



AIC Report

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Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan

**Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan
Standards and Criteria for Agriculture Degree Program Evaluation
Soil Science B.Sc (Hons) 2014-15**

Sr. No.	Criteria	Points Assigned	Points Awarded
Major Criteria			
1	Strength and Quality of Faculty	250	120
2	Curriculum Design and Development	150	125
3	Infrastructure and Learning Resources	200	120
4	Students Support and progression	100	40
Sub - Total (a)		700	405
Minor Criteria			
5	Research and Consultancy Activities	150	80
6	Governance and Leadership	100	70
7	Recent Innovations and Best practices	50	25
Sub - Total (b)		300	175
Grand Total (a+b)		1000	580
(Five hundred and eighty only)			58%

Name and Designation

Signature of Program Evaluator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University started its academic activities during 2012 at Agriculture Farm through the interim arrangement of staff of Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan. Degree programs of B.Sc. (Hons) were initiated. Presently six semesters is in progress with major disciplines of Soil Science, PBG, Agronomy and Entomology. Soil Science faculty consist of six members including two Ph.Ds. The faculty members are young with negligible teaching experience.

The laboratory facilities for undergrad students are very limited. There are only seventeen students pursuing Soil Science program. Currently, the teacher student ratio of 1:3 seems odd. As far as teaching-learning resources are concerned, very limited prescribed recommended text books are available with no local or foreign journals and other reference material. Being newly established university in a temporary building it also does not have adequate IT facilities and access to HEC digital library. The class rooms and faculty offices are shared due to scarcity of space. Students are almost satisfied with theoretical lectures but were little contended with existing arrangements for Lab. practical.

The present setup of the MNSUA is purely temporary and new campus has to be developed and established at a different location. Hence, the facilities and resources required for the degree programs need strengthening and up gradation. Induction of senior as well as Ph.D. qualified faculty is also necessary.

In view of the above, the AIC agreed to assign score of 58 percent to Soil Science B.Sc (Hons) degree program and rated it in 'Y2' category implying a revisit for re-evaluation and accreditation of the degree program after one year.

INTRODUCTION

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture (MNSUA), Multan is presently located in a former government school at old Shujaabad road, Multan. The area is very fertile & productive and famous for the production of export quality mango and cotton. The University started its academic activities during 2012 at Agriculture Farm through the interim arrangement of staff of Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan.

The university has only one degree program of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture and now the annual intake of students is 320. The first batch of students is in sixth semester of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture with four major subjects in the Department of Agronomy, Department of Agri. Entomology, Department of Plant Breeding & Genetics and Department of Soil Science. The MNSUA has scattered field area for future developments

CRITERION WISE ANALYSIS

Strength and Quality of Faculty

The Department of Soil Science, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture (MNSUA), Multan comprises of six faculty members (two Assistant Professors & four Lecturers) and out of these two hold Ph. D. degrees, while rest are M. Sc. (Hons.) / M. Phil degree holders. The young faculty is very freshly appointed and only one has an experience of more than one year. They are however, capable of teaching / conducting research and can train the students to face future challenges. Despite of very enthusiastic towards academics and performing research, faculty seems hesitant to render their services to the farmer community, due to lack of experience. There is a dire need of permanent / regular appointment of Professor and Associate Professor to justify the work load and to fulfill the HEC criteria. The Faculty is using multimedia for teaching and evaluations techniques such as quizzes, assignments, projects, seminars & presentations. The marked copies are shown to the students after mid and final examinations. A self-developed monitoring system to strengthen the sessional evaluation of students prevails in the department. Participations of students in seminars and conferences are limited. An independent recurring budget of the department is lacking to rectify time to time chunks during developing phase and facilities are not available for participation of students in seminars / conferences.

Faculty research publications in national (HEC recognized journals) and international journals are encouraging yet there is room for improvement. Two of the faculty

members also contribute toward publication of book chapters and a handsome number of projects to win the research grant from different agencies are in pipeline. Few faculty members got foreign exposures, through IRSIP-6 month fellowship program. All faculty members of Soil Science department have life time membership in Soil Science Society of Pakistan (SSSP).

The department is running only undergraduate program, having only seventeen students in 6th semester of B. Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture. Faculty perception about degree program is clear and M. Sc. (Hons.) program is being planned to commence in near future.

