



AIC Report

Dr. Hamen D. Lohano
Mr. Ameer H. Rizvi

Department of Agri. Business Management
University of Karachi

National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council

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

Evaluation of:

Agribusiness Management Degree Programs at the
Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Management,
University of Karachi

Evaluation Committee:

Dr. Heman D. Lohano
Institute of Business Administration
Karachi

Mr. Ameer H. Rizvi
Institute of Business Administration
Karachi

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The accreditation committee is grateful to the Vice Chancellor, Dean Faculty of Sciences, and Chairman Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Management, University of Karachi for providing cooperation and facilitation.

We are also thankful to the NAEAC for their assistance guidelines and logistic support during the assessment process. The guidance provided by Mr. Naseer Alam Khan at NAEAC Secretariat is highly acknowledged.

Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC)

NAEAC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Management has been offering BS and MS degree programs with specialization in Agribusiness Management since 2008.

The department does not have full-time faculty members with MS, MPhil or PhD degree in Agribusiness Management. There are four full-time faculty members who have BS degree in Plant Protection. They do not have any degree in Agribusiness Management. There are seven part-time faculty members out of which two have PhD in Economics and Public Administration and five have Master's degree in Marketing and Statistics. Part-time faculty members are being paid extremely low. It is very difficult to attract good quality faculty at the low rate from the market. In the department, there no faculty members with specialization in major fields of agribusiness including supply chain management, finance, accounting, and business management. Currently the department is not involved in any research and consultancy activities related to agribusiness management due to lack of qualification and experience of the full-time faculty members. Some faculty members participate in workshops and seminars. The department is in evolutionary stage as it has started the degree programs in agribusiness management since 2008. The department needs to adopt the approaches and methods used in other business schools, such as linkages with corporate sector.

Department cannot produce quality graduate with existing faculty members. Therefore, the department needs to get full-time PhD faculty members specializing in Agribusiness Management for offering the degree program in this discipline.

The department has developed its own curriculum based on local and international curriculum in Agribusiness management due to unavailability of HEC approved curriculum for Agribusiness Management degree programs.

The existing curriculum in the department does not cover all the important elements of the agribusiness management. HEC needs to develop the curriculum for the degree programs in Agribusiness Management with the support from faculty members of business schools as well as agriculture universities.

The infrastructure in the department is not up to the mark as required for offering the degree programs in Agribusiness Management. The department is lacking books, research journals, faculty rooms, computers, latest equipment, good building and bathrooms, student lounge, faculty lounge, and other necessary infrastructure.

The management and administration powers of the University of Karachi are well defined like other Public sector Universities.

As per the standards set by HEC for awarding BS and MS degree programs, the department does not meet the minimum requirements in most of the criteria.

In Karachi, this is the only department that is offering degree programs in Agribusiness Management. There is a great scope of agribusiness management degrees in the market. This reports provides the detailed actionable recommendations. The department needs to address the issue of the lack of full-time qualified faculty members in Agribusiness Management. The department also needs to improve the infrastructure and meet the minimum standards of HEC.

INTRODUCTION

Department History & Main Features

Department of Agriculture was established in 2004. In 2008, the department was renamed as Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Management. Since 2008, the department has been offering BS and MS in Agribusiness Management. Currently, the department is offering these degree programs with specialization in three disciplines: Plant Pathology, Plant Protection, and Agribusiness Management. The department is offering these degree programs in collaboration with Southern Agricultural Research Centre of PARC, National Nematology Research Centre, HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry, Departments of Botany and Zoology, KIBGE, and Federal Department of Plant Protection.

Degree Programs Offered In Agribusiness Management

- B.S (4 years)
- M.S (2 years)

Mission Statement

Development of skilled manpower to meet the upcoming challenges in Agriculture & Agribusiness Management

Objectives

- To enable the students run their own individual forms and agribusiness enterprises including consulting.
- To Acquaint the students with a sound knowledge of various aspects of Agribusiness and Pest & disease Management.
- To Provide a theoretical and practical orientation to the graduate to be able to provide solutions to organizational problems.
- To participate in agricultural and agribusiness research and knowledge creation.

CRITERION WISE ANALYSIS

Criterion I: Strength and Quality of Faculty

Currently there are total 11 faculty members engaged in teaching agribusiness courses of BS and MS degree programs. Out of these 11 faculty members, 2 are permanent faculty, 2 are full-time cooperative, and 7 are visiting faculty.

Full-Time Faculty:

There are four full-time faculty members who have BS degree in Plant Protection. However, they do not have any degree in Agribusiness Management. There are no full-time faculty members having MS, MPhil or PhD degree. The full time faculty members have done some courses in Agribusiness Management. The Average teaching experience of these faculty members ranges between 5 years.

