



AIC Report

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Department of Horticulture
Lasbella University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences, Uthal

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Criteria for Agriculture Degree Program Evaluation

Horticulture B.S (Hons) 2014-15

Lasbella University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences, Uthal

Sr. No.	Criteria	Points Assigned	Points Awarded
A. Major Criteria			
1	Strength and Quality of Faculty	250	165
2	Curriculum Design and Development	150	120
3	Infrastructure and Learning Resources	200	110
4	Students Support and progression	100	50
Sub - Total (A)		700	445
B. Minor Criteria			
5	Research and Consultancy Activities	150	70
6	Governance and Leadership	100	45
7	Recent Innovations and Best practices	50	30
Sub - Total (B)		300	145
Grand Total (A+B)		1000	590

(Five hundred and ninety only)

59%

Name and Designation

Signature of Program Evaluator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences (LUAWMS) was evaluated by Dr. Niaz Ahmed Wahocho on 20th May, 2015. Department of Horticulture is one of the pioneer departments of the faculty of Agriculture. It was established in 2007 and offers four years of B.S (Agri.) Hons Program. Since its establishment two batches have been graduated. The department has five faculty members, including one Assistant Professor, working on Tenure track system (TTS) and also severing as head of department, three full time lecturers (on study leave for pursuing PhD in abroad) and one visiting lecturer are working in this department. The department comprises of two classrooms with multimedia facility, each having a capacity of 16 and 30 students, respectively. The department is lacking a separate laboratory and library. Students have only access to the central library for their study and references. The central library has various books, covering different aspects of Horticulture. Moreover, the central library has also access to the HEC digital library. The department has an old shade house which is used as a common nursery for raising of various horticultural crops, including fruits, vegetables, flowers and various ornamental plants. The department has access to research facilities of the Wayaro Agriculture Research Center, Lasbela. Moreover, the department has a liaison with other research institutes and organizations, including local forest and wildlife department at Uthal and Coconut farm, Govt of Balochistan, Uthal. Two research projects one funded by IUCN-MFF and another by the ALP in collaboration with PARC has on the credit of this department. The total intake of student in the department is satisfied. Currently, twenty three (23) students are studying in Horticulture as their major subject in 7th and 8th semester, respectively. The teacher student ratio is 1:12:12; however, teachers also offer their services for teaching introductory Horticultural courses in the undergraduate programme of Agriculture Faculty. During meeting with students, the majority of the students of 4th semester showed keen interest in the department. Despite of the limited facilities, students were very happy due to the broad scope of horticulture and friendly behavior of teachers.

The Department of Horticulture, offering B.S degree, has several weaknesses. There is a lack of well qualified PhD teachers, especially Professors and Associate Professors. Teachers, students and staff are not facilitated by the computer rooms with internet facility. Separate Library and laboratory is not available in the department. An experimental area for conducting research is not well established. Well qualified laboratory technicians, field assistants are not recruited. There is an acute need to establish orchard and garden so that ideal research environment could be provided to the teachers and students as well.

Based on the external review horticulture program has been assigned aggregate score of 59 percent indicating Y2 category of evaluation. It also reflects that the program does not qualify for accreditation as it does not meet some of the major external evaluation criteria.

INTRODUCTION

The Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC) visited the department of Horticulture on 20th May, 2015 with the objective to assess the teaching and research facilities offered for ongoing BS (Hons) Agriculture in Horticulture at Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences. The AIC was given a comprehensive briefing by Head of Department about its history, mission, vision, objectives, goals, scheme of studies, curriculum, degree programs, research projects, students and future plans.

CRITERION WISE ANALYSIS

Strength and Quality of Faculty

The department has five faculty members out of which one is Assistant Professor, who is on Tenure Track System (TTS), also severing as head of department, three lecturers who are on study leave for pursuing a PhD degree to abroad and one is visiting lecturer. The teachers are well competent and behavior of teachers towards students was really fantastic. They were also satisfied with their job, however, they showed great concerns about the operational budget, which is very less to run the teaching, research and other professional activities smoothly. There is a dire need of recruitment of well qualified Professors and Associate Professors in the department. The students interest in horticulture department was extraordinary due to its broad scope and comprehensive visions. Since the establishment of a department of Horticulture, two batches have been passed out. Currently, two projects are running in the department. Despite the above mentioned constraints, teachers and students are hopeful for betterment of academic, teaching and extracurricular activities after shifting in the new campus, which is almost completed and near to be handed over to faculty of Agriculture (campus authorities).

