

AIC Report

Prof. Dr. Sher Muhammad
Prof. Fazal Karim

Department of Agri. Extension
UCA, University of Sargodha

Report of the Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC)
University College of Agriculture, University of Sargodha

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A three member committee visited University College of Agriculture, University of Sargodha, on 29-30 May, 2013 to carryout accreditation as per TORs (Annex. I) of the B.Sc. (Hons.) degree program offered by the Department of Agricultural Extension Education. Before visiting the Faculty the committee thoroughly reviewed the self-assessment report prepared by the Chairman, of the department, and the evaluation manual of the NAEAC.

The review process began with an elaborate presentation by Dr. Ejaz Ashraf. He informed the committee that the college of Agriculture was established in 2005 with an enrollment of 50 students, which has now gone up to 260 students. Initially two general courses (Introduction to Agri. Extension Education and Communication Skills) were offered to the students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture. The Department of Agricultural Extension Education started functioning independently in 2012 and 18 students were enrolled for B.Sc. (Hons.) Agricultural Extension Education Program. Two students dropped out and currently 16 students are continuing. The PhD faculty is less than the HEC criteria/standards, the composition of the faculty is also not in accordance with HEC criteria/standards, the student-teacher ratio is high than the given standards. The committee also visited the infrastructure of the department comprising only two office rooms for the faculty, one Conference/Seminar room equipped with multimedia with good seating arrangement. There is no separate A.V./computer lab. Internet facility is also not available. The department lacks sufficient space to provide proper work place to the faculty members and supporting staff. There is no common room for the teachers. The committee had a detail interaction with the faculty to get their views about the strengths and weakness of the program. The committee also had a very lively discussion with the students. In general both the faculty and students were satisfied with the working environment expect few shortcoming like inadequate hostel and internet facilities, faculty offices and latest books.

History and Background of Degree Program

The University College of Agriculture, University of Sargodha was established in 2005. The Department of Agricultural Extension Education was established in 2012. Initially, two minor courses were offered to the students of all disciplines at undergraduate level. Later on with establishment of independent department, B.Sc. (Hons) Agricultural Extension Education degree program was started. The department will produce first batch of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agricultural Extension Education next year i.e. 2014.

Mission and Objectives of Degree Program

The mission of the department, through offering the degree program, is to produce technically trained and professionally competent graduates who could better serve the farming community. The department aims to achieve the following objectives:

- The department is committed to provide conducive teaching/learning environment to the students and faculty members.
- To provide professional/technical support and services in the field of agricultural extension.
- To enable students to conduct research in the field of agricultural extension.

CRITERION WISE ANALYSIS

Strength and Quality of Faculty

The accreditation committee was informed that the Department of Agricultural Extension Education has 05 faculty members (04 permanent and one on contract basis) comprising two Assistant Professors and three Lecturers (Annex. II) . Two faculty members are holding PhD degrees, one is doing PhD and while remaining members are planning to do PhD in near future. The faculty members have a service experience of 2-20 years and possess adequate capacity to effectively deliver the curriculum. However, the strength of the faculty and PhD faculty is less than the criteria/standards set by HEC, the composition of the faculty is also not matching with the HEC criteria/standards (presently there is no Professor and Associate Professor in the

department). The student-teacher ratio is higher than the given standards. The average teaching load per faculty member ranges from 09-15 credit hours. Course outlines are issued to the students by the faculty in the beginning of each semester. Progress on the coverage of the course outlines, is closely monitored by the Chairman of the Department. Course files are also maintained properly by each faculty member.

Curricula Design and Development

The Department has patterned its curriculum for the B.Sc. (Hons.) Agricultural Extension Education program according to curriculum issued by the HEC. The curricula are properly developed to deepen the understanding of students in agricultural extension. Emphasis is being laid on development of analytical and communication skills of the students required for an extension worker. The curricula are in harmony with the stated goals and objectives of the program. However, latest recommended books are not available in the library.

