



National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council

MINUTES OF THE EIGHT MEETING OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURE EDUCATION ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

24 JUNE, 2013

The 8th Meeting of the National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) was held on **June 24, 2013 at 10:30 A.M. in the Mural Hall of Higher Education Commission (HEC), H-9, Islamabad**. The meeting was chaired by Dr. M. E. Tusneem, Chairman, National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) and attended by 15 including two proxies of the 19 sitting Council Members representing agricultural education institutions, research institutes, ministries of agriculture, agro-industry, etc (Annex-I). There were apologies from Members who were unable to attend.

2. After recitation from the Holy Quran, the Chair welcomed the Members to the 8th Meeting of the NAEAC (Council) and appreciated their guidance and advice during the course of the year. He also acknowledged the role and contribution of Prof. Dr. Riaz Hussain Qureshi for his guidance and in facilitating operations of the Council within HEC. The Chair also expressed his appreciations to the NAEAC Secretariat Staff for their hard-work and diligence in accomplishing accreditation target of 65 degree programs during FY 2012-13 bringing the aggregate number of all accredited agriculture degree programs to 170 thereby achieving the 5-years target set by HEC in 2007-08 by the end of 2012-13.

3. After the introductory remarks, the Chair gave an overview of the NAEAC achievements as of FY 2012-13. He informed the members that accreditation of degree programs increased exponentially over the past 5 years and the Council's achievements had been impressive during the last five years in all major activities including accreditation, awareness seminars, annual Council meetings, annual report, audit report and institutional database management. Dr. R. H. Qureshi commended the impressive achievements of the Council and suggested that Council may now initiate asking for interim reports on the recommendations made by the AICs regarding the quality of degree programs. Chair and Deputy Chair supported the idea and assured the Council that it will be done.

4. Council members congratulated the Chair for his dynamic leadership and commended the Secretariat staff for its dedication and hard work in achieving the excellent results despite limited

staff and budgetary resources. The Members also assured full cooperation of their institution. They admired Secretary, NAEAC's persistent follow-up to keep every-one alert.

5. After these introductory remarks, the Secretary-NAEAC presented item-wise agenda of the meeting for consideration of the Council members. A summary of the decisions taken in the meeting is given below.

Item #1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of NAEAC

6. The minutes of the Seventh meeting of NAEAC were presented for approval. The Council members were informed that the draft minutes were circulated for the comments and views of the Council Members. These were finalized and approved by the competent authority and circulated to all Council members for information and record.

The minutes of the seventh meeting of the Council held on 27 November, 2012 were formally approved by the Council Members.

Item# II: Progress Review of Accreditation Activities for 2012-13

7. External evaluation and accreditation of the degree programs is a major activity of the Council. It envisaged a target of 37 disciplines with 60 degree programs to be accredited during 2012-13 which was successfully accomplished. In the event, 65 degree programs, 40 percent higher than the preceding year were accredited.

Decision: *The Council Members appreciated the dedicated efforts and hard-work of the Secretariat in the accomplishment of ambitious target set for 2012-13.*

Item# III: Status of Accreditation Fees

8. Payment of accreditation fee for the evaluation and accreditation of degree programs is obligatory. The accreditation fee structure of the Council is modest and ranges from Rs.50,000/- to Rs.100,000/- for more than ten disciplines in the faculty. The Council members were intimated that during 2012-13, the receipts of accreditation fee reached to about Rs.1.00 million as compared to 0.40million last year. It was a major achievement. Needless to say the receipts at the level of Rs.1.00million were managed with consistent follow-up and support of the heads of agri. education institutions.

Decision: *The Council Members acknowledged it as a major achievement given the funding constraint of the HEC during 2012-13 and appreciated the efforts and hard-work of the Secretariat.*

Item# IV: Proposed Work Plan for FY 2013-14

9. The Council meeting was apprised of the proposed work plan for FY 2012-13 which has a focus on accreditation of degree programs in Balochistan, re-evaluation of degree programs accredited during 2008-09 and the accredited programs ranked in “Y” (major weaknesses) category. It also included newly initiated programs at UAF, Haripur and UMT, Lahore. Three awareness seminars will be organized besides the preparation of quarterly and annual reports, audit reports, etc. Institutional database will be updated. NAEAC website i.e. www.naeac.org will be upgraded and improved. The Council Members asked that discipline wise panel of experts /program evaluators may also be placed on the website for information of all concerned.

Decision: *Proposed Annual Work Plan of NAEAC was discussed and approved by the Council members and subject to the suggestions made during the meeting.*

Item# V: Budget Allocation and Utilization for FY 2011-12 and Proposed Budget for FY 2012-13

10. In view of the need to fast track the accreditation process and inadequate funding in the past, the HEC decided to increase the annual grant of the Councils from Rs.2.00million to Rs. 4.00million with effect from FY 2012-13, albeit on need basis.

