



AIC Report

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Department of Agronomy
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Criteria for Agriculture Degree Program Evaluation

Agronomy B.S (Hons) 2014-15

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan

Sr. No.	Criteria	Points assigned	Points awarded
A. Major Criteria			
1	Strength and Quality of Faculty	250	130
2	Curriculum Design and Development	150	100
3	Infrastructure and Learning Resources	200	110
4	Student Support and Progression	100	55
Sub Total-A		700	395
B. Minor Criteria			
5	Research and Consultancy Activities	150	50
6	Governance and leadership of the Institute	100	50
7	Adoption of Good Practices	50	25
Sub Total-B		300	125
Grand Total A+B		1000	520

Five Hundred and twenty only

52%

Name and Designation

Signature of Program Evaluator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AIC (Agronomy) visited Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan (MNSUA) on March 19, 2015. University and Department of Agronomy both are at infancy stage. This is first time that 20 students opted major of Agronomy. Out of six, five teachers are Ph.D. For current needs faculty is sufficient as there is only one class of the major subject. However, composition of the faculty is quite imbalance, just comprising of two Assistant Professors and four lecturers. Most of the faculty is quite fresh. There is dire need of senior and experienced teachers for the establishment of the department. Offices are insufficient and for six members only three small congested offices are available. Department has two lecture rooms/two teaching laboratories with sufficient space for the present enrolment. However, research lab has still not established yet. Faculty feels stress due to week service structure. Faculty so far appointed is neither on BPS nor on TTS basis and most of the faculty members had been appointed on contract basis. In spite of aforementioned facts, faculty is working hard to establish the institution and consequently students are satisfied with academic environment and program.

There is only one small Central library which is not fully equipped to meet the standard of specialized program. Library lacks sets of reference /text books recommended by HEC. Similarly Computer lab has only 29 desktop systems for the whole faculty and students. No access is available to HEC digital library. Internet facility is not available to the students. Department has 4 acres Research Farm for experimental purposes, Farm has no farm machinery. Transport facility for commuting students and teachers is satisfactory.

Keeping in view the infancy stage of development and dialogue with the faculty and administration of the university, it is hoped that university will step forward with good speed to fulfill the future needs.

In the light of above facts and promises made by worthy Vice Chancellor, accreditation of the degree program on Agronomy may be allowed provisionally.

The major suggestions like appointment of the senior experienced faculty and appointment of the junior faculty on TTS/BPS basis, establishment of the research labs, provisions of latest books in the library along with digital library, internet facility and subscription of HEC recognized national/international journal have to be addressed on top priority.

INTRODUCTION

Multan being land of white gold and mango- the king of the fruits has agricultural potential and specific ecological conditions of the Southern Punjab led to the establishment of a full-fledge Agriculture University in Multan the need for which had been felt for long time to fulfill the educational and research needs of the community. MNSUA started working at Bahauddin Zakariya Uiversity, Multan and later on was shifted to the present building on 13th January, 2014. The Higher Education Commission granted an NOC to the University after the visit on 6th February, 2015. Three batches have been admitted so far and the total enrollment of the students is 502. The University started Agronomy department in 2015 with 20 students opting Agronomy as a major subject.

CRITERION WISE ANALYSIS

Strength and Quality of Faculty

Faculty consists of two Assistant Professor and four lecturers. Present faculty is highly qualified. Presently five Ph. D. and one M. Phil/M.Sc. (Hons) faculty members are working in this department, however, most of them are fresh having less than six months experience. The composition of the faculty is highly imbalanced. Department has neither a single professor nor associate professor. Number of faculty members is sufficient for the course work of the current semester. Teacher student ratio is very good (1:4). All the faculty members are engaged in teaching, however, being the young institute faculty presently faces hardships for conducting quality research. Course files are maintained and course review reports have been regularly submitted. Most of the faculty members were feeling stress due to their terms and conditions of appointment.

Curriculum Design and Development

Curriculum objectives are clearly defined and relevant to the degree program. Students do not have sufficient flexibility or choice of courses to take. It is the condition in most of the other institutions of the country. HEC Curriculum suggested is being followed. Students indicated that they were satisfied with the quality of instructions.

Infrastructure and Learning Resources

There are two class rooms/two teaching laboratories, with the capacity of 20 students which are sufficient for the current need of the program but facility will be insufficient with the enrolment of the next batch. Laboratory equipment is not enough for the specialization classes and there is no safety measure in the labs. Among the two Lab. Assistants one has relevant qualification. Labs need improvement to meet the standard for the degree program.

There is no departmental library and Central library of the MNSUA is seriously deficit in resources. Seating and other resources are very limited. Although there are about 200 books (including multiple copies) available in the library, however, recommended and reference books are in very small number. Same is the case of the subscription of the HEC recognized national and international journals. Thus to meet the needs of Agronomy there is need of up-gradation /improvement of the library.

