



National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council



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## Review Meeting Report

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**Departments of Agronomy, PBG, Horticulture, Soil Science, Entomology**  
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## **REVIEW REPORT ON AGRICULTURE DEGREE PROGRAMS OF GHAZI UNIVERSITY, D.G. KHAN**

The following Review Committee conducted a review meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 regarding accreditation of Agronomy, Entomology, Horticulture, PBG and Soil Science degree programs of the Faculty of Agriculture offered at Ghazi University, Dera Ghazi Khan.

1. **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Afzal, Baba Guru Nanak University (BGNU), Nankana Sahib**
2. **Prof. Dr. Ishtaiq Ahmad Rajwana, Chairperson, NAEAC/Pro-Vice Chancellor MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan**

During the meeting, the Chairpersons of the above mentioned Departments briefed the Committee about the action taken on the recommendations made by respective AICs in their previous meetings/visits. The progress made/actions taken by the University in this regard is given below department-wise. The Committee also visited faculty offices, lecture rooms, laboratories, library and other facilities, and necessary documents to verify the improvements/progress made in light of Actionable Recommendations given by the respective AICs. The Committee also had an interaction with faculty members of these disciplines to get their feedback. However, the committee could not seek feedback from students due to closure of university because of Covid-19.

### **DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY**

Sr.#	Actionable Recommendations of AIC	Actions taken by the University
1	Absence of senior faculty of Professor.	Six Associate Professors have been appointed. The Selection Board for the selection of two Assistant Professors is expected to be held very soon
2	Inadequate laboratory equipment to meet the research needs of postgraduate students.	The research Lab has been upgraded due to the purchase of lab equipment under four SRGP projects and one NRPUs projects. One High -Tech is being established under the development projects (three projects) funded by HEC and Govt. of Punjab of worth more than 232 Million. University has also reserved funds for the purchase of Lab equipment.

3	Funds for the purchase of Books are insufficient and no subscription to journals.	University Library has more than 340 books and Journals related to Agronomy. More than 20 Million worth books will be purchased under the above said development projects. University has also reserved funds from its own sources for the purchase of books.
4	Poor mechanization and irrigation water scarcity at research farm	Five cusec canal water is allocated for University. University is going to install electric water pumps to uplift irrigation water from DG Canal. A separate electric feeder is being installed under HEC funded project. A sweet water pump has also been installed to supply irrigation water to the field experiments. Due to the HEC funded projects all facilities will be available within one year
5	Lack of state-of-the-art controlled-environment facility and a well-furnished computer lab.	Office of the Project Director has already Purchased new computers and its accessories. Presently high speed internet facility is also available through HEC Smart Campus project In near Future modern computer lab will also be constructed by the Office of the Project Director for each department of the university.
6	Centralization of financial and administrative powers.	Worthy Vice Chancellor has now decentralized the funds. Now each Department has been allocated funds to meet the necessary requirements. Impressed money has been issued to meet day to day departmental needs

### **DEPARTMENT OF PLANT BREEDING & GENETICS**

<b>Sr #</b>	<b>Actionable Recommendations of AIC</b>	<b>Actions taken by the University</b>
1	Induction of more faculty members' particularly senior faculty professor and Associate Professor on urgent basis for proper research guidance and imparting quality education.	One Professor and two associate Professors are appointed on regular basis and selection procedure of two assistant Professors and one lecture will be completed soon by the Deptt.

2	Provision of classroom facilities to the students according to given standard of HEC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 rooms and 1 post-graduate lab is available. Smart classroom are under process.</li> <li>• During COVID-19 pandemic, effective online classes and evaluation of students through MS Team and LMS</li> <li>• Webinars, conferences, seminars (face to face and online system)</li> </ul>
3	The infrastructure at undergraduate laboratory needs improvements.	Done
4	Establishment of molecular lab equipped with latest equipments for the dissemination of latest practical knowledge to the students.	Under progress.
5	Reasonable research funds should be allocated for post graduate research.	200,000 PKR are allocated for research at departmental level.
6	The research budget should be at the disposal of the chairman of the Department.	The Chairman has been empowered to initiate research by providing impressed money
7	Qualified lab and field staff according to the requirement of the department.	Field staff and lab Assistant have been provided and further recruitment is in process
8	Computer facilities for students within the department should be provided for easily approaching online journals, books and research paper etc.	Central computer lab is available for students and smart class rooms are under process
9	Provision of teaching aid resources like multimedia in appropriate numbers.	Multimedia facility have been available in the department
10	Establishment of departmental library and provision of latest reference and text books in sufficient numbers.	200 more books have been added in library as well as digital library access is available in the university. Students use digital library.
11	Independent office for faculty member should be made available.	Done.
12	The students sport and co-curricular activities/ facilities need further strengthening.	The sports and co-curricular activities have been ensured, however due to pandemic, there is ban on such activities. However student's out of class room lecturing, trainings are regular features by national and International webinars and conferences.
13	Construction of modern glass house with latest operational facilities for conducting controlled environment experiments.	We have three Projects for research equipments and modern green house that construction is under process.
14	Well managed and mechanized Agri. Farm with permanent irrigational water resources	Agri. machinery is available for mechanized Agri .farms at Agricultural Farms, Three irrigation sources have been ensured and we are going for solar tube wells soon