General courses are taught during the first four semesters while major courses are offered during the next four semesters (5th to 8th). The committee emphasized the need to conduct a thorough review of the existing curricula with the participation of all stakeholders. Hopefully, as a result of this exercise, the faculty would revisit and update the contents of each course and address the issues of overlaps, redundancy and other shortcomings.

Infrastructure and Learning Resources

Class room/ A.V Lab.: There is only one classroom in the department which is equipped with multimedia and other Lab. equipment (Annex. III). There is no computer and A.V. Lab. in the department. Moreover, no internet facility is available to the students. Offices for the faculty are also quite insufficient.

Library and Computer Lab: The department has no library. About 40 text and reference books are available in the department (Annex. III). Few books on Agriculture Extension are available in the main library of the University. New books prescribed by the faculty should be acquired and added to the library. Most of the books mentioned in the scheme of studies of under-graduate and post-graduate degrees are not available. There is no operational budget allocation for the

department. University provides the needed material on demand. To meet the growing demand of the students, computer lab. should be established in the department.

Hostel Accommodation: During interaction with the students, the committee was informed that the hostel facilities in the University College of Agriculture and physical infrastructure in the department are quite insufficient. There are only two hostels with a capacity to accommodate 800 girl students. No hostel facility is available for male students. The university administration needs to pay due attention to this issue.

Cultural and Co-curricular Activities: Since a large body of the students belongs to low/medium income rural families, their exposure to cultural and co-curricular activities seems critical to their success in practical life. At present there is no society of students in the department which could organize such co-curricular activities. The students need to be motivated and encouraged to participate actively in co- curricular activities.

Developing Application Skills: The objective of developing application skills can be achieved through practical work assigned to the students. Special exposure visits are not a part of the curriculum delivery process. Even practical work is less as reported by the students. Presently, there is no formal system of field visits for the students, even in the case of more demanding practical subjects. Therefore, special focus is required on this area to improve the practical skills of the students.

Class Attendance/Discipline: Class attendance is regularly taken by the faculty; students failing to meet the minimum requirement (75%) are barred from appearing in the final examination. However in some cases when the students do not meet the minimum attendance requirement, the teachers are to take extra classes to make up the deficiency. Improved quality of teaching and a regular practice of having lively discussions and giving quizzes are likely to develop students' interest in attending classes.

Class Assignments: Class assignments are of great significance particularly for self learning of the students and need to be adopted as a regular practice. The topics for class assignments should be carefully selected and feedback to the students should also be provided so that they may know their shortcomings.

Research and Consultancy Activities

At present one research project is under way in the department (Annex. IV). The faculty should be encouraged to prepare more research proposals and submit to donor agencies such as HEC, Pakistan Science Foundation etc. for funding. Foreign donors should also be discovered for funding.

Governance and Leadership

A good working relationship and cohesion among the faculty members was observed, which indicates good governance. As regard the opportunities for professional development and growth, the teachers were satisfied with the opportunities for postgraduate studies and trainings

Out of four faculty members two are already PhD whereas one lecturer is on study leave at University of Agriculture Faisalabad. He will join the department after completion of PhD shortly.

The committee had a meeting with the Vice Chancellor who briefed about various steps taken by the University for welfare of the faculty, students and general public. During discussion, he informed that no tuition fee is charged from orphans, Hafiz-e-Quran and the real poor/needy students who are in thousands. His attitude towards faculty and students was found to be quite supportive and encouraging.