Curriculum Design and Development

The department of Horticulture is undertaking teaching, research, encourages the intellectual growth and development of horticultural students. The department offers B.S programme of eight (8) semesters with total 155 credit hours, including compulsory, general and major courses. The Department strictly followed HEC approved Curriculum. The curriculum was revised in 2010. The curriculum is revised after 5 years, according to the national and international standards by HEC National curriculum revision committee to improve and enhance the standard of education.

Infrastructure and Learning Resources

There are two classrooms with multimedia facility each having a capacity of 16 and 30 students. Each classroom has sufficient capacity to accommodate the students. However, in coming semester more classrooms will be needed. It is also noticed that after the handover of new building to the faculty, the department will have more space to meet the further needs of classrooms. Computer room and internet facility is not available in the department. There is only one office for the teachers in the whole department. There is no seminar and meeting room. In addition, there is a separate common room for sitting the female students; however, such facility is not available for male students in the department. Green house facility is not available in the department. Only one shade house, which is not well equipped with the latest and modern tools and instruments, is commonly used as a nursery for raising and growing of various horticultural crops. There is no separate laboratory in the department, though, the department has some basic practical facility and apparatus/equipments for conducting the basic horticultural experiments/practices, including budding, grafting and cutting, etc. however, need to be strengthened and modernized.

The AIC team visited the central library and was satisfied with the environment and facilities available for the students. However, the department has not separate library, and teachers and students largely rely on the central library. There is a dire need that faculty and student may have access to reference books and research journals of good repute at departmental level. The Department have not ample research area, moreover, there is no established garden and nursery in the department. Though, the department has access to research facilities of the Wayaro Agriculture research center, Lasbela. Moreover, the department has a liaison with other research institutes and organizations, including local forest and wildlife department at Uthal and Coconut farm, Govt of Balochistan, Uthal. However, the department must establish orchard and garden so that ideal research environment could be provided to the teachers and students as well.

SWOT ANALYSIS

Major Strengths

- Student prefer to opt for Horticulture is major having considerable potential in the area

Major Weaknesses

- Lack of senior and highly qualified teaching faculty
- No-availability of labs and needed lab equipment
- Limited number of text books with no journals and reference material
- No separate orchard and certified nursery with genuine plant material is established
- Lack of green house for conducting experiments under controlled conditions
- No provision for skilled and technical staff, including field assistant and laboratory technician etc
- Unavailability of separate common room for students
- Limited opportunities for study tours and field trips
- Inadequate faculty offices and classrooms

Major Opportunities

- Students graduating in Horticulture may get jobs easily due to the broader scope of Horticulture in the region of Lasbela.
- Students can also launch their career through self employment by offering consultancy services to the growers and others organizations which are related to the horticultural industry. In addition, students can raise the nursery of different fruits, vegetables and ornaments, which is highly profitable business in these days.
- The Department may evaluate and develop drought tolerant varieties of different horticultural crops, including fruits, vegetables and flowers in the arid region.

Major Threats

- Limited resources, lack of well qualified teaching and technical staff and research facilities may eventually affect the intake of students.
- There is no allocation of separate budget to the department for running teaching, research and educational activities smoothly.
- LUAWMS being located in a hardship area may adversely affect the intake of urban students.

Actionable Recommendations

- Ph.D. qualified senior and full time regular faculty members, including Professors and Associate Professors may be appointed on a regular basis
- A separate, well equipped laboratory with latest instruments is required.
- Appointment of well skilled and technically sound staff should be done on a full time basis so that students can be trained efficiently.
- More and furnished faculty offices and well equipped class rooms are needed.
- There is a dire need to establish orchard and well certified nursery in the department, this will not only provide the facility to conduct the experiments, but also provide genuine plant material to the growers and farmers.
- A green house is needed to conduct a research under controlled conditions.
- There should be a separate departmental library with a plenty of latest and updated books, journals and reviews.
- Liaison with national and international institutes and organizations should be enhanced.
- Funds should be arranged for faculty members to regularly participate in conferences, seminar and workshops at national and international level.
- There should be a separate allocation of budget to the department to run the academic including teaching and research activities of the department smoothly.

Final Recommendation

After critical evaluation of the B.S degree program in Horticulture, it is concluded that the discipline does not meet some of the major criteria for accreditation. Hence, it is assigned an aggregate score of 59 percent and rated in category Y2 implying a revisit after a period of one year.