



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

on

Horticulture Department

The Poonch University

RAWLAKOT - AJK

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1. INTRODUCTION

In pursuance to its mandate given by HEC, the NAEAC constituted the Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC) comprising of following scientists to undertake the review and accreditation process of degree programs of the Horticulture department of The University of Poonch, Rawlakot – AJK. The TORs of the Committee are given in Annex. – II.

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------|
| i) | Mr. Mohammad Hashim Laghari
Chief Scientific Officer (Retd),
PARC, Islamabad. | Convener |
| ii) | Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed Hafiz,
Associate Professor (Horticulture),
PMAS Arid Agriculture University,
Rawalpindi. | Member |

The Committee visited the University of Poonch, Rawlakot on October 16-17, 2012 and held discussions with the faculty members, support staff, Alumni and local management besides witnessing available facilities and infrastructure for accreditation of the degree programs of the department. Based on the information gathered during the visit, current report has been compiled.

2. Department of Horticulture, faculty of Agriculture, University of Poonch, Rawalakot.

• Department History and Main Features

With the foundation of University College of Agriculture at Rawalakot as a sub campus of University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in 1980, the Department of Horticulture is playing a key role in teaching and research. In the university college of Agriculture, graduate programme as B.Sc (Hons), major in Horticulture was started with its establishment.

In 2004 it has been given a status of full fledged department with up gradation of University College of Agriculture as Faculty of Agriculture. Department of Horticulture is the first to start post graduate programme as M.Sc (Hons) classes (1995), long before the establishment of this and other departments that occurred in 2004.

Now, Ph.D programme has also been initiated and presently number of graduate, postgraduate and Ph.D students are perusing their degree programmes'. The department is engaged in activities of production of expertise, generation of knowledge through research, plus training and technology transfer to stakeholders.

The Department of Horticulture is well recognized regionally, nationally and internationally for the scholarly work and effective student training. They plan to be one of the top Horticulture departments at national level measured by scholarly works and other measures.

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 UPR, is 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 four professors, one Associate professor and three lecturers. Four of them are Ph.D and three has completed Post Doctorate. Remaining, has enrolled their Ph.D and be able to complete degree with in near future. Range of experience of faculty members; vary from 2-30 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. The Professors are also performing important additional duties in administration/ management cadre. There are only professors, and lecturers. There is need of two Assistant professors and one more 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, UPR AJ&K is contributing more to the teaching of four 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 but their number is limited. 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 accesses is available but inter 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 informed 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

The department has only one lab apportioned in different sections to use for different purposes including a portion used as class room. There is one lecture room separately. Size of the labs and class rooms are hardly enough for the sitting of students. Thus there is urgent 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 4 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.

An orchard of Apple on 2 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. It is informed that land was acquired for establishing a new farm where about 8 acres have been allocated for the department for field research and related activities. 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 (Army welfare board, Suddhan Education, Kashmir Affairs, and Benevolent Fund etc). Loan without interest from banks are also available. Private hostel accommodation was arranged only for girls, because during earthquake hostel buildings were damaged badly. Convocation and sports facilities are insufficient. There is a good atmosphere for co-curricular activities. Student attendance is taken regularly and there is restriction for presence of 80 %. Record of attendance has been verified by the AIC as course files. Limited medical and transport facilities are available. However, there is need in improvement of transport and 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 project grants. Department has published 146 national and international publications in journals and proceedings and 27 out of these are published in the journals with Impact factor. The quality of research is good that can be confirmed by number of projects won by the faculty. Department has a collaboration with HEC, PARC, PSF, Universities, Provincial Agriculture Research Institutions and NGOs. Seminar budget for last few years has not been given to the Department. However there is need of more funds to raise the quality of the research work. Contribution by faculty in writing of the books is low.

Criteria VI: Governance and Leader ship

University has a well defined organization set up for administration and governance at the Department level. 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.

