

Proceedings of XXVII meeting of the National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board (NAEAB, the Board) held on 24th February, 2021 at 10:00 AM (in Virtual Mode)

The XXVII Meeting of the Board was held on 24th February, 2021 (online) under the Chairmanship of Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE& Director General, ICAR and Chairman, National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board. The meeting was attended by the following:

1. Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & DG (ICAR) and Chairman
2. Dr. R. C. Agrawal, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education) and Vice- Chairman
3. Dr.P.K. Bisen, Vice-Chancellor, JNKVV, Jabalpur, Member
4. Dr. A Padma Raju, Former Vice Chancellor, ANGRAU, Hyderabad: Member
5. Dr. Gopal Krishna, Director, CIFE, Mumbai, Member
6. Dr. N. S. Rathore, Vice Chancellor (MPUAT, Udaipur) and Member
7. Dr. M. B. Chetti, Vice Chancellor (UAS, Dharwad) and Member
8. Dr. G. Venkateshwarlu, ADG (EQA& R) and Secretary
9. Dr. K. P. Tripathi, Coordinator (Accreditation) and Special Invitee
10. Dr. N. K. Sankhyan, Principal Scientist and Special Invitee

At the outset, Dr. R. C Agrawal, Vice-Chairman of the Board heartily welcomed the Board members and briefly explained agenda for the meeting. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairman of the Board welcomed members in the online meeting of the XXVII NAEAB noting that it was being held against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences for non-mobility of reviewers, and special guidelines issued for conducting accreditation process. With the permission of the Chairman, Dr. G. Venkateshwarlu, Secretary of the Board presented agenda:

1. Confirmation of the Proceedings of the XXVI NAEAB meeting held on 17/09/2021.

Since there was no comment received from Members, therefore, the proceedings of XXVI Meeting of Board were approved

1.1 Action Taken Report on the XXVI NAEAB meeting recommendations:

- 1.1.1 Waiving of ICAR accreditation for AIEEA admission and decision of GB was communicated to the Examination Cell for its implementation.
- 1.1.2 Enhancement of accreditation fee and waiving off TA & Sitting allowance: Decision of GB has been implemented.
- 1.1.3 Revolving fund scheme for accreditation secretariat to support Regional Centers and strengthening Board Secretariat could not be considered by IFD because of existing government guidelines.

2. Accreditation to Agricultural Universities/Colleges/Programmes

Based on LoI/ IEA/ SoC/ Self Study Reports submitted by the University, assessment and score card and recommendations submitted by the Peer Review Teams, deliberations related to pertinent guideline and remarks of the accreditation secretariat, the Board approved the following:-

2.1. ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) ,Pusa, New Delhi.

2.1.1 The following degree programmes in Post Graduate School, (IARI) ,Pusa, New Delhi were approved for Accreditation for a period of five years:

- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Chemicals
- Ph.D in Agricultural Chemicals
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Economics
- Ph.D in Agricultural Economics
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Extension
- Ph.D in Agricultural Extension
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Physics
- Ph.D in Agricultural Physics
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Statistics
- Ph.D in Agricultural Statistics
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agronomy
- Ph.D in Agronomy
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Biochemistry
- Ph.D in Biochemistry
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Bioinformatics
- Ph.D in Bioinformatics
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Computer Application
- Ph.D in Computer Application
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Floriculture & Landscape Architecture
- Ph.D in Floriculture & Landscape Architecture
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Fruit Science
- Ph.D in Fruit Science
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Entomology
- Ph.D in Entomology
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Genetics and Plant Breeding
- Ph.D in Genetics and Plant Breeding
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Microbiology
- Ph.D in Microbiology
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
- Ph.D in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Nematology
- Ph.D in Nematology
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Plant Pathology
- Ph.D in Plant Pathology
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Plant Physiology
- Ph.D in Plant Physiology
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Seed Science and Technology
- Ph.D in Seed Science and Technology
- M.Sc. (Horti.) in Vegetable Science
- Ph.D in Vegetable Science

2.1.2. Following Degree Programmes were **not recommended** by PRT for accreditation, as not matching with the nomenclature recommended by BSMA (ICAR):

S.No.	Discipline	Degree
1.	Agricultural Engineering (Soil and Water Conservation Engineering; Farm Power and Equipment; Agricultural Structures and Process Engineering*)	M.Tech. (SWCE) M.Tech. (FP&E) M.Tech. (AS&PE) Ph.D. in (SWCE) Ph.D. in (FP&E) Ph.D. in (AS&PE)

2.	Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry	M.Sc. (Ag.) Ph.D.
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2.1.2.a. The Academic Council of IARI, New Delhi, in its 414th meeting held on 11.02.2021, approved modification in the degree nomenclature in the following discipline/sub-discipline as per the observation of the Peer Review Team of NAEAB, ICAR for accreditation of IARI, New Delhi:

Existing Degree Nomenclature at IARI, New Delhi			Modified Degree Nomenclature (as per BSMA recommendation)
S.No.	Discipline	Sub- Discipline	
1.	Agricultural Engineering	1. Agricultural Engineering-Soil and Water Conservation 2. Agricultural Engineering-Farm Power and Equipment 3. Agricultural Engineering-Agricultural Process and Structure	1. Agricultural Engineering-Soil and Water Engineering 2. Agricultural Engineering-Farm Machinery & Power Engineering 3. Agricultural Engineering-Processing and Food Engineering
2.	Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry		Soil Science

The above decision of Academic Council shall be effective from the current academic session 2020-21.

