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National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council

49

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

**Prof. Dr. Shahana Urooj
Dr. Abid Hassnain
Dr. Saeed Akhter**

**Degree programs of Food Science & Technology
Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam**

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

Ph# 051-90802681, Fax#051- 90802682

Website: www.naeac.org, Email: infonaeac@yahoo.com

SINDH AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY TANDOJAM
AIC Report of Degree Programs of Food Sciences & Technology

Major Strengths:

- The Institute has only four faculty members. Out of 04 faculty members, two are holding Ph.D degrees. One faculty member has also recently completed Post Doc. from Australia. In addition to that, one Assistant Food Technologist and three Lab. Technicians are supporting the faculty as all of them are holding M.Sc degrees in Food Science & Technology.
- The Institute achieved ISO 9001-2000 certification in 2007 but later on it was discontinued due to non-payment of audit fee.
- The Institute has 10 well equipped laboratories, a small library with more than 800 books and computer lab. with 11 PCs connected with internet.
- The faculty has published 9 research papers in impact factor journals, 34 research papers in HEC recognized as well as having ISSN number journals, one chapter in Foreign published book, one book published in regional language and also developed 11 brochures in last 5 years.
- The Institute has already organized 18 training programs for rural men/women in which more than 750 participants have been trained, still more training programs be continued and initiated to train particularly the rural women/farmer for poverty alleviation.

Major weaknesses:

- Teaching faculty is insufficient which need to be strengthened on top priority basis. At least 6 members be appointed.
- The teaching faculty needs to develop effective linkages with agro-industry and research institutes which are essential for sharing of knowledge and current problems of industry.
- Laboratory staff and supporting staff is not only insufficient but also un-trained for the job.
- Lower staff such as Lab attendant/peons one for each laboratory be provided to look after the laboratory.
- Inadequate office space for the faculty, shortage of communication facilities for the faculty.
- The Institute has only one class room. Other classes were held in the laboratories.
- Shortage of food chemistry and food microbiology laboratories.
- Insufficient training opportunities are available for faculty as well as lab staff.
- Limited operational/research grants and no grant for the improvement of efficiency of the faculty and the supporting staff. Inadequate regular funding for

the Institute resulting in deficient budget for repair and maintenance of sophisticated lab. equipment.

- Post graduate research funds are either not available or out of reach of research supervisor and are maintained by central offices and to get their timely release/sanction on time is cumbersome and hindrance in the smooth running of the project/research activities and freedom of activity is not provided to supervisor/P.I.

Major Opportunities:

- Professional linkages needs to be further developed to provide better opportunities for the undergraduate and postgraduate students in their academic programs and provision of employment.

Major Threats:

- Serious efforts are required to enhance the operational budget of the Institute and also mobilize the faculty to hunt more and more research grants from national and international donor agencies. University Authorities are also requested to enhance the operational budget of the Institute, so that meaningful academic/research activities may further be strengthened.
- Selection of faculty must be initiated on urgent basis. At least 6 faculty members must be appointed to run the degree program effectively
- At least four classrooms must be provided to the Institute for the effective and quality teaching with multimedia facilities.
- Two basic sciences laboratories for food chemistry and food microbiology be constructed.
- Stand by generator facility be provided to the Institute as the Institute has many sophisticated/high tech equipment which are all the time on risk.

Recommendations:

- The teachers and postgraduate research collaborations must be developed at national and international level for meaningful research.
- Class room facilities are inadequate. There must be 4 class rooms for the undergraduate and master students in the Institute with multi-media facilities.
- The study tour of the industries and various research organizations must be mandatory for the students to enhance their practical knowledge and also for their future interaction and job placements.
- Fringe benefits need to be provided to the faculty members including on campus residence and medical facilities.
- Strong system of students scholarships from the university sources and from the donor agencies/zakat, baitulmal need to be established.
- All the faculty must be provided computers with internet facilities.

- The Institute must develop its own cabins for postgraduate students with computer facilities and budget to this extent must always be a component of recurrent budget for the Institute.
- The operational budget provided to the Institute by the University is insufficient to meet the genuine needs of teaching and research. University may consider increasing the annual grant and allocation of appropriate amount for research and maintenance of the equipment. Director of the Institute may be empowered to utilize the funds whenever needed for research or other activities instead of central control.
- Extensive use of multimedia and other AVA materials for enhanced and effective communication with students must be embarked upon more effectively and be further strengthened.
- Although the central library has got the sufficient number of books and other facilities but the library of the Institute need more space as the present library is too small to cater the need of the students in future.
- There should be easy access of teachers to participate and present their research in the conferences and seminars at the national and international level for which funds be provided.

Final Recommendation:

The Institute has made a significant contribution in the field of Food Science and Technology with the initiation of four years undergraduate degree program coupled with ISO 9001-2000 certification in shortest possible time. However, there is ample room for improvement to match the international standards and to meet the market and industrial challenges. In view of these considerations, the committee unanimously recommended the degree programs of the Institute be graded as “X” category (i.e. the classification of degree programs with minor short falls expected to meet the criteria as set by the Council for Accreditation).

General Comments:

The AIC appreciates the commendable job performed by the Director, Institute of Food Sciences and Technology by establishing 10 highly sophisticated laboratories coupled with obtaining ISO 9001-2000 certification in very short time. The committee further requests the Vice Chancellor to provide a substantial operational budget to the Institute for meaningful research and quality education to the students of Food Science and Technology and empowerment (freedom of power, decision making and mobility) to Director to spend it more effectively as per needs of the Institute for academic and research activities.

Dr. Saeed Akhtar
Member AIC
Assistant Professor (Food Science and Technology)
Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan