



AIC Report

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**Department of Agri. Extension & Communication
PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi**

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PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi
Program Evaluation Rating of Agri. Extension & Communication
B.Sc (Hons) & M.Sc (Hons)
2014-15

Sr. No.	Criteria	Points Assigned	Points Awarded
Major Criteria			
1	Strength and Quality of Faculty	250	135
2	Curriculum Design and Development	150	120
3	Infrastructure and Learning Resources	200	60
4	Students Support and progression	100	60
Sub - Total (a)		700	375
Minor Criteria			
5	Research and Consultancy Activities	150	47
6	Governance and Leadership	100	56
7	Recent Innovations and Best practices	50	27
Sub - Total (b)		300	130
Grand Total (a+b)		1000	505

(Five hundred and five only)

Prof. Dr. Noshad Khan

Prof. Fazal Karim (Rtd)

History and Background of Degree Programs

Arid Agriculture University was established in 1994 which was formerly a college named as Barani Agricultural College. Initially, the course (Extension) was offered as a supporting course to the students of B.Sc (Hons.) Agriculture. In 2003 an independent Department of Agricultural Extension was established. Since then it is offering B.Sc. (Hons.) degree. However, M.Sc. (Hons.) Agri. Extension was started in 2010.

Degree Programs Offered

B.Sc (Hons) = 2003-04

M.Sc (Hons) = 2010-11

B.Sc (Hons) Produced = 147

M.Sc (Hons) Produced = 18

Mission and Objectives of Degree Programs

The mission of the department, through offering the degree programs, is to produce technically trained and professionally competent graduates who could better serve the farming community. The department aims to achieve the following objectives:

- To train the students in extension oriented skills.
- To equip students with latest innovations in the field of agriculture.
- To equip students with agricultural knowledge and extension methodologies.
- To enable students to conduct research in the field of agricultural extension.

CRITERION WISE ANALYSIS

MAJOR CRITERIA

1. Strength and Quality of Faculty

There is only one full-time regular faculty member who is working as associate professor as well as HoD for the last more than two years. The sanctioned strength of the discipline consists of one associate, one assistant professor and two lecturers, four in all. In order to teach B.Sc (Hons) and M.Sc (Hons) courses, visiting faculty of about eight teachers has been engaged who are mostly inexperienced and young graduates. Thus, the position of faculty strength is disappointing and pathetic. It has declined since November, 2012 instead of improvement.

The visiting faculty is more than 80 percent of the total faculty against recommended level of 20 percent. The department has been unable to build its teaching and research capacity in terms of regular full time Ph.D qualified and experienced faculty having positive impact on the quality and standard of teaching-learning process of the discipline of agriculture extension and communication at AAU, Rawalpindi.

2. Curriculum Design and Development

HEC approved curricula has been adopted for the BSc (Hons) and MSc (Hons) degree courses. Provision of flexibility of 10-20% in the curriculum is not availed. Presently, there is only one faculty member out of four, as such the Board of Studies does not exist which is an important statutory academic forum. There has been no modification/revision in the contents of any course based on the feedback and recommendations of AIC and the Board of Studies (BoS) etc during the last five years.

3. Infrastructure and Learning Resources

The discipline of Agriculture Extension and Communication has been allocated two medium size class rooms with inadequate furniture and without multimedia facility. However, there is grossly inadequate provision for faculty offices, committee room and seminar room etc. Having, limited equipment the department lacks proper facility of well-equipped AV. Lab for training and research purposes. No visible facility and arrangements for IT and research and reference material. It is disappointing to note **that there is no departmental library and the main library maintains only two (2) textbooks related to the discipline.** Thus, the situation regarding infrastructure and learning resources remains unchanged since November, 2012 and is highly unsatisfactory.

4. Students Support and Progression

Although B.Sc (Hons) degree program in Agriculture Extension is operating since more than one decade, both students intake per year as well as graduate students has been very low. The major reason being the absence of senior Ph.D qualified and experienced stable faculty. The counselling and guidance system for students has been weak environment of the department need to be improved for the promotion of learning--teaching activities. There is not any arrangement for field visits and study tours for student,. Considering the visiting faculty, the teacher vs student ratio is 1:10 being very low.