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

- Strong coordination among the faculty members that indicates good governance
- Increasing interest of students in B.Sc. (Hons.) Agricultural Extension Education program
- Faculty is willing to receive and implement constructive suggestions in order to improve its performance and the overall academic standards

Weaknesses

- Shortage of faculty especially the senior positions like Associate Professor and Professor
- Less focus on faculty research and publications
- Lack of infrastructure like office rooms, class rooms, computer/A.V. lab
- Shortage of relevant books and reference material
- No operational budget allocated for the department

Opportunities

- Increasing demand for quality education in the field of agricultural extension education
- Numerous national and international organizations are working around; their expertise can be effectively and efficiently utilized for quality education
- Agriculture extension, research and NGOs doing extension work in the area can be the main employers of the graduates of agri. extension
- Dynamic leadership of the Vice Chancellor of the University available to give full support to the faculty who are interested to improve their knowledge and skills

Threats

- Strong competition with other universities offering similar programs
- Competition with other disciplines of the university such as agronomy, entomology, plant protection etc. for appointment in Agriculture Department (Extension)

ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Induction of more faculty especially senior positions like Associate Professor and Professor.

- In-service training courses in pedagogical skills and innovative teaching learning methods may be organized on a regular basis for the new/young faculty.
- Young teachers need to be provided opportunities and incentives to prepare research proposals for attracting research grants from various donor agencies in the country and abroad. The research topics may be identified carefully, for which experienced persons could be involved.
- Scheme of studies for B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture Extension degree program need to be reviewed and revised by involving all stockholders to update and to remove overlaps/duplications of contents.
- Since the department is at its infancy stage, first batch of students is in pipeline, postgraduate program may not be started until atleast two batches of undergraduates are produced and sufficient competencies/confidence is developed in the faculty.
- Attention need to be given to arrange practical classes to give hands on training to the students to improve their practical skills.
- Field exposure may be given to the students through arranging field trips and study tours to farmers' fields.
- College/departmental library needs to be upgraded and latest books and reference material be made available for the students.
- Students' access to computer and internet may be enhanced through establishing a well equipped computer lab in the department.
- Infrastructure (lecture rooms, A.V. Lab. computer lab., library, seminar rooms etc.) and A.V. equipment need to be provided to make the academic and research programs effective.
- Operational budget of the department should be allocated to a reasonable extent, keeping in view the actual demands.

- Difficulties of students relating to hostel accommodation, transport, medical treatment, sports etc. need to be properly addressed by the University management.

Annex. I

COMPOSITION OF AIC

Prof. Dr. Sher Muhammad Institute of Agri. Extension & Rural Development, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad	Convener
Prof. Fazal Karim Ex-Dean, FASS SAU Tandojam	Member
Mr. Naseer Alam Khan Secretary – NAEAC, HEC, Islamabad	Member/Secretary

TORs of AIC

- To validate the self-assessment report (SAR) of degree programs- 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 the 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.

Annex. II

FACULTY PROFILE

S. No.	Name	Qualification	Designation	Status	Experience (Years)
1	Dr. Ejaz Ashraf	Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	Regular	20
2	Dr. Humaira Amin	Ph.D.	Assistant Professor	Contract	2
3	Muhammad Luqman	M.Sc. (Hons.)	Lecturer	Regular	8
4	Mrs. Saima Sadaf	M.Sc. (Hons.)	Lecturer	Regular	8
5	Muhammad Yaseen	M.Sc. (Hons.)	Lecturer	Regular	8

Annex. III

LIST OF EQUIPMENT AND BOOKS

- Tandberg Video Edge 95 MP with Camera
- LCD Screen (Minimum 50")
- LCD Screen (42") with Mount
- Audio Amplifier
- Speakers
- Multimedia with wall mounted screen
- Interactive pen Display with glass surface
- 24U Rack with good air ventilation
- Computer system for Media Lab

