Report of the Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC)

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Subject: Accreditation Inspection Committee’s (AIC) Report
Dept. of Entomology and Plant Pathology Faculty of Agriculture, Rawalakot, University of AJK, Muzzuffarabad.

Sir:

Reference your letter No. 641/NAEAC/HEC-2011 dated Dec 13, 2011, on the above subject the committee visited the Faculty of Agriculture, Rawalakot and conducted the accreditation through review meetings, interviews, individual meetings and group consultations and visits, etc. as per schedule given to us.

The report prepared by the committee is hereby submitted for yours kind perusal and further necessary action. We are thankful to you for providing an opportunity for the above important assignment.

Sd/-

Dr. Ghulam Jilani
Chief Scientist Officer (Rtd.)
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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The assessment Team is grateful to the Worthy Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Chairman and staff members of Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology Faculty of Agriculture, Rawalakot, for providing cooperation and facilitation.

We are also thankful to the NAEAC for their assistance guidelines and logistic support during the assessment process. The support provided by Mr. Naseer Alam Khan (Secretary), and Malik Muhammad Kashif Anwar (IT Coordinator), NAEAC Secretariat is highly acknowledged.

Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC)

NAEAC
NAEAC Inspection Team

The Chairman NAEAC nominated an Accreditation Inspection Committee (AIC) for the evaluation of Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture, Rawalakot, University of AJK for accreditation. The committee comprises of the following members who undertook a visit to the said institute on December 22-23, 2011.

1. **Dr. Ghulam Jilani** (Convener)
   Chief Scientific Officer (Rtd.),
   NARC, Islamabad

2. **Prof. Dr. Farmanullah** (Member)
   Chairman,
   Department of Plant Protection
   KPK Agricultural University
   Peshawar

The Accreditation Inspection Committee shall have the following TORs:

- To validate the self-assessment report (SAR) of the degree programs (B.Sc and M.Sc (Hons)) prepared by the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology
- To carryout external evaluation of the degree programs in a transparent, neutral, holistic and participatory manner for accreditation and rating based on seven (7) evaluation criteria given in the Evaluation Manual.
- To submit a synthesized and concise analytical report (4-5 pages only) consisting of SWOT Analysis and actionable recommendations based on the interactions with the Dean, Chairman, Faculty Members, Students and Support Staff and alumni as well as detail visit of physical infrastructure, facilities and other teaching-learning resources available for the degree programs.
- To submit clear, specific and justified degree programs accreditation and rating recommendations to the Chairman-NAEAC.
1. INTRODUCTION

DEPT OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY, FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, RAWALAKOT.

- DEPARTMENT HISTORY & MAIN FEATURES

The Accreditation Committee was given a detailed briefing by Chairman of the Department regarding its history, mandate/vision, mission statement, Program goals and objectives, faculty, students, research projects and future plans. He also mentioned major achievements of the Department and its role in the national economy.

Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology was established in 1980 at Rawalakot under University of AJK in 1981. The Department is presently offering three degree programs viz; B.Sc. (Hons.), M. Sc (Hons.) and PhD in Entomology and Plant Pathology. The department is engaged in producing highly skilled and technically sound man power to tackle the problems relating to insect pests and diseases both in field and horticultural crops and transferring technologies to various stakeholders.

- DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED

  - B.Sc. (Hons.) (Four years)
  - M.Sc. (Hons.) (Two years)
  - PhD. (3-5 years)

2. CRITERION WISE ANALYSIS

Criteria I: Strength and Quality of Faculty

The Faculty members at the Deptt. of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture Rawalakot University of AJK are competent having current knowledge and skills in their field of specialization. Presently they are 8 in number comprising of 3 Professors, 1 Associate Professor, 1 Assistance Professor and 3 Lecturers. One Faculty has availed PDF (Post-Doctoral Fellowship), four have PhD degrees and two faculty members are in the process of completing their PhDs. The range of the experience of the faculty is from 2-20 years. This makes enough expertise to meet the needs of an independent Dept to fit into the HEC requirements. Dept has produced 7 M.Sc. (Hons.) and 199 B.Sc. (Hons.).

