



AIC Report

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**Department of Horticulture
University of Swabi , KPK**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Particulars	Page No.
Introduction	
Criteria wise analysis	
• Standards and Criteria for Agriculture Degree Program Evaluation.....	1
• Teaching Staff/ Program Strength	2
• Infrastructure	2
• Laboratory facilities	3
• Library	3
• Computer and inter-net facilities	3
• Curriculum activities	3
• Training	3
• Linkages	3
• Students counseling.....	4
• Budget	4
Swot Analysis of Degree Program	
• Major Weaknesses of Degree program B.Sc (Hons)	4
• Major Opportunities	5
• Major Threats/Challenges	5
• Final Assessment.....	6
Annexure-I	
• NAEAC Inspection Team	7

University of Swabi
Standards and Criteria for Agriculture Degree Program Evaluation
Horticulture B.Sc (Hons) 2014-15

Sr. No.	Criteria	Points Assigned	Points Awarded
Major Criteria			
1	Strength and Quality of Faculty	250	125
2	Curriculum Design and Development	150	120
3	Infrastructure and Learning Resources	200	115
4	Students Support and progression	100	
Sub - Total (a)		700	360
Minor Criteria			
5	Research and Consultancy Activities	150	80
6	Governance and Leadership	100	60
7	Recent Innovations and Best practices	50	20
Sub - Total (b)		300	160
Grand Total (a+b)		1000	520
(Five hundred and twenty only)			52%

Name and Designation

Signature of Program Evaluator

External Evaluation and Accreditation of Degree Program of Horticulture at University of Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Introduction

The Chairman, NAEAC approved an Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC) for evaluation of the degree Program, Department of Horticulture, University of Swabi. AIC undertook a visit to the said institution on November 20, 2014. The visit aimed to carry out evaluation rating and accreditation degree Program of Horticulture Department, University of Swabi.

Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Alam, Dean Faculty of Sciences presented overall structure and achievements of Agriculture Department as well as Horticulture program. After presentation, the team visited horticulture program to evaluate the progress. Prof. Dr. Noor ul Amin was the convener of the team and Dr. Khalid Mahmood Qureshi joined as team member. Following Criteria wise observations were made during visit:

- **Teaching Staff/ Program Strength:**

Strength of faculty was not satisfactory as there are only three faculty members in department. Two are Assistant Professors on contract and one is fresh graduate (BSc Hons) Horticulture as visiting member with minimal experience. This shows an acute shortage of teaching staff in the Program/department.

-A quick attention is needed to create teaching cadre positions in order to improve the department conditions.

As the student enrolment is concerned, only 27 students have enrolled the horticulture during last two years. Presently, 11 students are enrolled in 5th semester and 16 are regular students of seventh semester.

-Further efforts need to be initiated to attract more students by strengthening program.

- **Infrastructure:**

Offices for faculty and classrooms for students seem insufficient as currently, the students share classrooms while the faculty sits in one room. Only one desk top computer and a photocopier is available for teachers only, whereas for student's two lecture rooms are available, one is shared with other program and one is under horticulture program. Lecture rooms are not very spacious but due to less number of students they can be justified. Only one multimedia is available which is being used for special lectures. Although a small experimental field is located within campus but not properly managed.

-The university has to develop further infrastructure to strengthen the department.

- **Laboratory facilities:**

There are three labs in the whole faculty of sciences but only one lab is available for horticulture students on share basis. Labs are equipped with microscope, oven, electronic balance, incubators but students did not have frequent access to lab equipment. Simultaneously, frequently used horticulture related tools/equipments are not available. The Lab. Also lacks qualified staff/technicians. As indicated in presentation, purchase of lab equipment is in progress.

-The university needs to develop horticulture lab with all the necessary equipment as well as small tools used in practical classes.

- **Library:**

Library is located at campus and it has about 3500 books of different disciplines. Library is not fulfilling students' requirements. Relevant books for horticulture students are not quite enough according to need.

-The department needs its own library with more and latest books, journals etc

- **Computer and inter-net facilities:**

Common computer lab is located at campus. Students can avail this facility during office hours. On line access to different scientific general through HEC digital library is available but it is lacking for horticulture.