## DEPARTMENT OF SOIL SCIENCE

Sr #	Actionable Recommendations of AIC	Actions taken by the University
1	Strengthening of faculty through induction and regularization	Three associate professors are appointed on regular basis. Two has already joined and one is in process of joining. Selection process of two lectures and three Assistant professor for the department will be completed soon by university administration
2	Provision of ample IT facilities	HEC has also provided facility of high-speed internet (PERN) in the form of Smart university campus and whole faculty and students have access to this internet facility. Development of smart classroom for the department is in progress. Online systems of LMS and MS team are effectively functional.
3	Foolproof security	Presently city campus has fool proof security under the scheme of HEC safe campus project and Boundary wall of the new campus is also completed to secure the campus. Hiring of new security personnel is in progress (advertised)
4	Statues/rules and regulations related to admission and conduct should be available on website of the campus	Approved Statues/rules and regulations are available at University Website
5	Field visits should be made a part of practical	Physical visits are mandatory for Practical classes
6	Provision of scholarship facilities	Information regarding scholarships funded by various agencies is made available on departmental notice board as well as on university website from time to time

## DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE

Sr #	Actionable Recommendations of AIC	Actions taken by the University
1	Induction of senior level (professor and associate professor) faculty	Two Associate professors were selected but one Associate professor has joined the department.
2	Existing curriculum of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture - Horticulture must be revised and updated	Revised and updated
3	Establishment of Lab. Facility for postgraduate students	Undergrad. and postgraduate labs are available at new campus.
4	Provision of IT/computing facilities and access to HEC digital library to the teachers and students must be ensured	Central computer lab is available for student and HEC already provided good facility of Internet for faculty as well as students
5	At least three class rooms, one for general classes of semesters I to IV and the other two class rooms for major class of semester V to VIII, and separate offices to the faculty members equipped with computing and internet facilities should be provided. Further, at least one more fully-equipped and functional lab should be established.	Two class rooms and two functional labs are available for students at new campus. Most of faculty members have their own office with good quality internet.
6	Study tours/field visits should be made a part of students' practical work	Regular visit of classes is made to the progressive farmer's field.
7	An experimental vegetable farm and experimental orchards should be established for experiments and students' practical work	The department has date palm, ber and pomegranate orchard and going to establish the vegetable, citrus, olive and fig orchards in this year.
8	A nursery for ornamentals and fruit plants having greenhouse, lath house and other propagation structures be established for	The department is going to start fruit as well as ornamental plant nursery at the end of this year. We are waiting for best season. One project on model nursery of citrus plants also submitted to HEC (under NRPU-2021).

	students' practical and faculty research purposes	
9	Faculty members should be motivated to write and submit viable research projects of problem-oriented nature to develop and strengthen existing lab facilities.	Faculty members already motivated and first-time project submitted to HEC under NRPU-2021.
10	Contribution by faculty in writing of research papers is low, it needs improvement.	All the faculty members are contributing in publication. They have already produced 07 publication till June, 2021 and 4 more research papers are accepted for publications.
11	Participation in seminars and conferences may be encouraged.	The faculty members actively participating in national and international webinars organized by the Ghazi University. The department of Horticulture is also going to organize ✓ One day training on vegetable grafting (Dated June 25, 2021) ✓ 1 <sup>st</sup> International webinar on Post-harvest of Horticultural crops (August 05, 2021) National conference on Horticultural crops (October 15, 2021).
12	Faculty development / training program should be initiated for new faculty members.	Faculty members will be allowed and motivated for trainings related to Horticulture.
13	There is need to create more opportunities of scholarships and financial support to the students.	The University is already providing scholarships to needy and brilliant students.