2.1.2.b. Considering action taken by IARI, the Board approved accreditation of degree programmes listed under 2.1.2.a. for accreditation for a period of five years along with the degree programmes listed in 2.1.1.

2.1.1.c. The following Degree Programmes were **not approved** as these are not listed in BSMA (ICAR), which is pre-requisite qualification for accreditation:-

S.No.	Discipline	Degree
1.	Environmental Sciences	M.Sc. (Ag.) Ph.D.
2.	Post Harvest Technology (PHT; Horticultural Crops; Post Harvest - Engineering and Technology)	M.Sc. (Ag.) PHT Hort Crop M.Tech. PH-Eng.Tech. Ph.D. in PHT Hort Crop Ph.D. in PH-Eng.Tech.
3.	Plant Genetic Resources	M.Sc. (Ag.) Ph.D.
4.	Water Science and Technology	M.Sc. (Ag.) Ph.D.

2.1.2. Post Graduate School, IARI, New Delhi was approved for accreditation for a period of five years from 16.03.2020 to 15.03.2025.

2.1.3. IARI, New Delhi was approved for accreditation for a period of five years with overall Score-3.43 equivalent to Grade A with effect from 16.03.2020 to 15.03.2025.

2.2. Agricultural Development Trust's College of Agriculture, Baramati

Board approved the accreditation of the following for a period of five years with effect from 24.02.2021 to 23.02.2026.:

1. B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture
2. Agricultural Development Trust's College of Agriculture, Baramati

2.3. Don Bosco College of Agriculture, Sulcorna, Quepem, Goa affiliated to Goa University, Goa

B. Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture programme was not approved for accreditation.

2.4. Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi

- Considering PRT report, the Board decided to put the PRT recommendations on hold for nine months.
- PRT assessment report should be communicated to the University to address the observations of PRT on different criteria/key aspects, specially the faculty requirement.
- After receiving the action taken report from the university, the PRT report may be put up to the committee Board for the consideration.

3. Appeal Committee proceedings

- Appeal raised by Jagannath University, Jaipur against decision of the Board towards **not accreditation of its degree programme B. Sc.(Hons.) Agriculture.**
- After examining documents along with discussion with Peer Review Team, University Officials and Accreditation Secretariat staff, Appeal Committee noted that the Jagannath University, Jaipur was unable to substantiate their claims with proper justification, especially with respect to faculty strength and other staff as claimed in Self Study Report. Poor facility in library was also noticed. Thus, the assessment of Peer Review Team based on Self Study Reports and verification together with interaction was found to be fair and reasonable. Further, the assessment of Peer Review Team was already agreed and signed by the university authority. Despite this finding, **the Appeal Committee re-examined the score card in response to the assessment by the PRT and did not observe any convincing ground for changing the decision of the Board.** Hence the appeal is, therefore, disposed off.
- The Board approved recommendations of Appeal Committee.

4: Other Agenda

4.1 Consideration of Action Taken Report submitted by the Agricultural Universities, Jodhpur

- As per XXIII meeting of NAEAB on 29th March, 2019, point no. 2.6.2 Agriculture University, Jodhpur was approved for accreditation for a period of two years upto 28th March, 2021. After two years, university was asked to submit ATRs on Board's recommendations.

Based on verifications of the ATRs, the university may be considered for further accreditation of next three years

- Action Taken Report was received from Director Education, **Agriculture University, Jodhpur** and its two constituent colleges.

4.1.1. After discussion, Board approved the following:

- Action Take Report should be submitted with the signature of Registrar of the University.
- Action Taken Report on many points such as University Statutory Offices, Supporting Units, Consultancy/Certification/Testing, Recruitment and promotional avenues of Faculty and other staff, establishment of NCC units, Physical Facilities, Hostels, financial delegation of powers to HoDs need documentary verification.
- The Action Taken Report should be placed before Mid-term Review Committee for verification. Meanwhile, status of accreditation of agriculture university shall continue with same grade till the next three years.

4.2 MPKV, Rahuri:-

Change of degree nomenclature from **Ph.D. in Agricultural Microbiology** to **Ph.D. in Agricultural Meteorology** was approved in the CoA, Pune.

4.3 Action Taken Report on Mid-term review of the accredited universities

- As informed to the Board, meeting of Midterm review committee has been convened and necessary action has been initiated.
- Board noted the information and suggested to complete the process as per time line.

4.4. Formalization of GST towards accreditation fee:

Board directed that necessary steps may be taken to formalize GST immediately.

4.5. Board approved the strengthening of Accreditation Secretariat and Regional Centres to ensure timeline in accreditation process. Suitable provisions may be incorporated in the EFC.

Meeting ended with the Vote of Thanks to the Chair.