Teachers of the department also teach General Entomology courses to B.Sc. (Hons) Part. I and Part II. Existing teaching load is as per HEC requirement = 1:16, However, if there is consideration in research teaches are overloaded. Teaching load for Entomology and Plant Pathology major B.Sc. (Hons.) is 1:4 and for M.Sc.(Hons.) is 1:3.

Most of the faculty members are satisfied with their jobs and agreed that salary package is fair and reasonable but still they are looking for relatively better financial package. Students are generally satisfied with lectures and practicals. Seminars by eminent scientists are occasionally held in the department. The entire faculty has membership of various national and international professional societies.
Criteria II: Curriculum Design and Development

The Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture, Rawalakot, University of AJK is undertaking teaching and research for 4 years B.Sc. (Hons.), 2 years M.Sc. (Hons.) and 3-5 years Ph.D. degree programs. The curricula has gone under major revision during the last five years through brainstorming by University Professors, Research and Extension Scientists and Business community related to agriculture. The revised curricula approved by HEC have been in vogue since July, 2011. Therefore the current curricula are in line with national and international market demands. This has been implemented through department board of studies, faculty board of studies, academic council and university syndicate.

Majority of the students are satisfied with the academic programs and contents of the curricula. The parents get information regarding education of the students and jobs opportunities offered. They are satisfied. As a result students are well equipped with current knowledge and skills. Alumni of the department are also involved in serving in various fields at national and international levels. Graduate have brought good name to the programs by rendering commendable services in enhancing agricultural economy of the country.

Criteria III: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

There are two specific research labs. One for postgraduate and one undergraduate teaching laboratory. Postgraduate lab can hardly accommodate 3 students. Laboratories are not equipped with safety arrangements, having Equipments such as Stereomicroscope, Microtome, Growth chambers, Binocular microscope, Analytical balance, Photographic microscope with digital cameras, Refrigerator, Incubators, Pesticides Application equipment, Steel cabinets for housing insect collection boxes /showcases, Photocopier, Computer, Insect relaxing jars, Insect collection tools, Insect charts, Insect slides, Student microscopes, Insect models and small dissecting microscope. There is no greenhouse facility in the Department. The total experimental area of the University Research Farm is 400 Kanals. As per requirement on seasonal basis, the space is allotted to various departments for their research work.

There is no departmental library. However, thesis and dissertation of its qualified students are present. The central library is having good number of text books. Faculty and students use the central library of the Faculty. The departmental library needs to be established and strengthened. In addition to this journals, relating to various disciplines in agriculture including entomology and allied subjects are also present. However, the central library needs further improvement and fresh arrivals of journals and books.

The library is linked with digital library developed by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, where, over 15000 full text journals and 25000 abstracted journals are available free of cost but this faculty exists in the main campus at Muzzuffarabad. The library also has good electronic equipment including internet, multimedia, and other facilities. The Faculty does not have any mega computer labs, internet facility for all the students all the time. Some computers along with the internet facility are available for the students in the main library. There is only one multimedia in the department. Most of faculty members are having separate offices with telephone facilities as per statutory provision.

Criteria IV: Students Support and Progression

Students get financial assistance from various sources. There are university merits and need based scholarships, Interest free loans from bank, and some private companies. Facilities are available in the University for both outdoor and indoor games. A number of commuter buses are plying in town to facilitate transportation of students.
A strong student-teacher interaction exists through tutorial meetings, department/faculty seminars, and workshops. Medical facilities for students are appropriate. Residential facilities in the university hostels are not sufficient. Student’s perception about the degree is positive because of employment opportunities both in public and private sectors.

Criteria V:  **Research and Consultancy Activities**

Amount of research grant received from University or HEC during last three years are insufficient. However, the Professors have completed a couple of research projects from HEC, PARC and PSF. Currently they are working in collaboration with NARC. There is no allocated departmental budget to meet the day to day requirements of the department. The budget is controlled by the Dean of the faculty of Agriculture.

