



National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council

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AIC Report

**Prof. Dr. Safdar Ali
Dr. Moazzam Jamil**

February 13-14, 2012

**Department of Soil Science
University College of Agriculture, BZU, Multan**



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Dated: 26 March, 2012

The Chairman
NAEAC Secretariat
Room # 2, Old Comsats Building
HEC Sector H-8/1, Islamabad

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Subject: Accreditation Inspection Committee's (AIC) Report
(Department of Soil Science, Bahauddin Zakariya University
Multan)

Respected Sir:

The Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC) constituted by your honor vide letter No. Dy. No. 675-/NAEAC/ HEC-2012 dated January. 20, 2012, visited the University College of Agriculture, Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan and conducted the accreditation through review meetings, interviews, individual meetings and group consultations and visits, etc. as per schedule given to us.

The Undersigned and Dr. Moazam Jamil, Principal/Chairman, University College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences/Department of Soil Science, Islamia University Bahawalpur, along with your office team spent two days (February 13-14, 2012) there for accreditation and evaluation of the degree programs offered by the Department of Soil Science as per necessary guidelines and the toolkit. The draft report prepared unanimously is annexed herewith for your kind information and further perusal please.

I thank you for your trust. Please acknowledge on the receipt report and let me know if anything missing or needed from this end.

Prof. Dr. Safdar Ali
Convener of the AIC

Encl: (9 pages + Annexures)

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Composition of the Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC) and the TOR were given in the following letter from NAEAC, Islamabad.

	<p>National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council NAEAC Secretariat, Room# N-2, N-Block, old Comsats building, HEC, H-8/1, Islamabad Ph# 051-90802681, Fax#051- 90802682 Website: www.naeac.org, Email: infonaec@yahoo.com</p>
	<p><i>Dy. No. 675/NAEAC/HEC-2012</i> <i>Islamabad: January 20, 2012</i></p>

Subject: Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC) for Accreditation of Degree Programs

Chairman, Department of Soil Science, University College of Agriculture, Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan has offered degree programs of his department for external assessment and accreditation. Chairman National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) has constituted an Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC) of the following Experts/Program Evaluators.

- | | | |
|----|---|----------|
| i | <p>Prof. Dr. Safdar Ali
 Chairman, Department of Soil Science and S&WC
 PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi</p> | Convener |
| ii | <p>Dr. Moazam Jamil
 Principal, University College of Agriculture and
 Environmental Sciences, Islamia University
 Bahawalpur.</p> | Member |

2. The Accreditation Inspection Committee shall have the following **TORs**:

- To validate the self-assessment report (SAR) of the degree programs (B.Sc. (Hons.), M.Sc (Hons), Ph.D) prepared by the Department of Soil Science
- To carryout external evaluation of the degree programs in a transparent, neutral, holistic and participatory manner for accreditation and rating **based on seven (7) evaluation criteria given in the Evaluation Manual.**
- To submit a synthesized and concise analytical report (7-8 pages only) consisting of SWOT analysis and actionable recommendations based on the interactions with the Dean, Chairman, Faculty Members, Students and Support Staff and Alumni as well as detail visit of physical infrastructure, facilities and other teaching-learning resources available for the degree programs.
- To submit clear, specific and justified degree programs accreditation and rating recommendations to the Chairman-NAEAC.

3. The AIC shall carry out the accreditation process **from February 13-14, 2012**. The draft report may be submitted to Secretary NAEAC within a period of two weeks of the on-site visit. The Experts/Program Evaluators shall be offered an honorarium of Rs.5, 000/- per day during the on-site accreditation visit of the degree programs besides TA/DA as per HEC rules.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Naseer Alam Khan
 secretary, NAEAC

Distribution:

- i. Prof. Dr. Safdar Ali, Chairman, Department of Soil Science, PMAS AAUR, Rawalpindi
- ii. Dr. Moazzam Jamil, Chairman, Department of Soil Science, Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

Cc: Dr Muhammad Abid Ali, chairman, Department of Soil Science, BZU, Multan

2. Dept. of Soil Science, Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan

• DEPARTMENT HISTORY & MAIN FEATURES

The Department of Soil Science was established in 2004. The Dept. has been offering B.Sc. (Hons.) Soil Science degree program and has produced 75 students from 2004-2011. The Dept. is offering M.Sc. (Hons.) degree in Soil Science from 2008 and has produced 8 students from 2008 to 2011. Department maintains a strong liaison with the sister organizations located in the City.

• DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED

- B.Sc. (Hons.) Soil Science Since 2004
- M.Sc. (Hons.) Soil Science Since 2008
- Ph. D. Soil Science Since 2002

3. CRITERION ANALYSIS

Criteria I: Strength and Quality of Faculty

The total faculty of the department of Soil Science is 05. All are full time faculty members. The student teacher ratio is 1:10. The evaluation committee met Professor/HOD, and Assistant Professors of Soil Science to discuss their academic background, areas of interest, and their perceptions about the academic programs, students and peers opportunities for professional growth besides research opportunities, facilities available, teacher-student relationship, teaching load and strengths and weaknesses of the program. It was done by calling the faculty staff of various levels and holding frank and free discussions assuring them that the objective of this visit was to effect improvements rather than a criticism of their program. This helped to clear the fog and any misunderstanding that could arise of this meeting. Following is the upshot of the discussions held at length:

1. Mostly teachers were happy and satisfied with the facilities, support and the teaching environment. They, in fact, seemed enthusiastic and committed to their profession, which augurs well and is a happy sign.
2. The space in the laboratory was upto the mark, which is a good sign for a good quality education.
3. The research projects have been demanded for funding to the appreciable extent. The teachers are enthusiastic to write more projects for funding in future also.
4. The committee enquired some teachers if their research findings were written as general information/extension bulletins? The answer was No. Time constraints is conceded on the part of faculty members due to their heavy teaching load, nevertheless, writing the results for general information is the need of the hour.

Criteria II: Curriculum Design and Development

The curriculum is a reflection, how far it is supportive in achieving learning objectives and student learning outcomes. The team members were informed that degree level curriculum has been developed with the collaboration of HEC through its Curriculum Review Committees (CRCs). The members of the curriculum review committee (CRC) are senior professors from this institute. A uniform curriculum approved by HEC has been adopted by all the Agricultural Universities/Colleges. Generally, maximum weightage is given to final exams (60 per cent), followed by mid term (30 per cent) and assignments/quizzes, etc. (10 per cent). To keep abreast of the latest knowledge in the concerned discipline, it is imperative to have a regular review and update of the curriculum. In the recent years, feedback mechanism is considered extremely useful for participatory and objective decision making. The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) of BZU has made positive efforts to develop this mechanism on regular basis for continuous improvement of teaching learning quality. This mechanism has to be further streamlined to improve the quality of education on the basis of the feedback from all the stakeholders such as employers, alumni, students, peer academicians and parents. This criterion was assessed in the light of evidence whether the Institute is functioning under a set of well-defined and known objectives yielding expected learning outcomes, which support program objectives. Also programs are redesigned and reviewed from the feedback. The committee is of the view that the Institute has developed a set of worthwhile curriculum design according to the needs of the students using interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches. However, it was noted that curriculum revision exercise by the board of studies is carried out regularly, but it needs to have more effective contribution.

Criteria III: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

Classrooms: There were three classrooms for classes. There is a slight shortage of classrooms. Increasing number of students may result in the congestion of classrooms, which may affect the quality of teaching.

Laboratories: There are 01 teaching laboratories and two research laboratory. The laboratory equipment in these laboratories is sufficient to meet the requirement for the students. Moreover, the department is continuously improving the strength of instruments through indigenous (BZU) as well as through the funds from research projects.

Library: There is a university library, which contains sufficient relevant books, journals, etc. The library is linked with digital library developed by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, where, over 15000 full text journals and 25000 abstracted journals are available free of cost. Keeping in view the large number of students the number of computers with printers and internet facilities are required to be increased at the departmental level.

Experimental farms: The College is provided with a 75 acres experimental area. On-farm research and demonstrations are carried out for research projects and thesis research. All the farm equipment and machinery is of University - owned and is available as and when required.

