



## **AIC Report**

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

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**Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan**  
**Standards and Criteria for Agriculture Degree Program Evaluation**  
**Agronomy 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	60
7	Recent Innovations and Best practices	50	20
<b>Sub-Total (B)</b>		<b>300</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Grand Total (A+B)</b>		<b>1000</b>	<b>510</b>
(Five hundred and ten only)			<b>51%</b>

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

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

## **Executive Summary**

The Department of Agriculture was approved from the Statutory Bodies of the University at Anbar campus Swabi in 2010, and shifted to existing building at Garden Campus AWKUM in 2015. The Department of Agriculture is one of the leading Departments of the University offering specialization in Agronomy, Food Science & Technology and Horticulture. First enrollment was made in Fall 2012 with current student strength of 157.

The department of Agronomy has enrolment of 12 students in the six semester. The discipline has only one regular Ph.D. faculty member with two more temporary teachers. HEC approved curriculum on agronomy has been adopted. Having shifted to the new building at garden campus, the discipline lacks requisite facilities and resources to become independently operational. Class rooms are being shared having very poor faculty offices.

Degree program on agronomy has very limited IT facilities and learning-resources. It has a few text books recommended for the discipline having no journals and reference material. It also lacks any experimental or research farm with any farm implements and machinery. The availability of equipped labs (at least 2), provision of IT facilities and teaching learning resources and demonstration/practical facility in the form of a moderately developed research area/farm is needed in short period of time. Presently, facilities of class practical are lacking. Facilities like laptop provision to students and scholarship/financial aid from different resources need to be streamlined with regular office/focal person in the university.

Agronomy program is facing serious shortage of Ph.D. qualified, senior and experienced faculty. It does not only need strengthening but also substantial improvement in the quality of faculty.

AIC reviewed the program and concluded that it hardly meets any of the four major criteria laid down by the Council/HEC. Hence, it has been assessed at 51 percent score in the evaluation rating of 'Y3' and is required to upgrade resources and facilities and strengthen the faculty on priority basis.

## **Introduction**

Abul Wali Khan University, Mardan was established in 2009. At present AWKUM have 8 campuses, 26 Departments, more than 7000 students including 150 Ph. D students. The Department of Agriculture was approved at Anbar campus Swabi in 2010. It shifted to existing building Garden Campus AWKUM in 2015. The Department of Agriculture is one of the leading Departments of the University offering specialization in Agronomy, Food Science & Technology and Horticulture. First enrollment was made in Fall 2012 with current student strength of 157.

## **CRITERION WISE ANALYSIS**

### **Strength and quality of Faculty**

The Faculty members of the discipline of Agronomy, at AWKUM are capable of teaching and conducting research. All three teachers are young and qualified. They are able to teach and train the students to face future challenges. Presently, there is one Assistant professor and two lecture base contract lecturers. Assistant Professor hold Ph.D. and both lecturers are M.Sc (Hons), one of them is enrolled in Ph. D. Range of experience of faculty members; vary from 1-2 years. The Department including discipline of Agronomy is running graduate program where the first batch will be graduated by spring 2016. Faculty members of the department are also rendering their services to the farmers' community. 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. The faculty is using available resources for teaching and evaluations, techniques such as quizzes, assignments, projects, seminars plus presentations. Evaluations for sessional, mid and final examinations are in operation. Dean and HoD are there for monitoring the existing system. Participations of students in seminars and National/international conferences are limited. Funds and facilities are not available for participation of faculty and students in seminars/workshop/conferences/symposium which provides opportunities of exchange of knowledge at national and international level and learning from experts in that specific field.

Faculty research publications in national (HEC recognized journals) and international journals are reasonable (list of one Faculty is given) but there is room for improvement. Contribution toward publication of books, chapters and proceedings and impact factor journals is also needed. Faculty perception about degree program is clear. The student teacher ratio is not good; however, teachers can focus the students in a better way due to low strength of students and giving more session to question answer and presentations etc.

### **Curriculum Design and Development**

The discipline of Agronomy is focusing on curricula duly approved by the University Statutory Bodies such as Board of Studies, Board of Faculty, Academic Council and Syndicate. So far, main focus of faculty is towards the teaching of 4 years B.Sc (Hons) degree program. The curriculum has been revised at level of HEC. Curriculum is well defined with clear objectives. A few text and reference books are available. Availability of text books

should be increased in the library which is catering the need of all the Campus. The budget for books is available for main library of the University and no budget for the department. A well developed and equipped with latest text and reference books library as per HEC requirements is needed on urgent basis for whole university and Agronomy as well. Similarly, a book bank in the department is also needed. Credit hours (9 hrs) and contact hours are justified for existing staff. Course completion is a regular and encouraging process of this department.

All students (12 in 6<sup>th</sup> semester) of Agronomy are well informed and fully aware about course program, admission policy, enrolment, withdrawal and course break up. However, it was felt that rules related to admission, course load in each semester should be written in some or other form available to students. Course files verified by the AIC are maintained but need some improvement that has been pointed out by the committee. QEC of the university exists and has evaluated teachers, course satisfaction, and teacher evaluation by the students. However, formal establishment/strengthening of relevant office shall be done in due course of time.

