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**National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council**

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**Report of the  
Accreditation Inspection Committee  
(AIC)**

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University of Agriculture Faisalabad.**

The Secretary  
National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC)  
NAEAC Secretariat  
Islamabad

Subject: **Accreditation Inspection Committee for Accreditation of Degree Programs**

Reference: Dy. No. 489-NAEAC/HEC/2011 dated 23.2.2011.

The Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC) constituted by the Chairman NAEAC consisted of the following:

1. Prof. Dr. Sarwat N. Mirza     **(Convener)**
2. Dr. Muhammad Afzal         **(Member)**

The AIC carried out the visit to the Department of Forestry, Range Management & wildlife, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad from March 7-8, 2011. The AIC conducted evaluation of various degree programmes being offered by the Department of Forestry, Range Management & Wildlife including B.Sc. (Hons.), M.Sc. (Hons.) and Ph.D . The AIC also carried out detailed visits to the infrastructure (faculty offices, teaching classrooms, laboratories, wildlife museum, field laboratory, field nursery, etc.) being employed for learning processes of the Department. Based on the findings/evaluation, draft report is being submitted to NAEAC as per approved TORs for AIC.

(Dr. Muahmmad Afzal)  
Director PFRI/Member AIC

(Prof. Dr. Sarwat N. Mirza)  
Dean FRW/Convener AIC

Distribution:

1. The Chairman, Department of Forestry, Range Management & Wildlife, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION REPORT OF  
ACCREDITATION INSPECTION COMMITTEE (AIC) FOR  
ACCREDITATION OF DEGREE PROGRAMMES  
(MARCH 7-8, 2011)

Of the Department of Forestry, Range Management & Wildlife,  
University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

The Department of Forestry, Range Management & Wildlife (FRW), University of Agriculture, Faisalabad was established in 1961 and is currently offering the degrees of B.Sc. (Hons.), M.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture major in Forestry, Range Management & Wildlife, and Ph.D in Forestry. The Department's main focus is to impart higher education in the field of Natural Resource Management with special emphasis on Forestry, Range Management & wildlife resources of the country. The Department is particularly focusing on agro-forestry resources and technologies for irrigated farmlands of Punjab in particular. The mission of the department is in line with the overall strategic plan of the government to uplift the poor rural communities through providing them a package of technologies which is economically and socially feasible.

The Department of Forestry, Range Management & wildlife has also prepared a Self Assessment Report (SAR) in line with the instructions of the HEC's latest interventions for agriculture universities across the country in order to document the departments achievements as well as reflect student's assessment regarding teaching and courses offered to them by the department. One of the major objectives of the SAR is to pinpoint the strengths and weaknesses so as to improve the academic and research programmes of the department.

The quantitative assessment of the Department was carried out by the AIC during the period 7-8 march, 2011. The overall performance of the department in meeting the standards of HEC regarding various degree programmes was found to be Ok as the department is nearly meeting the standards set forth by HEC for various standards/criteria for university teaching departments. Different parameters were evaluated against HEC standard/norm for accomplishment of evaluation procedure during the AIC visit.

The study of SAR of the Department clearly shows that the Department is achieving its objectives through the adoption of various measures which are reflected below:

The QERC designed survey forms were being utilized for the student's assessment of the respective courses and the concerned teachers. However, the feedback on the survey forms are not provided by the QEC to the department. Hence, this activity has not been of any help to the department for adopting improvements/corrective measures in this regard.

The total strength of the faculty is ten in number which seems sufficient at present for teaching the major and minor courses for various degree programmes. Teaching load on the present faculty is variable and justified as per HEC policy. However, with full strength of teachers i.e., 12 sanctioned posts, the teacher student ratio would be matching with the HEC criteria. It is suggested and recommended in this report that the department should have at least one faculty member on its strength who is specialized in the field of timber technology and wood science. There seems no system in place at the moment regarding teachers training which is needed to impart latest techniques and skills in teaching. The present number of M.Phil and Ph.D students being supervised by the faculty seems adequate. During faculty discussion, it was also noted that the faculty is using the innovative learning and teaching techniques mainly comprising of overhead projector and multimedia. However, discussion oriented teaching mode was stressed upon during the meeting with the faculty.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> most important issue which came under the consideration by the AIC was the issue of curriculum and course contents. Though the Department has followed the revised scheme of studies being followed by various universities and institutes regarding forestry education, yet the contents of various courses need thorough revision/updating and expansion. The use of latest books as reference material was also suggested and mutually agreed upon. Though the Department is holding regular meetings of the Board of Studies, measures such as revision of course contents and maintenance of course files were stressed during the meetings with the faculty members.