Members of the Council discussed the budget and asked for more details to be included in the tables on sources of the income e.g. Accreditation Fee and the Annual Grant from HEC and budgeted amount. The Secretary explained the details and assured the meeting to revise the budget to reflect their suggestions. He further informed that HEC grant is non-lapsable and can be carried forward to next fiscal year. The reallocation from one category to another is need-based and within competence of Chairman, NAEAC. The house was assured that the available funds are used with utmost financial prudence. As a result, the ratio of 40:60 between the establishment and operational budget is much better than the norm of 60:40. The Council Members suggested that clarification regarding unusual allocation be included in the text or footnotes. The Council was informed that NAEAC receives one-line budget from HEC and has internal arrangement to allocate head-wise and re-appropriate as necessary with the approval of Chairman, NAEAC. The NAEAC financial statements are regularly audited by the Commercial Auditors each year and Audit Report submitted to HEC.

Decision: The Council approved the budget utilization of the Council for the year 2012-13 and budget estimates for FY 2013-14 subject to the following suggestions.

- i. ***Clarity in the head-wise tables.***
- ii. ***Sources of income from HEC and others***
- iii. **Unusual budgetary provisions for a particular item may be clarified in the foot notes**

Any other item: Internship Issue

11. Director General Research Punjab noted that Agri. Research is one of the major employer of Agri. graduates in the province. During the last few years, it has recruited about 400 Agri. Graduates. It was observed that in general, the graduates lack due competence and even knowledge of the subject. Majority lacks confidence and practical skills of operating lab. equipment. They are generally reluctant to work in the field; Lack of adequate oral and written communication skills among agri. graduates was also mentioned by some members. They emphasized the need to enhance collaboration between the agri. research system and agri. universities through MOUs for joint ventures and to strengthen the internship program to make it more meaningful and useful. Dr. Shahana Urooj, proposed to organize a conference on the issue of collaboration between Agri. Research and the academia and on the effectiveness of current internship program of agri. graduates. Representative from the Agro. Industry agreed and expressed concern on non-serious attitude of internees to acquire knowledge and skills while on job. They suggested that students may be given orientation, field assignments, on-the job training during their study including orientation on agro. Industry.

12. Chairman, NAEAC noted that based on feedback from stakeholders and even universities, the internship has not proven very effective due to non-serious attitude of students. Dr. R. H. Qureshi observed that internship is an important learning process where students are provided practical base. There is however, a need to revisit this program in the light of feedback from stakeholders such as employers, alumni, peers and parents to make it more effective and useful.

13. The meeting adjourned with a vote of thanks to the chair.

List of Participants of Seventh Council Meeting held on November 27, 2012

1. **Dr. M.E. Tusneem**, Chairman - NAEAC
2. **Prof. Dr. Shahana Urooj**, Pro-Vice chancellor, University of Karachi, Karachi.
3. **Prof. Dr. Riaz Hussain Qureshi**, Advisor (HRD), Higher Education Commission, Islamabad
4. **Prof. Dr. Ehsanullah**, Chairman Dept. of Agronomy, University of Agri., Faisalabad.
(Rep. of Dean, UAF)
5. **Prof. Dr. Safdar Ali**, Dean Faculty of Food & Crop Sciences, PMAS AAU Rawalpindi.
6. **Prof. Dr. Mian Inayatullah**, Dean Faculty of Crop Protection, KPK Agri. Uni., Peshawar.
7. **Prof. Dr. Ghulam Jilani**, Profesoor Lasbella University of Agriculture, Water & Marine Sciences,
Lasbella, Uthal
8. **Dr. Noor-ul-Islam**, Director General, Ayub Agriculture Research Institute, Faisalabad
9. **Mr. Imtiaz Ali Gopang**, Deputy Food Security Commissioner-II, MINFAL
(Rep. of Wheat Commissioner, MINFAL)
10. **Mr. Ahmed Ali Zafar**, Additional Secretary Planning, Govt. of Punjab, Lahore
11. **Dr. Abdul Samad**, Director General, ARI, Tarnab, Peshawar
12. **Mr. Iskandar Mehmood Khan**, Director Premier Sugar Mills, Islamabad
13. **Mr. Waseem Amjad Mahmood**, Secretary Pakistan Fruit Processors Association, Lahore
14. **Dr. Nihal ud din Marri**, Sugarcane Specialist, Directorate Gen. of Agri. Research Sindh, Tandojam
15. **Dr. Tariq Bahshir**, Deputy Chief, Pakistan Council for Science & Technology, Islamabad.
16. **Mr. Naseer Alam Khan**, Secretary - NAEAC, Islamabad