### **Infrastructure and Learning Resources**

There is a computer lab facility available which is being shared by other disciplines of the Department of Agriculture. In addition, there is one lab for each discipline for their practical classes and demonstration to the students. Size of lab is meant for small number of students, if enrollment increases these labs shall not be able to cater the needs. Class rooms are not enough for the working of students. There is need of fully equipped more labs and class rooms. Equipment's available in lab are insufficient and need up- gradation. Supporting staff is insufficient and not fully trained. Practical work and write up of practical note books needs improvement. Provision of better equipment in lab as well at farm particularly farm machinery and trained supporting staff is urgent need of this discipline. Moreover, establishment of proper research farm shall be required for undertaking better research. Although the Department of Agriculture has shifted to New Campus in 2015, efforts for establishment of proper class rooms are under way by Administration.

### **Students Support and Progression**

Students actively participate in cultural, scientific, academic and welfare societies. In addition to Merit Fellowship, Mora scholarships, Fauji Foundation scholarships and Benevolent Fund scholarships have been won by students which is good sign of student's progress and abilities. Out of the total enrolled student strength top most talented 46% students have opted for majoring Agronomy, which is another sign of future prospects of this discipline. Departmental admission to B.Sc. (Hons) is normal as per available facilities. Availability of academics guidance/counselling to students needs strengthening which at present is insufficient.

At present there is one hostel for female students with good mess system are available. Hostels for male students are construction and will be completed soon. However, these facilities are insufficient to cater the need of students. The administration may plan to build that facility in near future. Limited transport and sport facilities for outdoor and indoor

games are available. There is a good atmosphere for co-curricular activities. Students' cafeteria having male and female separate portions is available. Student attendance is being recorded regularly and there is restriction of 75 % presence record of attendance has been verified by the AIC as course files. First aid boxes and one ambulance are available. However, there is need for establishment of regular dispensary/hospital, provision of transport and improvement of computing facilities.

## **SWOT Analysis**

### **Major Strength**

- Student's preference for admission in the Department.

### **Major Weaknesses**

- Grossly insufficient qualified and experienced teaching faculty.
- Inadequate and unfurnished offices, lecture rooms, etc.
- Limited IT facilities, reference material and access to HEC digital library.
- Limited facilities for co-curricular activities including out-door and indoor sports.
- Absence of well-equipped agronomy Lab. for undergraduate teaching.
- Lack of exposure of students to other Universities, research institutions.

### **Major Opportunities**

- University has shifted to new campus having direct link with main road and motor way.
- Main Agriculture land where variety of food crops, cash crops, vegetables, and fruits are grown.
- Trainings for capacity building of professionals and farmers would be possible in future.
- Qualified and experienced faculty can provide consultancy services to national and international NGOs/donor agencies for sustainable development in the area.

### **Major threats**

- Lack of qualified and experienced Professors and Associate Professors.
- Lack of proper infrastructure which is presently at the development stage.
- Lack of resources to meet operational expenditure of degree programs.

## **Actionable Recommendations**

- Immediate induction of highly qualified, experienced and regular faculty.
- Establishment of at least one (preferably two) functional Labs.
- Provision of IT facilities, access to HEC digital library, textbooks and reference material for the Department and Agronomy discipline as well.
- Provision of experimental research farm with farm machinery and implements.
- Provision of at least three class rooms, seminar room, committee/conference room.
- Provision of recreational as well as indoor/outdoor sports facilities for students.
- Completion of faculty pyramid i.e. Appointment of Professor/Associate Professor as soon as possible as per recommended of HEC 1:1:2:2.
- Infrastructure strengthening and up gradation like library, labs. Farm research area should be focused.
- Allotment of “major” after 4<sup>th</sup> semester should be done purely on merit and as per student choice. Guidance and counselling to students should be provided in this regards by senior faculty.
- Provision of scholarship facilities should be advertised at prominent places for information of students.
- Rules/regulations related to admission till the completion of degree should be made available to students and be followed in letter and spirit.
- Field visits should be made part of practical as university does not have proper research farm.

## **Final Recommendations**

Agronomy program is facing serious shortage of Ph.D. qualified, senior and experienced faculty. It does not only need strengthening but also substantial improvement in the quality of faculty.

AIC reviewed the program and concluded that it hardly meets any of the four major criteria laid down by the Council/HEC. Hence, it has been assessed at 51 percent score in the evaluation rating of ‘Y3’ and is required to upgrade resources and facilities and strengthen the faculty on priority basis.

*Annexure-I*

**Faculty**

S/No	Name	Position	Univ. Experience (yr)
1	Dr Farooq Shah	Assistant Professor	2
2.	Kamran Azeem	Lecture Base Contract Lecturer	1
3	M. Tariq	--do--	1

**Clerical Staff**

S/No	Position Name	No.
1	UDC	1
2	LDC	2

*Annexure-II*

**LIST OF BOOKS PERTAINING TO THE SUBJECT OF AGRONOMY**

S.No.	Auther Name	Book Name
1		Principles of seed technology
2		Crop production
3		Principles of Crop Production
4		Sprinkler Irrigation
5		Agronomy of Field Crops
6		Weeds Management
7		Sugar cane Ratoon
8		Stable Food Production, Sustainable Agric.
9		Seed Testing

*Annexure-III*

**LIST OF EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE IN THE LABS TO BE USED IN AGRONOMY**

S/#.	Particular	Capacity	Quantity
	Not a single equipment has been seen in labs. Moreover, the list provided by HoD does not contain any single item to be used for lab or field experiments. There were only flasks, beakers and other similar items. Main reason is that the Department of Agriculture shifted to New Campus last month.		