During the visit of department laboratories, it was noticed that the basic equipment was present in the labs, however, proper maintenance of some of the essential lab equipment was lacking, for example, wood testing machine, wood drying kiln, etc. The use of tree and wood measuring apparatus and equipment was also highlighted during the discussions. The faculty was urged to write more projects for fetching funds for procurement of essential laboratory equipments. Laboratory manuals were present and were being followed for the courses of range and watershed management.

The department budget for conducting research trials by graduate students and purchase of books was found to be insufficient. It is strongly suggested that the university allocate from its own sources more funds for lab. and field experiments of graduate students and to procure more and latest editions of text and reference books.

During the discussion with the students, it was highlighted by the students that the infrastructure facilities were quite insufficient and limited as compared to students of other departments of the university. They also complained about the lack of field tours to various forest types of the country. It is extremely important for forestry graduates that there should be extensive touring for practical purposes to various forest types of Pakistan including mountain

forest in the north, irrigated plantations, desert ranges and mangrove forest of coastal regions of the country. Scholarship facility to the students were also found insufficient especially for the internees who spend one full semester with line departments/NGOs for their internship. Funds for such purpose should be arranged either by HEC or by the university's own resources. Extra-curricular activities were found adequate for the students at the campus and students were found to be taking full advantage from such facilities and opportunities.

## SWOT ANALYSIS

Following points are highlighted as strengths and weaknesses of the Department of Forestry, Range Management & Wildlife, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad;

### **Strengths**

- Multi-dimensional degree programme
- Theoretical and practical knowledge of all related disciplines of natural resource management
- The Department has a large and developed area for field oriented research
- Good library and internet facilities
- Adequate extra-curricular activities

### **Weaknesses**

- Extensive tours to field area is lacking
- Inadequate space for classrooms and laboratories
- Course contents not updated regularly
- Not enough exposure to other universities/related institutions
- Major laboratory equipment is not well maintained

### **Opportunities**

- The students of Forestry Department have the opportunity to enhance their skills and practical know how from the close by situated Punjab Forestry Research Institute, Gatwala, Faisalabad.
- The Department have more solid collaboration with the line Departments like Punjab Forest Department for proper organizing the internship of their B.Sc. (Hons.) by attaching the students with various Forest divisions for preparation of working plans.
- The graduates of Forestry Department can opt for more diverse field for their post graduation and future career like Environmental Sciences, Wildlife Management,

Watershed Management, etc. as these specializations are all allied disciplines of Forestry and Natural Resource Management degree programmes.

### **Threats**

- The Department cannot flourish well unless a clear priority is given by the university authorities regarding improving their present infrastructure of classrooms and laboratories, provision of adequate transport facilities for undertaking an extensive field tour to all major forest types of the country and inclusion of practical field oriented exercises during the internship period of undergraduate students like preparation of working plans, etc.

### **Actionable Recommendations**

- Research topics of graduate student theses should be identified after thorough and intensive review keeping in view the present scenario of forestry sector in Pakistan. A lot of focus should be laid out on issues such as participatory forest management, tolerance for drought and water logging/salinity, threats like shisham die back diseases, cottage industry for poverty alleviation, etc.
- New and pragmatic teaching methods and approaches be introduced for a more interactive learning environment for students.
- Necessary arrangements be made to enable students to undertake extensive field tours to various forest types and concerned institutions across the country during their degree programmes.
- Subscription of at least two to three journals be made to enable the students consult the latest reviews and articles related to their discipline.
- Teachers training and mutual exchange programme be initiated for faculty members to update their knowledge and teaching skills.

### **Rating Recommendations for accreditation**

In view of the above narrated findings, it is recommended that the Department of Forestry, Range Management & Wildlife be graded as “X” category (i.e., the classification of degree programme with minor shortfalls expected to meet the criteria as set by the Council for Accreditation) with scope for up gradation to category ‘W’ after appropriate improvement in due course of time.