4: SWOT Analysis of the Dept degree programs

(A brief SWOT of the Deptt. of Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, UPR, AJ & K is presented herewith)

SWOT ANALYSIS OF DEGREE PROGRAMS

i. Major Strengths of Degree Programs:

- Adequately qualified and experienced faculty of eight teachers including four PhD with vision and capacity to impart quality education and research.
- The University management is highly supportive for the uplift of the department.
- Prescribed rules and procedures are followed for admission and conduct of teaching programs.

ii. Major Weaknesses:

- Non-availability of faculty for Floriculture, Biotechnology and Post Harvest.
- Inadequate lab equipments particularly for Post Harvest Management / Physiology, Tissue Culture, etc. with inadequate space for class rooms, laboratories and faculty offices.
- Insufficient Farm area, Plastic Tunnels, Growth Chambers, Cold Store, Lath House, etc.
- Shortage / non-availability of trained support staff for lab to operate and maintain the equipment.
- Weak linkages with institutions and stakeholders.

iii. Major Opportunities:

- Horticulture declared as high priority area at national level and has vast opportunity in the state because of highly suitable climate and topography particularly for floriculture and seed production.
- Bulbous crops viz. gladiolus, lilies, tulips, iris; dahlia of excellent quality can be grown in the valley.
- Large potential for export of different fruits and vegetables existed and need to be exploited.
- Diversity in horticulture production attracted private sector entrepreneurs thus creating more job opportunities.
- National and International agencies are looking for cooperation for research and development in horticulture sector.
- Pathogen free seed potato crop production particularly through tissue culture and multiplied at high altitude conditions.

iv. Major Threats / Challenges:

- High demand for trained and skilled manpower locally and internationally for fruits, vegetables and flower production and processing.
- Increasing demand for certified vegetable seed / hybrids, fruit nursery plants, cut flowers, flower extracts & processed products, etc.
- High post harvest losses for horticultural crops.
- No system for transfer of technology for horticultural crops.
- Safety standards and WTO requirements becoming mandatory for exports to high end markets.
- Location at a long distance from main market's of the country with under developed roads.
- All area is rain fed area where water table is very low and difficult to develop irrigation system.

5: ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A book bank should be established in the University along with a reading room for students in the department
- At least two Assistant Professors with Ph.D qualification on TTS basis and one lecturer may be recruited.
- More area for trials on Horticulture crops should be made available as existing research farm is too small in size.
- The student and faculty member should be facilitated and encouraged to attend seminars and workshops at national and international level by providing more funds in this head.
- Faculty members may be encouraged for writing project proposals to get research grants.
- Need of more opportunities, scholarships and financial aids. University may grant five scholarships for five students of BSc (Hons) Agri. at top positions on merit
- Accommodation facilities should be established for both Boys and Girls along with promotion of extra curricular activities.
- In the Labs. Fire Alarms and Fire extinguishers may be installed and training provided to new entrants in the labs.

6: List of Annexure

- Evaluation Criteria and Program Ratings
- TOR of the Committee
- Faculty Staff Profile.
- Research Projects Completed / Ongoing during past five years.

**STANDARDS & CRITERIA FOR AGRICULTURE DEGREE PROGRAM EVALUATION, DEPARTMENT
OF HORTICULTURE, THE POONCH UNIVERSITY, RAWLAKOT –AJK.**

S.No.	Criteria	Points Assigned	Points Awarded
a) Major Criteria			
1.	Strength and Quality of Faculty	250	184
2.	Curriculum Design and Development	150	121
3.	Infrastructure and Learning Resources	200	118
4.	Student Support and Progression.	100	73
Sub-Total (a)		700	496
b) Minor Criteria			
5.	Research and Consultancy Activities	150	107
6.	Governance and Leadership	100	77
7.	Innovative/ Best Practices	50	42
Sub-Total (b)		300	226
Grand Total (a+b)		1000	722

Mr. Hashim Laghari
Chief Scientific Officer (Retd)
PARC, Islamabad

Convener

Signature of Program Evaluator

Annexure-II

	<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>Dy. No. 817-NAEAC/HEC/2012 Islamabad: October 02, 2012</p>

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

Chairman Department of Horticulture, faculty of Agriculture, University of Poonch, Rawalakot 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.