MINOR CRITERIA

I. Research and Consultancy Activities

Thesis research carries 10 credit hours and helps in building analytical skills of the students and in nurturing a research culture among them. In the absence of adequate experienced and regular senior faculty to supervise thesis research, the analytical rigor and methodological procedures, quite often get compromised. The committee in the absence of thesis, examined some of the approved research synopses which revealed a number of shortcomings. The faculty has limited linkages with extension staff of agriculture and hardly involved in farmers moots, field days and little focus on development of farmers messages etc.

II. Governance and Leadership

The faculty appeared to be quite satisfied with their performance. Cohesion among the faculty members was observed. However, as regard the opportunities for professional development and growth, most of the teachers were serving as visiting faculty, therefore, they could not avail such opportunities.

SWOT ANALYSIS

Weaknesses

- The teaching faculty entirely depends upon visiting faculty (more than 80%). Only one out of four regular positions is filled. None of the visiting faculty is Ph.D qualified and highly experienced.
- Very limited (only two) HEC recommended text books in the main library of the University. No departmental library.
- No journals and other reference material for graduate research.
- Grossly inadequate AV. Equipment. No formal AV. Lab with requisite equipment.
- The quality of graduate research is very poor because of non-availability of more Ph.D qualified teachers.
- No linkage with Agro-industry and farming community.
- Very limited opportunities for field tours for teachers and students.

Opportunities

- Expanding demand for quality education in the field of agricultural extension.
- Numerous national and international organizations are working around, their expertise can be effectively and efficiently utilized for quality education.
- The NGOs doing extension work in the area can be the main employers of the graduates in Agri. Extension.

Threats

- Strong competition with other universities offering similar programmes.
- Discouragement of students from within the university by other students and even staff to take extension as a major subject.
- Budgetary constraints for faculty and infrastructure development.

ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Induction of full time regular qualified and experienced faculty as per HEC criteria on priority basis.
- Engagement of visiting faculty upto 80% may be discouraged as against 20%. HEC recommendations only highly qualified and experienced visiting faculty may be engaged.
- Urgent improvement of infrastructure including Labs, faculty rooms, seminar rooms and IT facilities.
- Purchase of recommended text books (only two books are available) and subscription of related journals.
- Less focus of faculty on graduate research. The quality of graduate research is very poor and need substantial improvement.
- Insufficient operational budget for meeting day-to-day requirements.
- Inadequate study tours and field trips for students and faculty for exposure.
- There is no Board of Studies for the department, it may be constituted urgently to revise scheme of studies.
- Serious efforts are needed by the faculty to update and improve the quality, and credibility of graduate research.

Final Recommendations

Based on an empirical review, B.Sc (Hons) and M.Sc (Hons) degree programs of agriculture extension and communication have been assigned evaluation rating of 'Y3' with almost 51% score compared to 54% score in November, 2012. This implies that standard and quality of the degree programs has consistently downgraded and HoD and university management are least concerned to upgrade and strengthen the department since 2003.

COMPOSITION OF AIC

AIC Committee

- | | | |
|------|--|------------------|
| i. | Prof. Dr. Noshad Khan
AIOU, Islamabad | Convener |
| ii. | Prof. (Retd.) Fazal Karim Rajput
Ex-Chairman, Dept. of Agri. Extension, SAU, Tandojam | Member |
| iii. | Mr. Naseer Alam Khan
Secretary – NAEAC | Member/Secretary |

TORs of AIC

- To validate the self-assessment report (SAR) of degree programs-B.Sc and M.Sc (Hons.) prepared by the department/discipline.
- To carryout external evaluation of the degree programs in a transparent, neutral, holistic and participatory manner for accreditation and rating of degree programs **based on the evaluation criteria of NAEAC.**
- To submit synthesized and concise analytical report (7-8 pages) consisting of short introduction, brief criterion-wise analysis, **self-explanatory SWOT analysis and explicit actionable recommendations along with completely filled-in and signed evaluation manual (toolkit)** based on the validation of SAR and interaction with the Chairman, faculty members, students and support staff and alumni as well as detail on-site visit of physical infrastructure, facilities and other teaching- learning resources available for the offering of degree programs.
- To submit clear, precise and justified actionable accreditation and rating recommendations about the degree programs to the Chairman NAEAC.