

Proceedings of XXV Meeting of the National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board held on 9 Dec 2019 at NASC Complex, New Delhi

The Board Meeting started with the formal welcome of Chairman and Members of the Board by Dr. R. C. Agrawal, DDG (Agricultural Education) and Vice Chairman of the Board. DDG briefed the Board about agenda note and expressed that the items listed are more relevant to take the Board forward while addressing the core subject of quality of higher agricultural education in the country with emphasis on better accountability to the stakeholders. In his remarks, Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE), Director General (ICAR) and Chairman of the Board heartily welcomed the Members. In his remarks, Chairman expressed satisfaction for the contributions made by former DDG (Agricultural Education), Dr. N. S. Rathore, specifically for his contribution in preparation of new Guidelines for accreditation. Director General further welcomed new DDG (Agricultural Education) Dr. R. C. Agrawal in the Board and desired that the Board will take many more new initiatives under his guidance. Later on Members also expressed their views and desired to address the quality of higher agricultural education in colleges in holistic manner. Chairman of the Board thereafter invited the agenda notes for discussion.

1. Confirmation of the Proceedings of the XXIV NAEAB Meeting held on 29/07/2019

Since there were no comments received from Members, the Proceedings were approved.

2. Observations of the Board on Action Taken Report on Proceedings of the XXIV Board Meeting:

- 2.1 With respect to Public Notice issued by Government of Punjab, it was informed to the Board that the criteria adopted by Punjab State Council for Agricultural Education for recognition of colleges/institutions/departments to run the agriculture education programmes are similar to the “Minimum Requirements for establishment of new College in Agriculture and Allied Disciplines” of ICAR with few minor modifications. It has been decided to wait till the decision of the Punjab State Council for Agricultural Education in respect of School of Agriculture, LPU and Gurukashi University, Bhatinda.
- 2.2 In order to infuse transparency and efficiency in the accreditation process, it has been decided to implement the online mode process for invitation of LoI / IEA / Statement of Compliance and its preliminary examination by April 2020.
- 2.3 The eligibility criteria for admission through AIEEA was a decision taken during the VC conference last year, the issue may be considered as an agenda item for the forthcoming VC conference.

- 2.4 A Workshop for prospective PRT Chairman and members should be organized during February, 2020.
- 2.5 The file regarding establishment of Higher Agricultural Education Council should be put up to the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister with fresh observations.
- 2.6 With respect to Mid-term Review and surprise visit to already accredited universities & colleges, the Board further decided that the accredited universities / colleges should submit ATR on the suggestions/recommendations made in PRT reports/Board directives. Subsequently visit of a small team may be arranged to the accredited universities / colleges to verify the ATRs.
- 2.7 In the next VCs Conference, it has been decided to take feedback from Vice Chancellors on agricultural education in the New Education Policy from MHRD and exploring possibilities of enhancing students' intake.

3. Accreditation to Agricultural Universities/Colleges

3.1 College of Agriculture, constituent college of Eternal University, Sirmour, H.P.

Based on the information contained in LoI, IEA, SSR and its on-spot verification, assessment and Score card of the PRT report, the following Programme and College were not approved for accreditation:

- i. B. Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (since its GPAP is less than 2.50, the programme was not approved for accreditation)
- ii. Akal College of Agriculture did not qualify for accreditation as its programme is not eligible for accreditation, which is mandatory.

3.2 College of Agriculture, Mota Bhandariya, Amreli, and College of Horticulture, Junagadh, JAU, Junagadh, Gujarat

Based on the information contained in LoI, IEA, SSR and its on-spot verification, assessment, score card of the PRT report, the following programmes and Colleges were approved for accreditation:

- i. B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture, College of Agriculture, Mota Bhandariya, Amreli
- ii. College of Agriculture, Mota Bhandariya, Amreli
- iii. B.Sc. (Hons.) Horticulture, College of Horticulture, Junagarh
- iv. College of Horticulture, Junagarh

The programmes and colleges (i-iv) were approved for a period co-terminus with the accreditation of JAU, Junagarh

3.3 College of Horticulture, Mojerla, a constituent college of Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University, Hyderabad

Based on the information contained in LoI, IEA, SSR and its on-spot verification, assessment, Score card of the PRT report, the following programmes and College were approved for accreditation:

- i. B.Sc (Hons) Horticulture
- ii. M.Sc (Hort) Floriculture & Landscape
- iii. M.Sc (Hort) Vegetable Science
- iv. College of Horticulture, Mojerla

The programmes and colleges (i-iv) were approved for a period co-terminus with the accreditation of SKLTSHU, Hyderabad.