Criteria VI:  **Governance and Leadership**

The Governance and administration of the University is 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.

They maintain the necessary records of Alumni and gets feedback from them. The Dept. graduates are performing well in public service commission and private sector in and abroad. Annual Calendar of activities is prepared with the help of the faculty and staff. Course files are well maintained and university issues a regular Campus Newsletter.

Criteria VII:  **Recent Innovations and Best Practices**

The faculty of Entomology and Plant Pathology have very strong base in insect biosystematics. They have identified 70 species of grasshoppers, out of which 7 species and 1 genus are new to science. Their work on biodiversity of butterflies is appreciable. They have compiled butterfly fauna of AJK in collaboration with NARC, Islamabad. Their work on cut flower gladulus is commendable. They have earned Rs 40 million for the sale proceeds of this flower. Beside this it is emerging as a good business for farmers.
3. SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE DEPT DEGREE PROGRAMS

(A brief SWOT of the Dept. of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture, Rawalakot, University of AJK is presented herewith)

STRENGTHS

- Foreign and competent qualified faculty with PhDs in different fields of entomology (Insect taxonomy, Physiology, and IPM) are present.
- Laboratory facilities (one teaching/one research laboratories) are present.
- Availability of land for on-farm research.
- Insect museum having fairly high number of insect and mite specimens has been established in the department.
- Very strong program on cultivation of gladulus cut flower has been established
- Course files are well maintained by every teacher

WEAKNESS

There are certain areas regarding the infrastructure, equipment and manpower which needs further improvements.

- There is no departmental library.
- There is no departmental computer laboratory.
- Inadequate support staff, such as Technician, networking engineering etc.
- Lack of greenhouse facility.
- Lack of classrooms.
- Lack of lab. Equipments i.e., HPLC, centrifuges, electrophoresis, PCR, spectrophotometer, relevant software, books, national and international journals in different areas of entomology.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Graduates of this department compete well for government and private jobs.
- Some of the students have availed national and international competitive grants for higher studies.

THREATS

- Lack of coordination with other universities and institutions for course work and research.
- Intake of students is comparatively low.
4. ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is an immediate need to build a departmental library and computer laboratory.
- The department needs equipments like camera-fixed stereomicroscope, high magnification stereomicroscope, drying cabinets, ovens, cool incubators, desiccators, electrophoresis and high speed centrifuge.
- Additional space is required for classrooms and post-graduate laboratories.
- Additional budget is required for purchase of chemicals and glassware for laboratory work.
- Faculty members need to be trained in digital teaching methods.
- A green house is required for research at post-graduate level.
- The faculty needs training in modern molecular and biotechnological areas.
- The capacity of young faculty members may be enhanced through short term and long term training abroad.
- The present computer lab. facilities need to be strengthened.
- Linkages with national and international universities should be further strengthened.
- Post-graduate research should be expanded beyond Insect Taxonomy and IPM. Research on botanical pesticides and fruits pests and flowers are perspective areas.

Signature: ___________________Sd/-____________________

Name: Ghulam Jilani

Designation: Ex-Sr. Director, PARC/CSO, NARC.

Department: IPEP, NARC, Islamabad.
# Evaluation Criteria for Agricultural Degree Programs

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<td><strong>Sub-Total (b):</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Grand Total (a+b):</strong></td>
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Sd/-

Dr. Ghulam Jilani

Name and Designation

Signature of Program Evaluator
Final Recommendation

On the basis of the inspection/evaluation, the team recommends accreditation/rating of the degree programs of Department of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Rawalakot, University of AJK, Muzaffarabad, Pakistan in the Lower band (68%) of “X” category of National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council/HEC.

1. Dr. Ghulam Jilani (Convener) __________________________
   Chief Scientific Officer (Rtd.),
   NARC, Islamabad

2. Prof. Dr. Farmanullah __________________________
   Chairman,
   Department of Plant Protection
   KPK Agricultural University
   Peshawar

I agree with the observations and recommendations made by the peer team in this report.

Chairman Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology.