



National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council

44

AIC Report

**Dr. Muhammad Jamil Ahmad
Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed Hafiz**

February 15-14, 2012

**Department of Horticulture
University College of Agriculture, BZU, Multan**



UNIVERSITY OF AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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No:UCR/Hort/0001/12

Dated: Feb 18, 2012

The Chairman
NAEAC Secretariat
Room # 2, Old Comsats Building
HEC Sector H-8/1, Islamabad
 Tel: 051-90802681
 E-mail: infonaeac@yahoo.com

Subject: Accreditation Inspection Committee's (AIC) Report
(Department of Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, BZU, Multan)

Respected Sir:

The Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC) constituted by your good honor vide letter No. 675-/NAEAC/HEC-2012, visited the Department of Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture BZU, Multan and conducted the accreditation through review meetings, interviews, individual meetings, group consultations and visits, etc. as per schedule given to us.

The Undersigned and Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad Hafiz, Associate professor Deptt. of Horticulture, PMAS-UAAR along with your office team spent two days (Feb. 15-16, 2012) there for accreditation and evaluation of the Dept. of Horticulture and degrees offered by the Dept. as per necessary guidelines and the tool-kit given to us. The prepared draft report is enclosed herewith for your kind information and further perusal please.

The undersigned is thankful for your kind interest and trust. Please acknowledge the receipt of present report and let me know if anything missing or needed from this end. Thanks.

With regards,

Prof Dr M Jamil Ahmad
 Department of Horticulture,
 Faculty of Agriculture,
 Rawalakot


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: infonaeac@yahoo.com</p>
	<p><i>Dy. No. 616/NAEAC/HEC-2011</i> <i>Islamabad: October 26, 2011</i></p>

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

Chairman Department of Horticulture, University College of Agriculture, BZU, 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 | Dr. Muhammad Jamil Ahmed
Chairman, Dept. of Horticulture, Faculty of Agri., Rawalakot | Convener |
| ii | Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed Hafiz
Associate Prof., Deptt. of Horticulture, PMASAAUR | Member |
2. The Accreditation Inspection Committee shall have the following TORs:
- To validate the self-assessment report (SAR) of the degree program (B.Sc and M.Sc (Hons)) prepared by the department/discipline.
 - To carryout external evaluation of the degree programs in a transparent, neutral, holistic and participatory manner for accreditation and rating of degree programs **based on evaluation criteria of NAEAC.**
 - To submit synthesized and concise analytical report (7-8 pages) consisting of short introduction, brief criterion-wise analysis, **self-explanatory SWOT Analysis and explicit actionable recommendations** based on the validation of SAR and interaction with the Chairman, Faculty Members, Students and Support Staff and alumni as well as detail on-site visit of physical infrastructure, facilities and other teaching- learning resources available for the offering of degree programs.
 - To submit clear, precise and justified actionable accreditation and rating recommendations about the degree programs to the Chairman NAEAC.
3. The AIC shall carry out the accreditation process **from February 9-10, 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. Dr. Muhammad Jamil Ahmed, Dept. of Horticulture, Faculty of Agri., Rawalakot, AJK
 ii. Dr. Isfaq Ahmed Hafeez, Associate Prof., Deptt. of Horticulture, PMASAAUR
Cc: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akbar Anjum, Chairman, Deptt. of Horticulture, BZU, Multan.

2. Department of Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, BZ University, Multan.

• Department History and Main Features

The classes of B.Sc (Hons) horticulture were started in 1989 with the establishment of the Faculty of Agriculture, BZU, Multan. Horticulture as major was started in 1995 and M.Sc (Hons) in 2001. Ph.D program was started in 2002. In 2009, it was established as Department of Food and Horticultural Sciences. In 2010 it was separated as Department of Horticulture. The department has been offering B.Sc (Hons), M.Sc (Hons) and Ph.D in Horticulture and produced number of students, at graduate and post graduate levels. Presently the chairman and other related staff of the department are housed in the building along with department of Genetics & Plant Breeding.

The department is engaged in activities of production of expertise, creation of knowledge as research, plus training and technology transfer to stakeholders. Department has strong liaison with universities at national plus international level, NGOs, ASLP-II, PARB-150, PHDEB, INRA and NPO. Publications in national and international journals showed their output and role in development of horticulture.