Part-Time Faculty:

There are seven part-time faculty members out of which two have PhD in Economics and Public Administration and five have Master's degree in Marketing and Statistics.

Comments:

Part-time faculty members are being paid Rs.600 per lecture which is extremely low. It is very difficult to attract good quality faculty at this rate from the market.

In the department, there no faculty members with specialization in major fields of agribusiness including supply chain management, finance, accounting, and business management.

Department cannot produce quality graduate with existing faculty members. Therefore, the department needs to get full-time PhD faculty members specializing in Agribusiness Management for offering the degree program in this discipline.

Criteria II: Curriculum Design and Development

Currently there is no HEC approved curriculum available for degree programs in Agribusiness Management. The department has developed its own curriculum based on local and international curriculum in Agribusiness management.

Comments:

The existing curriculum in the department does not cover all the important elements of the agribusiness management. HEC needs to develop the curriculum for the degree programs in

Agribusiness Management with the support from faculty members of business schools as well as agriculture universities.

Criteria III: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

In the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Management, there are 3 class rooms (1750 sq ft), 4 experimental laboratories (1250 sq ft.) and 3 research laboratories (1150 sq ft.) but not equipped with safety arrangements. The laboratory equipment consists of wooden incubation chambers, refrigerators, microscopes binocular and mono-nocular dissecting stereoscope, hot plates, refractometer, centrifuge, sieve sets, pH meter, and electronic balance.

The department has a very small agriculture farm of about half acre. However, this farm is not properly used due to water shortage. Faculty and students make some visits to the farms in other cities for practical knowledge.

Presently the departmental library contains 600 books having covered area of about 500 sq ft. However, there are only 35 books related to agribusiness management. There are no research local or international journals in the field of agribusiness management.

There is no computer lab for students in the department.

Students and faculty have access to main library (with 350,000 books), computer labs, and HEJ research institute.

There is no hostel facility in the university for boys, however, 250 seats are available for girls.

Comments:

The infrastructure in the department is not up to the mark as required for offering the degree programs in Agribusiness Management. The department is lacking books, research journals, faculty rooms, computers, latest equipment, good building and bathrooms, student lounge, faculty lounge, and other necessary infrastructure.

Criteria IV: Students Support and Progression

Comments:

There is lack of resources for the students to get financial assistance from various sources. Facilities are not available to the students of Agriculture and Agribusiness department to get financial assistance from the University of Karachi. The sports facilities are available in the University for both outdoor and indoor games. Reasonable buses are plying in the metropolitan and within the university to facilitate transportation of students. A week student-teacher interaction exists through tutorial meetings, department/faculty seminars, and workshops.

Criteria V: Research and Consultancy Activities

Currently the department is not involved in any research and consultancy activities related to agribusiness management due to lack of qualification and experience of the full-time faculty members (who have only BS in Plant Protection).

Criteria VI: Governance and Leadership

The management and administration powers of the University of Karachi are well defined like other Public sector Universities. The chairman is responsible for all administrative and management matter of the Department. Defined and documented rules and regulations are being implemented in day to day governance. Alumni record is well maintained for getting regular feedback from them. Annual Calendar of activities is prepared with the help of the faculty and staff. Course files are not well maintained.

Criteria VII: Recent Innovations and Best Practices

Some faculty members participate in workshops and seminars. The department is in evolutionary stage as it has started the degree programs in agribusiness management since 2008. The department needs to adopt the approaches and methods used in other business schools, such as linkages with corporate sector.

SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

- Availability of part-time faculty consisting of retired professors and senior scientists is a source of strength till regular appointments.
- Only department in Karachi offering degrees in Agribusiness Management
- Collaboration with HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry, SARC/PARC, KIBGE, Departments of Botany and Zoology

WEAKNESS

There are certain areas regarding faculty, equipment and manpower which need further improvements.

- Lack of full-time qualified faculty members in Agribusiness Management
- The program lacks basic and modern research facilities and proper infrastructure
- Lack of resources including books, research journals, and magazines.
- Lack of green house facility
- Lack of linkages with corporate sector
- Lack of experimental farm for field research.
- There is no hos facility for male students.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Big scope of agribusiness management degrees in the market
- Provision of ongoing projects on agribusiness sponsored by the government, corporate sector, and international organization
- Opportunity of generating financial resources through research projects and students admission
- Collaboration with institutes like HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry Provides ample opportunities to the students as well as to the faculty for bright professional future.

THREATS

- Degree program is not HEC approved currently.
- Top business schools available in Karachi
- Availability of funding from HEC and other resources

ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is an immediate need to appoint full-time PhD faculty members with specialization in Agribusiness Management.
- Plan to send young faculty members for short term and long term training abroad in agribusiness management
- Encourage faculty members to regularly participate in conferences, seminar and workshops at national and international level.
- Increase teaching rate of part-time faculty members from Rs.600 to Rs.2000 per hour.
- Faculty should get engaged in research activities
- Faculty members should be provided computers and supporting accessories such as printers, scanners.
- Department should establish study computer lab for students.
- Improve all infrastructure
- Modernization of research and teaching labs with latest equipment, machinery, and furniture.
- Acquire latest 10-15 books for each subject offered in Agribusiness Management. Subscribe to Research journals and magazines.
- Library, labs, classrooms, and faculty rooms should be improved in quality and should be air-conditioned.
- Proper and permanent agriculture farm should be established for field research.
- The Department should organize seminars and workshops on agribusiness management

ANNEXURES I: TORs

- To carryout external evaluation of B.S and M.S. degree programs in a transparent, neutral, holistic and participatory manner for accreditation and rating of degree programs based on seven evaluation criteria of NAEAC, and the benchmark of the instruction.
- To submit a synthesized and concise analytical report consisting of executive summary followed by 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, Support Staff, and the alumni as well as detail on-site visit of physical infrastructure, facilities and teaching- learning resources available for offering of the degree programs.
- To submit clear, specific and justified actionable accreditation and rating recommendations about the degree programs to the Chairman NAEAC.

ANNEXURES II: Agribusiness Faculty Profile

Faculty for Agribusiness Management (BS 3rd and 4th years & MS)

	Name	Qualification	Specialization	Teaching Experience (Years)	Associated with the Deptt. since
Permanent Faculty					
1	Mr. Talha Azeem	BS Agric.)	Plant Protection	5	2008
2	Syed Rameez Hasan Rizvi	BS(Agric.)	Plant Protection	5	2008
Full-Time Co-Operative Faculty					
3	Mr. M. Mujeeb Akram	BS Agric.)	Plant Protection; MEF	5	2008
4	Mr. Shahan Aziz	BS Agric.)	Plant Protection	5	2008
Part-Time Co-Operative Faculty					
5	Mr. Saleem Ejaz	M.Sc. (Agric), MBA	Entomology & Marketing	9	2004
Inter-Departmental / Visiting Faculty					
6	Prof. Dr. Abuzar Wajidi (Deptt. of Public Administration)	Ph.D	Public Administration	30	2006
7	Prof. Dr. M. Shafiq-ur-Rehman (Deptt. of Economics)	Ph.D	Economics	30	2006
8	Prof. Asim Jamal (Deptt. of Statistics)	M.Sc.	Statistics; Quality Assurance	30	2009
9	Dr. Abdul Rab Farooqui (Business consultant)	MBA/ MPA	Marketing	15	2009
10	Mr. Imran Furrukh (Unilever, Pakistan)	MBA	Marketing	4	2009
11	Ms Eruj Wajidi	MBA	Marketing	3	2010

ANNEXURES III: Support Staff Profile

	Name	Designation	Qualification	Experience (Years)	Associated with the Deptt. since
1	Mr. Nadem Baig	Office Assistant	M.A.	2	2011
2	Mr. Nooruddin	Lab Assistant	B.Sc.	4	2009
3	Mr. Mairajudin	Lab Assistant	M.Sc	5	2008
4	Mrs. Kehkashan	Library Technician	BLIS	2	2011
5	Mr. M. Jaseemuddin	CCT	Inter	2	2011
6	Mr. Rizwan Siddiqui	Computer Operator	B.Sc	2	2011
7	Mr. Masroor Ali	technician	Matric	4	2009
8	Syed Kamran	Lab Attendant	Inter	2	2011
9	Mr. Muhammad Shahid	Lab Attendant	Inetr	5	2008
10	Syed Sjid Ali	Lab Attendant	Matric	2	2011
11	Ms Bushra Bashir	Lab Attendant	B.A	5	2008
12	Mr. Muhammad Afzal	Lab Attendant	Matric	3	2010

13	Mr. Asif Aziz	Lab Attendant	Middle	2	2011
14	Mr. Muhammad Sheeraz	Messenger	Matric	7	2006
15	Mr. Hashmat Maseh	Sweeper	Middle	1	2012

ANNEXURES IV: Inventory of Apparatus/Equipment

Equipment	Number	Functional
Incubator	1	1
Cool Incubator	1	1
Shaking Incubator	1	1
Side Arm Shaker	1	1
Luminar Air Flow Chamber	1	1
Inoculation Chamber	4	4
Refrigerator	2	2
Microscopes (monocular)	30	30
Microscopes(binocular	20	20
Research Microscope with drawing Tube	2	1
Disecting/Stereo Microscopes	5	5
Hot plate/Magnetic Stirrer	2	2
Electric Balance	3	3
pH meter	3	3
EC meter	2	2
Refractometer	1	1
Soil thermometers	4	4
Solar dehydrator	1	1
Centrifuge	1	1
Sieve sets	2	2