Land has been allocated for experimental farm is sufficient, however, it is occupied by the tenants and administration is struggling to occupy it peacefully. On acquiring the land for experimental farm, university must purchase latest and up to standard farm machinery and equipment. MNSUA has good collaboration with other institutions like Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI), Cotton Research Station and Punjab Agriculture Department for practical work so far.

Students Support and Progression

Admission response is encouraging. Financial support is available to the students. Students have scholarship opportunity other than the HEC scholarship. There is no hostel at campus for the students. Moreover, sport facilities (indoor and outdoor) are very much limited. Transport is available to the students and the faculty. Medical facility does not exist. Only First Aid kit is available in the University for emergency. Student can interact with teachers freely. Committee feels that MNSUA has to travel long with good speed for satisfactory infrastructure to meet the needs of the degree program.

Research and Consultancy Activities

There is no allocation of funds for research. One of the faculty members has HEC funded research project of 3.3 million rupees. In last two years faculty has published 47 research papers in impacted/HEC journals wherever they were working.

Governance and Leadership of Institution

Administrative authority and organizational set up is clearly defined. Budget is very limited for efficient operational activity. It is very much centralized and no departmental budget is available. However, needs of the department are met to some extent from university budget.

SWOT Analysis

Major Strength

- The students seem satisfied with the faculty, course coverage, and transport facility.

Major Weaknesses

- No senior, experienced faculty.
- Inadequate laboratory equipment and controlled condition facilities.
- Experimental farm is not developed and no farm machinery is available.
- Number of latest editions of text/reference books is insufficient.
- Digital library facility is un-available to meet the need of the students and the faculty.
- Insufficient supporting staff (clerical and technical).
- The faculty offices are small in size and insufficient in number and not fully equipped.
- Most of the faculty is not satisfied with the terms and condition of their appointment.
- No research funds are available for the faculty.

Actionable Recommendations

- Immediate induction of highly qualified, experienced and regular faculty.
- Establishment of at least one (preferably two) functional teaching and research labs.
- Creation of statutory bodies of agronomy discipline.
- Provision of IT facilities, access to HEC digital library, textbooks and reference material for the discipline.
- Establishment of experimental research farm fully equipped with farm machinery and implements.
- Provision of at least three class rooms, seminar room, committee/conference room for next batches.
- Availability of recreational as well as indoor/outdoor sports facilities for students.

- Infrastructure strengthening and up gradation of library, labs and research area should be focused.
- 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 at this stage.
- Accommodation facility for male and female students and young faculty

Final Recommendation

Keeping in view the infancy stage, it is recommended that the accreditation of the degree program on Agronomy may be given provisionally subject to fulfill the suggestions given to the administration. The University authorities need to take necessary steps on priority basis to meet the major evaluation criteria such as strength and quality of faculty, infrastructure and learning resources, curriculum duly approved by statutory bodies as well as text books and reference material. The program has been assessed for 52% score and rated in category 'Y3' not meeting some of the major criteria.

If necessary, AIC may have second visit after one year to ensure that suggestions necessary for accreditation have been adopted.

Strength of Faculty

S.#	Name	Designation	Univ. Exper.	Experience other than university	Total experience
1	Dr. Shaukat Ali Abid	Assistant Professor			
2	Dr. Muhammad MansoorJavaid	Assistant Professor			
3	Dr. Amar Matloob	Lecturer			
4	Dr. Muqarrab Ali	Lecturer			
5	Dr. Khuram Mubeen	Lecturer			
6	Mr. Mudassir Aziz	Lecturer			
Supporting Staff					
1	Mr. Syed Shahzaib Ali Shah	Lab. Assistant	Fresh)	Nil	
2	Hafiz Abdul Rehman	Lab. Assistant	1 year at MNSUA	Nil	1 year

LIST OF EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE IN THE LABORATORY

Sr. #	Name of Equipment	Quantity	Specification
1	Flame Photometer	1	Industrial Model digital single channel with unobstructed
2	Seed counter	1	The electromagnetic vibratory action that can count predetermined number of seeds
3	Digital Electric Balance	1	Analytical electric balance with high resolution black and white display.
4	Hotplate stirrer	1	Stainless steel surface, chemical/acid resistance
5	Multimedia	1	Data projector with brightness/color light output of 3000 Lumens
6	Autoclave	1	Top loaded capacity: 60 Liters
7	Cooling incubator	1	Capacity: Minimum 420 Liters, Forced convection type air flow
8	Heating oven	1	Electronically controlled preheating chamber with stainless steel casing and grid
9	Micro pipette	1	Single channel with adjustable volume locking system
10	Leaf Area Meter	1	Portable, fast and non-destructive measurement, high resolution of 0.1 mm
11	Trinocular Microscope	1	Optical system: infinite, View head