S. No.	Name	Year	Author/editor
1.	Planning Agricultural Research; Source book	2001	G.Gijsbers, W. Janssen, H. Hambly Odame, H. Meijerink
2.	Introduction to Rural Planning	2008	Nick Gallent, Meri Juntti, SveKidd & Daveshaw
3.	Social Research Methods 3rd Edition	1995	David Dooley
4.	Rural Change and Sustainability	2005	S.J.Essex, Aw. Gilg, R.B. Yarwood with J. Smithers & R. Wilson
5.	Rural Development and NGO	2007	Dr. Ramji Lal & Dr. H.C. Purohit
6.	Rural Development Programme; Theory and Practice	2007	S.B. Golahit
7.	Planning Rural Development	2006	Shakuntala Devi
8.	Principles of Management 8th edition	2005	George R.terry & Stephen G. Franklin
9.	Women in Agricultural Development	2008	K. Radhika
10.	Communication; Goals and Approaches	2007	Ronald B. Adler & Russel F. Proctor
11.	Environment & rural Development	2006	Shakuntala Devi
12.	Forestry Research Extension; Challenges and strategies	2009	C.S. Dange & Seema Kumar
13.	Farm Journalism and Media Management	2008	C.Bhaskaran, R.Prakash, N. Kichore Kumar
14.	Extension Strategy on Natural Resource Management	2007	M.M. Adhikary, S.K. Acharya and D. Basu
15.	Extension Methods	2005	Rajab Ali Memon
16.	Agricultural Research and Extension Systems Worldwide	2004	Ram Bahal

17.	Sustainable Development and Future of Cities	1998	Bernd Hamm & Pandurang, K. Muttangi
18.	Psychological Testing & Assessment	2009	Lewis R. Aiken, Gary Groth-Marnat
19.	Sustainable Agriculture: Status and Prospects	2007	P.N. Kalla, Anita Singh, S.S. Pareek Shanti, K. Sharma, Hanuman Ram
20.	Introduction to Agriculture 6th edition	2000	J.A. Sutherland
21.	Sustainable Development: Opportunities and challenges	2005	R. Dayanandan
22.	Improving Agricultural Extension: A reference Manual	2005	Burton E. Swanson, Robert P. Bentz, Andrew J. Sofranko
23.	Management 6th edition	2003	Richard L. Daft
24.	Inter-Act: Interpersonal Communication 10th edition	2004	Kathleen S. Verderber and Rudolph F. Verderber
25.	Human Communication: The Basic Course	2006	Joseph A. Devito
26.	Understanding Human Communication 8th Edition	2003	Ronald B. Adler & George Rodman
27.	GIS Application in Agriculture	2007	Francis J. Pierce & David Clay
28.	Strengthening Agricultural Extension & Advisory Systems (World Bank)	2010	Burton E. Swanson & Rikka Rajalahti
29.	Enhancement of Extension systems in Agriculture (APO)	2006	Dr. V.P. Sharma
30.	Reforming China's Rural Health System	2009	Adam Wagstaff, Magnus Lindelow, Shiyon Wans & ShouZhang
31.	Communication Skills MCM 301		Virtual University of Pakistan
32.	Handbook on Digital videos & Audio in Education	2004	Marie Bijmens, Mathy Vanbuel, Soetkin Verstegen & Clive Young

33.	Feature & Column Writing MCM 514		Virtual University of Pakistan
34.	Gender & Governance in Rural Sciences: Insights from India Ghana & Ethiopia	2010	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
35.	People Studying People	1997	Ralph L. Rosnow & Robert Rosenthal
36.	Effectiveness of Decentralized Agricultur Extension System	2011	M. Luqman, Ejaz Ashraf & M. Arif
37.	Planning Better Programes	1981	Patrick G. Boyle
38.	Introduction to Research in Education (5th Edition)	1996	Donald Ary, Lucy Cheser Jacobs & Asghar Razavei
39.	Program Evaluation (Methods & Case Studies)	1997	Emil J. Posavac & Raymond G. Carey
40.	Administration of Vocational Education	1988	Ralphc Wenrich, J. WilliamWenrich & Joel D. Galloway
41.	Journalism: Made Simple	1982	David Wainwright

Annex. IV

RESEARCH PROJECTS

S. No.	Name	Funding agency	Principal Investigator	Status
1	Strengthening of Agriculture Extension Services and Development of its linkages with Education and Research in District Sargodha	HEC, Islamabad	Dr. Ejaz Ashraf	On-Going
2	Role of rural women in livestock management in Tehsil Sargodha	HEC, Islamabad	Dr. Humaira Amin	Completed