### **DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY**

<b>Sr #</b>	<b>Actionable Recommendations of AIC</b>	<b>Actions taken by the University</b>
1	Senior Faculty Members should be appointed as soon as possible.	One Professor and Three Associate Professors have joined the Department.
2	Terms of service of the faculty on contract, IFPF and adhoc basis need to	The recruitment of regular faculty is in progress.

	be revisited and regular appointments should be considered.	
3	Entomology should be declared as an independent department instead of keeping part of the Department of Plant Protection.	We have two separate disciplines: Agri. Entomology and Plant Pathology under the umbrella of Department of Plant Protection and each discipline is offering its own degree programs as approved by HEC for Agri. Entomology and Plant Pathology
4	Faculty training program needs to be established in the department, faculty or the university. Otherwise, newly appointed faculty should be sent to HEC for training	Faculty training programs are continued in the Ghazi University for capacity building of faculty members and with the collaboration of HEC and HED.
5	More books and journals should be purchased/ subscribed to the library on urgent basis.	More books related to Entomology are added in the Library including supporting books.
6	Access to HEC digital library should be provided to the faculty and students.	HEC digital library is now in the access to the faculty members and students. Also, free internet facility is available for faculty and students in the form of PERN
7	More lecture rooms and laboratories should be provided to the department.	Two independent lecture rooms and Two labs (one undergraduate and one postgraduate) are available at the department.
8	Laboratories should be equipped with more and latest equipment	Request for the purchasing more Lab equipment required for practical and research work has been sent to Project Director.
9	Irrigation facilities should be developed on priority basis on the farm and in the campus	A running turbine is available on the farm for irrigation water supply. Canal water is also available now in experimental area for irrigation



## **Recommendations/Comments of Review Committee:**

The Faculty of Agriculture was established at the New Campus of the Ghazi University. As the campus did not have any boundary wall, therefore due to security concerns, it was shifted to the City Campus. This problem of space at City Campus is temporary and shall be solved when the Faculty of Agriculture is shifted to buildings at the New Campus. Committee was informed that boundary wall of the City Campus is near to completion and expected to be completed well before the start of Fall-Semester 2021-22. The Vice Chancellor assured in exit meeting that Faculty of Agriculture will be shifted as soon as possible after clearance from District Govt.

The Review Committee at New Campus observed that the buildings [Admin block and Academic block, Faculty offices, Class rooms, Labs and Boys hostel], Lab equipment and some other facilities are available. Committee noticed a significant improvement towards development of infrastructure *i.e.* extension of Admin block, New Academic block, New Boys hostel, Girls hostel, Student's cafeteria, Bachelor Faculty hostel were under construction and shall be completed before next re-accreditation visit. Significant improvement in "Agricultural Research Farm" was observed. The committee was also informed that a tube-well, two turbines have been installed at the Agri. Farm for continuous supply of irrigation water. In addition, and Five Cusec irrigation water from DG Canal is approved and be uplifted shortly. Further, Agri. Farm at the New Campus has been extended by adding more area under cultivation. Farm Management is planning to develop Digital Agriculture by purchasing new machinery, Auto-irrigation and e-monitoring system. Establishment of orchards of major tropical and Sub-tropical fruits is under discussion.

The teachers were satisfied as new induction/selection or promotion was made by the University authorities during the current year. Previously, there was no Professor or Associate Professor in the Faculty of Agriculture or even whole the University, which was being run by Assistant Professors and Lecturers. Now, Assistant Professors are promoted to the higher rank *i.e.* Associate Professor. Now with new induction/selection, the number of senior faculty has risen to sixteen Associate Professor and Two Professors. Funding which is necessary as an incentive for faculty to conduct the research and publish their findings in well reputed local or international journals is approved. This could be a reason that number of publications has increased significantly. The faculty members are also now satisfied by the opportunities and funding available for attending national or international webinars, conferences, seminars, symposia,

workshops, trainings etc. In order to ensure quality of teaching and research, The GU has attained “Pakistan Education & Research Network (PERN)” project and provided open access of Digital library, Turnitin software for plagiarism check/similarity index to students and faculty supervisor/teachers. The library at City Campus was in a good condition with computerized record of books and periodicals. No journal was subscribed in the library for research students.

During the visit, the classes were being taught online regularly through MS-Team wherein all faculty members and students have been registered and it was briefed to committee by Chairpersons that classes are monitored through online check. The classes are taken to the Agri. Farm/ New Campus and farmer ’s field for practical work of all the subjects offered during the semester. In addition, departmental labs available at City campus related to biological sciences are also supportive for lab work. There was no greenhouse, glasshouse or lath house of any department at the City and New Campus. It was told that students are satisfied by the transport and sports facilities, co-curricular activities, scholarships and their counselling and career development.

### **Conclusion**

It is evident from the Actions Taken that a significant commendable progress has been made to address the Actionable Recommendations and almost all deficiencies have been fulfilled. Therefore, rating of all the Degree Programs is upgraded to category “X” ignoring minor deficiencies. The AICs in the respective disciplines will re-visit the Departments next year (after about one year ’s time) for re-accreditations of the degree programs being offered.