Degree programs offered

- B.Sc (Hons) Agriculture with major Horticulture
- M.Sc (Hons) Horticulture
- Ph.D Horticulture

3. CRITERION ANALYSIS

Criteria I: Strength and quality of Faculty

The Faculty members of the Department of Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, BZU, and Multan are well trained and equipped with the determination plus skill to train and teach the students to enable them for facing the problems challenges in the field of horticulture. Presently, there are two professors (one foreign Faculty member), Four Assistant professors and two lecturers. Four of them are Ph.D and two has completed Post Doctorate. Remaining, has enrolled their Ph.D and be able to complete degree with in few months. Range of experience of faculty members; vary from 1-35 years. Department is running graduate and post graduate programs and conducted many short trainings. Faculty members of the department are rendering their services to the farmer community. There are only professors, Assistant professors and lecturers. There is need of associate and lecturers to justify the work load and to fulfill the HEC criteria. The Faculty is adequately using teaching and evaluation instruments such as frequent use of net plus multimedia, quizzes, assignments, projects, seminars/presentations, sessional, mid and final examination. A committee is present for monitoring the existing system of student evaluation at the Department.

Participations of students in seminars and conferences are limited up to the university only. There are no funds and facilities available at department for participation of students in seminars/conferences at other institutions or internationally.

The Faculty participation to the seminars and conferences are encouraging but it is limited and dependent to the support of HEC or any organization. Faculty contributions toward research publications in national and international journals are adequate. However, contribution toward publication of books, chapters and proceedings is inadequate and need improvement. Faculty perception about degree program is clear. The student teacher ratio is quite good and teacher can focus the students in a better way by giving more session to question answer and presentations etc.

Criteria II: Curriculum Design and Development

The Department of horticulture, at Faculty of Agriculture, BZU Multan is contributing more to the teaching of 4 years B.Sc (Hons) degree program. The curriculum has been revised frequently by the Department/Faculty as well as HEC. Curriculum is well defined; however, objectives are clear in recently revised courses of HEC than past. Courses at post graduate levels have not been revised so frequently by HEC and Department as done for graduate. There is need of continuous revision of the curricula for M.Sc (Hons) and Ph.D.

Required text books are available. However, there is no book bank. A limited budget for books is available for main library. No separate departmental budget for books plus research journals is available. Budget given to the Faculty is too low to fulfill the needs of all departments. A separate budget for books and journals can provide better learning opportunities. On line access is available but inters link library system not existing. Credit hours and contact hours are fine. Faculty is able and tried their best for completion of course with in the given limits of the semester.

All students are aware but post graduate students are well known about course program, admission policy, enrolment, withdrawal and course break up. Course file verified by the AIC are well maintained by the Department. There is proper BOS of the Department that held meetings regularly and record has been verified by AIC. QEC of the university has evaluated teachers, course satisfaction, and teacher evaluation by the student.

Criteria III: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

There were two lab and three lectures rooms. Size of the labs and class rooms are enough for the sitting of students. However, there is still need for Hi-tech lab (for postgraduate program) and class rooms for increasing strength of students. Equipment available is insufficient and need more separate budget or research grants for purchase of required items. Supporting staff is insufficient and not fully trained. Provision

of better equipment and well trained supporting staff can boost up the quality of higher education. Whatever, the equipment is available in the labs are properly utilized. The share of the department, in annual budget of the Faculty for books, chemicals and glassware is meager. Conduct of practical work and write up plus evaluation of practical note books was quite good.

Number of subscribed local journal was 9 while none of international journal has been subscribed by the department due to unavailability of funds. However, few international journals have been subscribed by the faculty members by membership. The main library has insufficient equipment and seating capacity.

Department has website that can be accessed by clicking on University web (<http://bzu.edu.pk>) Department has a share of 32 acres of research area. An orchard of mango on 17 acres is there but used for commercial purposes instead of research. Access of horticulture department to this orchard can provide good opportunities for postgraduate students for conduct of quality research. Infrastructure and equipment in the farm are insufficient.

Criteria IV: Students Support and Progression:

Departmental admission to PG course (M.Sc. Hons/Ph.D) is normal. Students are taken on merit and keeping in view the capacity of the department. The average yield index of the department is 91 % and drop out rate is 9 %. Average CGPA at B.Sc (Hons) is 3.2, at M.Sc (Hons) 3.3 and at Ph.D 3.6.

Scholarship to the students are available on merit and need basis however, their number is insufficient at university. Students are also getting scholarships from different organizations (USAID, Dist.Gov. Mora, FATA, FFC, Zakat Council etc). Loan without interest from banks are also available. Hostel accommodation for boys (430) and girls (430) are available. Convocation and sports facilities are adequate. There is a good atmosphere for co-curricular activities. Student attendance has taken regularly and there is restriction for presence of 80 %. Record of attendance has been verified by the AIC as course files. Medical and transport facilities are adequate. However, there is need in improvement of computing facilities, research funds, internship allowances etc to motivate the students for general plus practical education.

Criteria V: Research and consultancy Activities

Nine research projects have been completed and one is on going at the department of Horticulture, earned by the faculty members, with self efforts. Despite, limitation of institutional budget department has continued research and publication work on the basis of projects grant. Department has published 208 national and international publications in journals and proceedings. The quality of research is good that can be confirmed by number of projects won by the faculty. Department has a collaboration with ALP, HEC, PSF, and NGOs. Budget seminar for last few years has not given to the Department.

Criteria VI: Governance and Leadership

University has a well defined organization set up for administration and governance at the Department. The chairman has given administrative powers to implement rules and regulations. University rules and regulations are well defined. Resources (budget) given to the department is limited however, given funds have been well utilized.

Student record of the department is well maintained however, some lacks in student alumni has been observed. Graduates of the department are rendering their services at public and private sectors both nationally and internationally. Annual calendar of the activities is well formed at the department.

Criteria VII: Recent Innovations and Best Practices

Department of horticulture has higher positions in number of research publications in HEC recognized journals and journals of good impact factor. Also got funding projects some are in pipe lines. Department, developed a link between different organization and faculty members rendered services to the farmers community. Also developed fruit and ornamental plant nurseries and provided guideline in landscape installation and maintenance of public places/parks. Department also organized various trainings.

2. SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE DEPT DEGREE PROGRAMS

(A brief SWOT of the Deptt. of Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, BZU, Multan is presented herewith)

STRENGTHS

- Faculty is qualified with good knowledge and experience
- Dexterous leadership that took good initiatives
- Linkage is enough with the mango industry and other organizations to initiate new programs and incentives
- Held regular conferences and workshops
- Scholarships and Financial Support available for students at University and country level

WEAKNESS

- Shortage of Faculty members with no associate professor
- Limited and unskilled supporting staff of the laboratories
- Teacher offices, seminar room, staff rooms are limited with no provision of departmental library
- Lack of periodicals and journals for faculty and students
- Limited internet facilities for the students
- Limited research facilities due to budget constraints
- No revision of Post Graduate curricula

OPPORTUNITIES

- Keen interest of graduate and post graduate students in the field of Horticulture
- Good opportunities for scholarships, financial aids from HEC and other organizations
- Effective links of Department with other organizations
- Department autonomy need to be intact for admissions and graduations
- Hiring of more Faculty is possible

THREATS

- Less equipment chemicals and glass wares
- Limitation of Departmental budget
- Lack of books, journals and other library facilities
- Difficulties in release of Departmental budgets
- Non availability of orchards
- Lengthy and difficult procedure of items required for the department

3. ACTIONABLE RECOMENDATIONS

- Some of the immediate actionable points emerged from the discussion are as under:
- The department is short of research facilities especially scientific equipments, instruments and chemical. Therefore special funds may be arranged to strengthen the facilities.
- Teaching staff is not enough. There is need to provide two associate professor and one lecturer
- There is shortage of supporting staff, especially laboratory staff (Lab Assistant and Lab Attendant). The department may be provided with enough trained laboratory staff.
- There is need of establishment of seminar room, staff rooms and Dept library with computer/internet facilities
- Provision of space (separate or shared office) for all teachers, labs and classrooms
- Ample budget for increased for chemicals, glassware, books and other facilities.
- It was informed that the University orchards have been taken back from the department of Horticulture and placed under Estate Management department. The teachers of the department of reluctant to conduct research in the orchards. Therefore, it is suggested that the orchards should be declared as experimental orchards (not commercial) and should be under administrative and financial control of the Chairman, Department of Horticulture.
- Green Houses is damaged and not properly functional. The green house should be immediately got repaired.
- Library facilities may also be strengthened; more books and also Journals must be purchased. However, it is strongly recommended that a separate departmental library should be established.
- The department budget is inappropriate for research; library and other heads may also be fixed.
- Post graduate student Offices
- Need of more opportunities, scholarships and financial aids
- There is need of student counseling
- Regular revision of Post Graduate Curricula
- Provision of research grant on the basis of Ph. D, M. Phil and postgraduate students.

4. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the inspection/evaluation, the team recommends accreditation/rating of the degree programs of Department of Horticulture, University College of Agriculture, BZU, Multan, Pakistan in the Middle band (70%) of “X” category of National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council/HEC.

5. LIST OF ANNEXURES

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

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

Sr No	Criteria	Points Assigned	Points Awarded
Major Criteria			
1	Strength and Quality of Faculty	250	179
2	Curriculum Design and Development	150	143
3	Infrastructure and Learning Resources	200	100
4	Students Support and Progression	100	67
Sub-Total (a):		700	489
Minor Criteria			
5	Research and Consultancy Activities	150	106
6	Governance and Leadership	100	73
7	Recent Innovations and Best Practices	50	32
Sub-Total (b):		300	211
Grand Total (a+b):		1000	700

Prof Dr M. Jamil Ahmed

Convener

Signature of Program Evaluator