-This facility seems insufficient for students, and the university shall provide a separate computer lab for horticulture.

- **Curriculum activities:**

For curriculum activities Program has managed study board, faculty board for reviewing curriculum. Board of study and Faculty board of study have established.

-Curriculum development and revision is the main responsibility of HEC, however, the department also should review the situation to add subjects of local and global importance.

- **Training:**

Presently no proper training programs existed on campus.

-The university needs to explore for capacity building of teaching and support staff to improve quality of work.

- **Linkages:**

Collaboration with local institutions existed at informal level. Likewise, the collaboration with national and international institutions is also weak

-This needs to be formalized and strengthened to up-grade teaching and research efforts.

- **Student counseling:**

There are no tutorial activities at campus for student counseling but one committee has organized to resolve student's day to day issues

-Student's counseling/tutorial activates needs to be started immediately

- **Budget:**

There is no separate provision of budget for the program and expenses are met on demand basis.

-There is a need for specific allocation of budget so that the program could plan for important activities related to quality research and teaching. There is need to develop interaction with different stake holders and national/ international institutions for necessary grants and technical support.

SWOT ANALYSIS OF DEGREE PROGRAMS

1. Major Weaknesses of Degree Program B.Sc (Hons):

- Acute shortage of regular and senior faculty having adequate teaching experience (teaching faculty with only two assistant professors (on-contract) and one teaching assistant).
- Inadequate space for class rooms, laboratories and field work.
- Non-availability of departmental Library, student's computer lab, field facilities and required funds.
- Non-availability of Nursery both fruit and ornamental, Green House, Shade House, Plastic Tunnels, Lath House, etc.
- Lack of IT teaching facilities with uninterrupted power back-up.

2. **Major Opportunities:**

- Horticulture declared as high priority area at national level and has vast opportunity in the province because of highly suitable climate and topography.
- Vast potential of new horticultural crops like Olive, Kiwi Fruit, Passion Fruit, Loquat, Avocado, Tea, etc exist for the province.
- Potential for innovative horticulture initiatives like off season vegetable production, tunnel farming, drip irrigation for horticulture crops, ornamental production etc existed and need to be exploited.
- Diversity in horticulture production attracted private sector entrepreneurs thus creating more job opportunities.

3. **Major Threats / Challenges:**

- High demand for trained and skilled manpower locally and internationally for horticultural crops production, services and processing.
- High post-harvest losses for horticultural crops.
- No system for transfer of technology for horticultural crops.
- Value addition and processing is in high demand but not available in the country.

Actionable Recommendations

- Required number of faculty may be appointed immediately on regular basis on priority basis.
- More text books and research journals should be purchased to meet the minimum criteria for accreditation.
- Access to digital library facility should be made available.
- Faculty development program should be initiated for new faculty members.
- Transport facility should be improved for visits of faculty and students to research farm.
- Experimental farm facilities should be improved on urgent basis
- Administration should be advised to meet criteria of the faculty strength and quality and infrastructure and learning resources.

Final Recommendations

After conducting holistic review of the degree program on Horticulture, the AIC tends to rate the program in category Y3 with 52% score reflecting that program hardly meets any of the four major criteria for accreditation. It is however hoped that HoD and University administration would make serious efforts to improve, upgrade and strengthen teaching-learning resources and facilities for the degree program in due course of time.

Annexure-1

NAEAC Inspection Team

The Chairman, NAEAC approved an Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC) for evaluation of the Department of Horticulture, University of Swabi. The committee comprised of the following members who undertook a visit to the said institution on November 20, 2014.

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|----|--|--------------------|
| 1- | Prof. Dr. Noor ul Amin

Chairman, Department of Horticulture
The University of Agriculture Peshawar. | (Convener) |
| 2- | Khalid Mehmood Qureshi
Senior Director/CSO
Horticultural Research Institute (HRI)
NARC, Islamabad | (Member) |
| 3- | Mr. Naseer Alam Khan
NAEAC | (Secretary) |

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 Agriculture, University of Swabi.
- 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.