3.4. Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner

3.4.1 Based on the information contained in LoI, IEA, SSR and its on-spot verification, assessment, Score card of the PRT report, the following programmes and Colleges were approved for accreditation:

Sl No.	Programme/College/ University
1.	SKRAU, Bikaner
2.	College of Agriculture
2.1	B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture
2.2	M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics
2.3	M.Sc. in Agronomy
2.4	M.Sc. in Biotechnology
2.5	M.Sc. in Entomology
2.6	M.Sc. in Extension Education
2.7	M.Sc. in Horticulture
2.8	M.Sc. in Genetics and Plant Breeding
2.9	M.Sc. in Plant Pathology
2.10	M.Sc. in Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry
2.11	Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics
2.12	Ph.D.in Agronomy
2.13	Ph.D. in Entomology
2.14	Ph.D. in Extension Education
2.15	Ph.D.in Horticulture
2.16	Ph.D.in Genetics and Plant Breeding
2.17	Ph.D. in Plant Pathology

2.18	Ph.D. in Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry
3	College of Home Science/Community Science
3.1	B.Sc. (Hons.) Home Science/Community Science
3.2	M.Sc. in Food and Nutrition
3.3	M.Sc. in Extension Education & Communication Management
4	MBA (Agri Business) in the Institute of Agri Business Management

3.4.2 SKRAU, Bikaner **is approved for accreditation for a period of five years** with overall score of **2.88** equivalent to **B Grade**

3.4.2 The following **were not approved for accreditation** as these could not score 2.50

- a. Ph.D. in Agri Business Management
- b. Institute of Agri Business Management
- c. Ph.D. in Food and Nutrition and Extension Education and Communication Management in College of Home Science

4. Other decisions

4.1 Accreditation Period: For the Universities seeking re-accreditation, to maintain the continuity, the period of accreditation shall be from the 1st April in the respective financial year, irrespective of date of the Board Meeting. The period for newly accredited universities shall be from the date of Board meeting conducted for approval.

4.2 Based on the observations made by DDG (Agril Education) while processing the file (computer no.52459 and file no. 6/1/2019 EQR/Edn pt.) related to accreditation, the Board approved the following:

4.2.1 Board decided to adhere with the clause of conflict of interest issues in constitution of Peer Review Teams including Member Secretary. The Member Secretary of Peer Review Teams shall be recommended by DDG (Agricultural Education) and to be duly approved by the DG, ICAR (Chairman of the Board) during the time of approval of Peer Review Team. While nominating the Member Secretary, the criteria laid down in the “Guidelines for Accreditation of Higher Agricultural Educational Institutions in India” under 8.4.2.3.1 and 8.4.2.3.2 shall be followed. Necessary changes in this regard to above shall be included in the Guidelines for Accreditation.

- 4.2.2 Board decided that a necessary instruction shall be forwarded to the Chairman and Members of Peer Review Team to avoid any representation to ICAR/NAEAB regarding result of accreditation after submission of report. If any clause of the Peer Review Report is not in the line of Chairman/Member, he/she may record note of dissent in the report itself, which will be discussed in the Board during award of accreditation. Necessary changes in this regard shall be included in the Guidelines for accreditation.
- 4.3 The issue of intake and faculty strength was discussed in XXIII meeting of the Board held on 29 March 2019 and it was subsequently approved by Governing Body of ICAR. It was decided to convey the Universities to maintain *status quo* regarding student intake in programmes and faculty/Technical/supporting staff strength and other instructional facilities as per Self Study Report throughout the accreditation period. Further, the Board approved that the commitments made by the universities in their Self Study Report should be verified during Midterm Review of the accredited university. Further, any deviation from their Self Study Reports shall be viewed seriously and accreditation shall be withdrawn. Necessary changes in the Guidelines shall be made in this regard. The Board further decided to make it mandatory to all accredited universities to upload the complete Self Study Reports on its website immediately after submission to Education Division for the information of stakeholders.
- 4.4 The Accreditation Cell shall be strengthened with staff, space and some sort of functional autonomy to address the work load, critical issues and transparency at all levels. One Officer shall be designated as Coordinator, Accreditation Cell to bring efficiency in coordination with Regional Centres and processing the proposals received for accreditation.
- 4.5 G.D.Goenka University, Gurgaon, Dr A.P.J.Abdul Kalam University, Indore and RNB Global University, Bikaner requested to consider for accreditation before completion of the five years and the students of first batch are passed out. Board discussed the agenda and decided that basic eligibility criteria for accreditation of programmes shall be completion of the respective programme by its first batch students. Further, in view of several queries with respect to faculty and land requirements, it has been decided to revisit the Minimum Requirements for establishment of New College in Agriculture & Allied Disciplines and Guidelines for Accreditation.
- 4.6 Issues of M.Sc. Agri (Animal Husbandry), M.Sc. Agri (Dairy Science) and Ph.D. in Animal Husbandry and Ph.D. in Dairy Science for accreditation in Agricultural Universities should be referred to respective Committees of BSMA.
5. Meeting ended with the Vote of thanks from Dr G. Venkateshwarlu (ADG, EQAR) and Secretary of the Board.