Curriculum Design and Development

Soil Science degree program at MANSUA, Multan is following the previously approved issue of curriculum of HEC, instead of the new one. The current curriculum of Soil Science (2010) has some basic development, which was missing in the previous one (2005), including designated nomenclature, recommended books, credit hours and course numbers. Neither the credit hours nor the contact hours are in line with that of other degree awarding institutions. The existing curriculum has even completed its tenure of five years and ready to be revised through NCRC this year. The authorities of the university have now decided to adopt the new curriculum, according to need of the day. The main focus of faculty is towards the teaching of 4 years B. Sc. (Hons.) degree program. The text books and reference books are few in number and available in centralized library, which catering the need of all the departments of the university. A reasonable amount of money has been earmarked for purchase of books for central library. There is no book bank for any department of the university and purchase of books is in progress.

The students of this department are well informed and fully aware about existing curriculum, admission policy, enrolment / withdrawal regulations and semester wise breakup of courses. However, it was felt that rules related to admission, detention, evaluation and work load in each semester should be provided in written form to each student or displayed properly. The course files verified by the AIC are maintained but need some improvement that has been pointed out by the committee. The QEC is not existed in the university to evaluate teachers and course satisfaction by the student. However, course completion and record maintenance is an encouraging and regular process of the department..

Infrastructure and Learning Resources

There are very poor laboratory facilities available in Soil Science program and students have to move to neighboring institutions for their practical classes. The only single lab provided to the department is terribly short of latest equipment for undergrad classes and workstations are not gestured properly. Class rooms are not enough in terms of space and other gadgets. There is need of fully equipped more departmental labs and class rooms before the onset of research oriented degree programs like M. Sc. (Hons.) and Ph. D. Supporting staff is insufficient and not fully trained. Behavior of the students and their preparation in the class-room was however admirable. The department is devoid of any wire-house to conduct semi-controlled research and allocated farm area to conduct research of faculty and practical of students. The development in these areas is suggested to strengthen the academics and research activities.

Students Support and Progression

Students seldom participate in cultural, scientific, academic and social activities. Only 10% students of the department are beneficiaries of merit scholarship. No other scholarship / stipend / endowment is available for needy students. Availability of academics guidance / counseling to students needs strengthening, which presently is insufficient. Very limited mobility facilities is provided by the university for educational visits and for pick 'n' drop of students and faculty. Sports facilities are very limited and students have only TGM forum to participate in co-curricular activities. The boarder students are residing in a private house, which is declared as boys hostel. Student attendance is being recorded regularly and there is restriction of 80 % . attendance. The attendance record has been verified and found correct. The committee suggests to improve curriculum, sports, computer skill, research funds, stipends and internship programs..

SWOT ANALYSIS

Major Strength

- Qualified, competent, enthusiastic and motivated young faculty.

Major Weaknesses

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

Major Opportunities

- Prime location to undertake targeted and problem orientated research on fruits and field crops in collaboration with other institution.
- Large state-land available in the vicinity for future development.
- Trainings for capacity building of professionals and farmers may be possible in future.

Major Threats

- Difficulties in quick administrative decisions due to casual visits of the authorities.
- Presence of other well developed or fast developing universities / institutions in the area
- Residual effect of unviable programs of neighboring institutions.

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 4th 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 58 percent score in the evaluation rating of ‘Y2’ and is required to upgrade resources and facilities and strengthen the faculty on priority basis.



Dr. Moazzam Jamil

Annexure-I

Profile of Teaching Faculty

S.#	Name	Designation	Univ. Exper.	Experience other than univ. experience	Total experience
1	Dr. Muhammad Imran	Assistant Professor	01	-	01 year
2	Dr. Muhammad Baqir Hussain	Assistant Professor	-	-	-
3	Mr. Wazir Ahmad	Lecturer	-	-	-
4	Mr. Muhammad Usman Jamshaid	Lecturer	-	-	-
5	Ms. Rabia Khalid	Lecturer	-	-	-
6	Mr. Muhammad Imran	Lecturer	-	-	-

Annexure-II

LIST OF EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE IN THE LAB OF SOIL SCIENC

Sr.#	Name of Equipment	Quantity	Specification
1.	Microscope	1	Bacterial cell morphology can be studied
2.	Colony counter	1	Number of bacteria cells can be counted.
3.	pH meter	1	To measure acidity/ alkalinity of soil and water
4.	EC meter	1	To measure salt contents in soil and water
5.	Hot plate	1	Used for heating to make sample preparation