibility of accreditation of B.Sc (Hons) Agri. Horticulture degree Program.

Annexure-1 NAEAC Inspection Team

The Chairman, NAEAC approved an Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC) for evaluation of the Department of Horticulture, University of Agriculture Peshawar, Amir Muhammad Khan campus Mardan. The committee comprised of the following members who undertook a visit to the said institution on April 24, 2014.

- 1. Prof. Dr. Nadeem Akhtar Abbasi** **(Convener)**
Chairman, Department of Horticulture
University of Arid Agriculture Rawalpindi
- 2. Prof. Dr. Noor-ul-Amin** **(Member)**
University of Agriculture Peshawar
- 3. Mr. Naseer Alam Khan** **(Member)**
Secretary NAEAC

The Accreditation Inspection Committee had the following TORs:

- To validate the self-assessment report (SAR) of the degree program B.Sc (Hons) Prepared by the Department of Horticulture, University of Agriculture Peshawar, Amir Muhammad Khan campus Mardan.
- To carry out external evaluation of the degree program in a transparent, neutral, holistic and participatory manner for accreditation and rating based on seven (7) evaluation criteria given in the Evaluation Manual.
- To submit a synthesized and concise analytical report (3-4 pages only) consisting of SWOT Analysis and actionable recommendations based on the interactions with the Dean, Chairman, Faculty members, Students and Support Staff and alumni as well as detailed visit of physical infrastructure, facilities and other teaching-learning resources available for the degree program.
- To submit clear, specific and justified degree program accreditation and rating recommendations to the Chairman NAEAC.

Annexure-ii Name, Qualification and experience of Faculty Members:

Name	Designation	Qualification	Experience	Status
Dr. Ghulam Nabi	Associate Professor	Ph. D	One year teaching and 20 years research experience	Permanent
Mr. Masood Ahmad	Lecturer	M.Sc (Hons)	Two and half years teaching and 5 years relevant experience	Permanent
Mr. Shahzad Khan	Lecturer	M.Sc (Hons)	Two and half years teaching experience	Permanent

Annexure-iii List of tools, equipments and chemicals in horticulture lab

Tools and equipments	Tools, equipments and chemicals
1) Digital Refractometer	2) Measuring tape
3) Pruning shears	4) Vernier Caliper
5) Budding/Grafting knife	6) Screw gauge
7) Automatic data logger for Air temp. and humidity	8) Pruning saw
9) Automatic data logger for soil temperature	10) EC tester
11) Lens e	12) Portable pH Meter
13) Electric conductivity (EC) Meter	14) Budding tape
15) Dissolved Solid Tester (DST)	16) Beakers
17) Compass	18) Flasks
19) Tensiometer	20) Electric balance
21) Fruit Maturity Color Guide	22) Ethanol
23) Automatic hot plate and stirrer	24) Growth regulators (GA ₃ , IBA)
25) Oven	26) NaOH
27) Test tubes	28) Methyl alcohol
29) Aluminum foil	30) Sulfuric acid
31) Microscopes	32) Other field related tools and materials (pots and polythene bags etc.)

List of Books related to Horticulture

- Horticulture by M. N. Malik
- Not particular but few more plant sciences books in the main library were available.