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|----|--|----------|
| i | <p>Mr. Hashim Laghari
Chief Scientific Officer (Retd)</p> | Convener |
| ii | <p>Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed Hafiz
Associate Prof., Deptt. of Horticulture, PMAS- Arid Agriculture University
Rawalpindi</p> | 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 along with completely filled-in and signed Evaluation Manual (Toolkit)** 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 through on-site visit from October **16-17, 2012**. The draft report as per recommended format 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. Mr. Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Chairman, Dept. of Horticulture, Faculty of Agri., Rawalakot, AJK
- ii. Mr. Hashim Laghari, Chief Scientific Officer (Retd), NARC, Islamabad
- iii. Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed Hafiz, Associate Prof., Deptt. of Horticulture, PMASAAUR

FACULTY STAFF PROFILE

Name	Qualification	Position	Specialization	Teaching Experience	Publications
1. Dr. Yousaf Ali	PhD./Post Doc	Professor	Olericulture	30 years	33
2. Dr. Jamil Ahmed	PhD./Post Doc	Professor	Pomology	27 years	32
3. Dr. Abdul Hamid	PhD./ Post Doc	Professor	Olericulture	24 years	30
4. Dr. Maqsood Ahmed	PhD.	Professor	Pomology	24 years	23
5. Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah	M.Sc. (Hons)	Associate Professor	Olericulture	24 years	16
6. Mrs. Fozia Kiani	M.Sc. (Hons)	Lecturer	Olericulture	3 years	2
7. Mr. Abid Yaqoob	M.Sc. (Hons)	Lecturer	Pomology	2 years	2
8. Mr. Mohammad Riaz	M.Sc. (Hons)	Lecturer	Olericulture	2 years	1

SUPPORT STAFF

S.No.	Name	Designation	Qualification	Experience
1.	Ms. Fahmida Mir Akbar	Research Associate	M.Sc. (Hons)	1 year
2.	Asif Mehmood	Office Assistant	B.A.	1Year
3.	Asim Majeed	Lab Attendant	F.Sc.	1 year
4.	Mohammad Arshad	Budder	Matric	4 years
5.	Sajid Zia	Baildar	Matric	2 years

LIST OF RESEARCH PROJECTS (COMPLETED / ONGOING)
AT UNIVERSITY OF POONCH, RAWLAKOT AJK.

A. COMPLETED:

1. Strengthening and Upgradation of the infrastructure of the faculty of Agriculture, Rawlakot, University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. (PI Dr. Jamil Ahmed, Funded by HEC for Rs. 34.271 million).
2. Screening of Daffodil cultivars for cultivation in potential areas of Kashmir. (PI Dr. Jamil Ahmed, Funded by AJK University for Rs. 0.150 million).

B. ONGOING:

3. Bio-diversity in Apple germ plasm, characterization and conservation, from AJK. (PI Dr. Maqsood Ahmed, Funded by HEC for Rs. 5.7 million).
4. Exploration and conservation of stone & nut fruit germ plasm in temperate region of AJK and their multiplication through conventional techniques for economic returns. (PI Dr. Maqsood Ahmed, Funded by ALP – PARC for Rs. 4.8 million).
5. Identification and control of risk factors involved in deterioration of quality of Apple in AJK. (PI Dr. Jamil Ahmed, Funded by HEC for Rs. 5.432 million).



National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council

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NAEAC Secretariat, Room # N-2, N-Block, old Comsatas Building, HEC, H-8/1, Islamabad

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Acknowledgments

The Evaluation Committee gratefully acknowledges the excellent support provided to the Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC) by the Vice Chancellor and the Dean Faculty of Crop and Food Sciences, besides the Chairman and faculty staff of the Horticulture Department of The Poonch University, Rawlakot, AJK.

The AIC also acknowledges with thanks the guidance and facilities provided by the Chairman, NAEAC. The committee records its gratitude to Mr. Naseer Alam Khan, Secretary and Raja Mehtab Yasin, Admin / Finance Officer, NAEAC Secretariat for the excellent arrangements made for undertaking the visit to Horticulture Department of The Poonch University, Rawlakot, AJK and their valuable contributions during the preparation of the report.

Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC) of NAEAC

