



## **AIC Report**

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**Department of Horticulture  
Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan**

**Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan**  
**Standards and Criteria for Agriculture Degree Program Evaluation**  
**Horticulture B.Sc (Hons) 2014-15**

Sr. No.	Criteria	Points Assigned	Points Awarded
<b>A. Major Criteria</b>			
1	Strength and Quality of Faculty	250	120
2	Curriculum Design and Development	150	80
3	Infrastructure and Learning Resources	200	110
4	Students Support and progression	100	40
<b>Sub-Total (A)</b>		<b>700</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>B. Minor Criteria</b>			
5	Research and Consultancy Activities	150	80
6	Governance and Leadership	100	65
7	Recent Innovations and Best practices	50	25
<b>Sub-Total (B)</b>		<b>300</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>Grand Total (A+B)</b>		<b>1000</b>	<b>520</b>

(Five hundred and twenty only)

**52%**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Designation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Program Evaluator

## **Executive Summary**

Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan was established in 2009, developed eight campuses throughout the KP province. In AWKUM garden campus, 26 different departments have been launched and the university has 7000 students out of which 150 are enrolled in PhD.

The Agriculture department was first started in 2010 at Ambar, Swabi as it was a sub-campus of AWKUM. When Ambar, Swabi was declared as independent University, AWKUM commenced Agriculture classes at sub-campus Shankar, Mardan in 2012. Recently in 2015, the department has shifted to newly construction building called Garden Campus. The Agriculture Department of the University is offering specialization in Agronomy, Food Science & Technology and Horticulture.

Horticulture program is at its embryonic stage. The number of students in horticulture is only 12 with one female and enrolled in 6<sup>th</sup> semester. The curriculum adopted is as per HEC guidelines, which is well defined with clear objectives. The faculty number was far below than HEC recommendations. It is a faculty of three members including one Ph.D. The student-Teacher ratio as low 6/1. Majority of the faculty has negligible teaching experience.

Limited number of Text books and reference books are available and insufficient to cater the need of students. No research journals are available in main library. Although main library is equipped with internet facilities but the department lacks such facilities. No computer lab has been provided at departmental level.

No proper farm facilities even a small field was not available to conduct practical. Moreover, nurseries and orchard did also not exist. The same problems were also indicated by the department students during discussion with AIC team.

There are no Labs. and Lab equipment for the undergraduate teaching. The Committee observed very unsatisfactory arrangements for faculty offices and class rooms.

Hence based on exhaustive review of the program, the AIC agreed to assign a score of 52 percent with evaluation rating of 'Y3' not qualifying for accreditation as the program does not meet some major HEC criteria required for accreditation.

## **Introduction**

The Horticulture Program, at Abdul Wali Khan University 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 only for 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 as the student teacher ratio as per HEC criteria is far below.

The team visited AWKUM and after opening remarks of NAEAC Chairman, Dr. Farman Ali Assistant Professor presented overall structure and achievements of Agriculture Department as well as Horticulture program at the committee room of main library, AWKUM. Subsequent to presentation and brief discussion, the team visited horticulture to evaluate the program as per Higher Education Commission (HEC) Islamabad criteria. Prof. Dr. Noor ul Amin was the convener of the team and Mr. Naseer Alam Khan joined as team member. Chairman NAEAC was also present during visit to horticulture.

## **Criterion-wise Analysis**

### **Strength and Quality of Faculty**

The total Faculty members of Horticulture program at AWKUM was two in which one is on permanent basis and pursuing PhD, while other one with M.Sc qualification works on part time basis. Both faculty members are responsible for teaching (theory and practical) but seem unable to deliver quality education as the department need minimum of three teachers each specialized in pomology, olericulture and ornamental/floriculture. The students' teachers' ratio (1:6) is low as compared to the required one (1:20). The teachers in the department are quite young having experiences below two years but hold suitable qualifications to train the BSc level students, provided additional faculty are recruited. Apart from regular teaching/research, department is hardly involved in rendering advisory services to the local farming community.

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

The students reported that they have visited research stations in Hazara and Islamabad to see and observe agricultural related activities as practical works which were not executed on campus because the university lacks farm facilities. Participation of students in practical activities, seminars and conferences should be further increased.

In addition to existing faculty, there is a dire need to appoint at least three more faculty members, one in each division of horticulture to justify its degree program. Practical work both at lab and farm levels need to be encouraged and necessary arrangement be made to improve this weak area. Opportunities may be provided to students to attend seminars /workshops arranged by the department at campus. Additionally, as the faculty is too young, guest speaker in various areas of horticulture may be invited to deliver lectures so that teachers and student may get benefited.

### **Infrastructure and learning resources**

Although there were two general laboratories but the department lacks its own laboratory which is must. For practical classes there is only one main Laboratory which is used jointly by for all the major and general classes. Class rooms are not enough for teaching and working of students. There is need of fully equipped departmental laboratory and class rooms. Practical work and write up of practical note books is satisfactory but further improvement is needed. Practical classes for all horticulture courses were not seen; even basic facilities such as tunnel, shade hose, greenhouse etc was not available on campus. Availability of academics guidance/counseling to students was insufficient.

Scholarship to the students are available on merit and need basis however, these are insufficient in number. 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. A huge fleet of busses are available at campus and functional. Limited sports facilities are available. Student attendance (75 %) must be ensured. Medical facilities are available. However, there is need in improvement of computing facilities, research facilities & funds, and internship allowances.

## **SWOT Analysis**

### **Major Strength**

- Willingness of the students to opt horticulture as specialization as out of 26 students in batch 1<sup>st</sup>, 11 have joined Horticulture specialization.

### **Major Weaknesses**

- Acute shortage of full time, regular and senior faculty, at least faculty of six members.
- Grossly insufficient prescribed text books and reference books.
- Non availability of Lab and greenhouse facilities.
- Inadequate computer and internet facilities.
- Non-existence of experimental orchard and plant nurseries.
- Basic farm tools and implements are unavailable.

### **Opportunities**

- Up-gradation of three disciplines into independent teaching departments with the ultimate objective to establish faculty of agriculture. Great chances for improvement by further development of Agriculture department, however, Horticulture, Agronomy and Food sciences may be considered separate departments.
- Excellent opportunities for the local students especially neighboring districts.
- Local farmers to benefit for the improvement of their orchards.
- 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 in the area.
- Since there are only three main departments (Horticulture, Agronomy and Food Science), opportunities are there for further strengthening.

### **Threats**

- At least three other universities are offering Horticulture degree program in the vicinity of Abdul Wali Khan University.
- Non-availability of regular Ph.D. qualified senior faculty of professor and associate professor level.
- Unstable sociopolitical and security concerns.

### **Actionable Recommendations**

- Induction of senior Ph.D. qualified regular faculty of at least four members.
- Establishment of well-equipped Horticulture Labs,, greenhouses and plant nurseries.
- Purchase of two sets of prescribed text books and reference books.
- Horticulture may be given status of separate department.
- Faculty development program should be initiated for new faculty members.
- Separate and independent faculty offices and class rooms.
- Induction of qualified technical staff for labs and farm.
- Strengthening of IT facilities and learning resources as well as access to HEC digital library.
- Provision of Seminar room and committee room etc.
- MOUs may be signed with various research organizations so that access to their resources may be ensured.
- Any other suggested throughout the report

### **Final Recommendation**

The Horticulture degree program at AWKUM was assessed with a score of 52 percent and assigned evaluation rating of 'Y3'. The team unanimously decided that B.Sc (Hons) Horticulture program does not meet major criteria and may be re-evaluated for accreditation after a period of one year.

**NAEAC Inspection Team**

The Chairman, NAEAC approved an Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC) for evaluation of the Horticulture program at AWKUM Mardan. The committee comprised of the following members who undertook a visit to the said institution on April 01, 2014.

1. **Prof. Dr. Noor ul Amin** (Convener)  
Chairman, Department of Horticulture  
The University of Agriculture Peshawar
2. **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:**

Discipline	Faculty Strength (Number)	Faculty Qualification		Faculty Positions				Student-Teacher Ratio
		Ph.D	Non Ph.D	Prof	Associate Prof	Assistant Prof	Lecturer+ Teaching Assistants	
Horticulture	2	0	2	-	-	1*	1	6:1

No technical staffs for labs and farm are recruited so far?