Criteria IV: Students Support and Progression

The evaluation committee was apprised that students are provided handouts in the class and/or a folder containing topics wise data and lecture material for the given class and semester, which are placed in the library. The teachers provide handouts of lectures along with presentation on multimedia. Students were of the opinion that the number of assignments should be increased and more quizzes should be conducted to keep the students fully involved in the semester system. In addition to the regular mid term and final examination in a given semester, the Soil Science has a unique system of arranging a comprehensive paper covering major core subjects for the B.Sc. (Hons.) final year students. It is a useful and very effective method of revision of the important topics, which will help the students in practical life. Because of very high enrollment in the general courses offered during first four semesters, the students felt congested in the practical classes and the teachers are overloaded. This may affect the quality of teaching. Internship, which is a pre-requisite for the award of Bachelor degree, is regularly conducted in a systematic manner. Most of the students are sent to various research institutes throughout the province where they acquire practical training and submit a formal report. A few internship reports were checked and found of good quality. Internship and practical training might be a regular feature with a view to developing a strong and effective program.

Criteria V: Research and Consultancy Activities

There seems to be adequate research and consultancy activity in the college. The team was briefed that it was mandatory for the teaching faculty to devote 80 per cent time to teaching and 20 per cent to research.

Criteria VI: Governance and Leadership

The highest administrative governance authority is the Vice Chancellor, followed by the Registrar, Treasurer and Controller of Examinations. The part of the organizational setup of the college is controlled by the Principal, who is responsible to report to the Dean and Vice Chancellor of the University. The Vice Chancellor is the overall controlling authority. Important bodies of the university include the Syndicate, the Senate, Academic Councils, Advanced Study & Research Board, Finance & Planning Committees, Selection Board, Boards of Studies, Directorate of Students' Affairs and Hall Warden. The rules and procedures of the university are well organized and documented. All bodies of the university function within the framework of well defined rules and procedures. To further improve leadership in research and teaching,

an exchange with other universities, local and abroad, will be of great help. In fact, a sort of inbreeding, which tends to be taking roots, might be guarded against for emerging as real leaders in the discipline.

Criteria VII: Recent Innovations and Best Practices

Completion of the new building for the Institute will help to boost up the research potential for degree programs.

4. SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE DEPT DEGREE PROGRAMS

Overall analysis

Major strengths

1. Provision of a good library with latest books, relevant journals besides being equipped with sophisticated audiovisual system.
2. Existence of research and experimentation facilities likes greenhouses/glass houses.
3. A sound and qualified teaching and research faculty; majority of them have Ph.D. degrees.

Major weaknesses

1. A limited number of trained supporting staff, i.e. laboratory technician/assistants.
2. Lack of networking engineer.
3. Limited and relatively small space for lecture rooms.
4. Lack of trained faculty in Soil Classification/Genesis and GIS.
5. Lack of international professional teachers' training programs.

Major opportunities

1. Increasing the number of grants from the national and international donors.
2. Provision of training to staff of research and extension departments.

Major Threats.

1. Improvement of out-reach programs.
2. Strengthening of linkages between faculty and stakeholders.
3. Generating financial resources.
4. Adding to the laboratories space in view of increasing number of students in soil science.

5. ACTIONABLE RECOMENDATIONS

Some of the immediate actionable points emerged from the discussion are as under:

- Provision of space (separate or shared) for, labs and classrooms
- Establishment of seminar room, staff rooms and Dept. library
- Periodicals and journals for faculty and students
- More computer/internet facilities for all
- Ample budget for increasing Dept. facilities
- More HEC opportunities, scholarships and financial aids
- Provision of more equipment and trained laboratory staff

6. Final Recommendation

On the basis of the inspection/evaluation, the team recommends accreditation/rating of the degree programs of Department of Soil Science, University College of Agriculture, BZU, Multan, Pakistan in the Lower band (68%) of “X” category of National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council/HEC.

7. LIST OF ANNEXURES

1. Evaluation Criteria and Program Ratings
2. TOR of the Committee

AIC Draft Report Visit on February 13-14, 2012

8. Evaluation Criteria for Agricultural Degree Programs

Sr. No	Criteria	Points Assigned	Points Awarded
Major Criteria			
1	Strength and Quality of Faculty	250	210
2	Curriculum Design and Development	150	114
3	Infrastructure and Learning Resources	200	121
4	Students Support and Progression	100	70
Sub-Total (a):		700	515
Minor Criteria			
5	Research and Consultancy Activities	150	80
6	Governance and Leadership	100	70
7	Recent Innovations and Best Practices	50	20
Sub-Total (b):		300	170
Grand Total (a+b):		1000	685

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