**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics**

**B.Sc (Hons) Program**

The Department of Agricultural Economics is a well-established department in terms of students’ enrollment and number of faculty members. It seeks to equip students for a wide range of roles in public and private sector. Since its inception the department is producing quality graduates with the sound knowledge and appropriate skills to objectively identify and analyze the economic issues facing the farming community of the country in general and the province in particular and suggests feasible solutions for mitigating the problem facing by them.

Students join the department in BSc (Hons) Part-III in Agricultural Economics. The first two years of graduate study is devoted to study general courses in agriculture. In the third year, students study specialized courses of the Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics. The department tries to tie the theses studies with ongoing research and developmental projects in rural areas through internship with national and international agencies.

The Self-Assessment Process was initiated in the department in 2011 by formulating Program Team for B.Sc (Hons) degree program. The Program Team was given a series of awareness workshops and trainings regarding Self-Assessment Process. The Program Team submitted first draft of Self-Assessment Report (SAR) in 2011. The QEC reviewed SAR and recommended some correction in the report. The Self-Assessment Report of B.Sc (Hons) degree program of Agricultural and Applied Economics was finalized in 2015 by the Program Team (PT) which comprised of Dr. Abbas Ullah Jan, Focal Person PT, Dr. Ghaffar Ali, Member PT and Dr. Shahid Ali, Member PT.

In order to scrutinized SAR and conduct Internal Assessment, an Assessment Team (AT) was constituted on May 27, 2016 comprised of Dr. Abbas Ullah Jan (Focal Person AT), Dr. Madeeha Gohar, Assistant Professor SBBWU (External AT Member), Dr. Ayesha Abrar, Assistant Professor SBBWU (External AT Member) and Mr. Muhammad Bilal, Deputy Director QA (External Member).

In the SWOT analysis, the Assessment Team identified the following Strengths and Weaknesses of the B.Sc (Hons) Program offered by Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics:

**Major Strength of Academic Program**

1. The department has qualified and experienced teaching staff, among ten faculty members, eight possess Ph.D degree.
2. The main strength of the department is its ability to involve the students in research during and after their internship program.
3. The department offers up to date curriculum to their students.
4. The department offers student the facility of career counseling, which helps them to decide the correct future path.
5. The faculty and students are closely connected to each other.
6. The faculty is current in the research area.

**Major Weaknesses of Academic Program**

1. The number of class rooms is insufficient, also lack of common room was also observed.
2. The number of books in the area of agriculture and applied economics is small. Also lack of national and international journals for the graduate students in relevant areas of agriculture and applied economics.
3. The current lab of the department is not sufficient to cater the needs of the B.Sc (Hons) students.
4. Course files of the courses offered are not at all maintained by the faculty.
5. Lack of research funds for the faculty and graduate research.
6. Access to internet is not fully functional.
7. The generator facility is not available to the department and in case of load shedding the faculty and students suffer.
8. No funds for research is available at the department level, however, the funds can be secured from the university.

**Opportunities:**

1. Opportunities exist for collaboration with other public and private sector universities.
2. The faculty may extend consultancy and advisory services to private sector.
3. Being an agro based country; the employability prospects of the graduates from this university are higher.

**Threats:**

The degree in economics from ‘Agriculture University’ than conventional university may reduce the prospects of employability of the students.

In light of above SWOT analysis the Assessment Team recommended following necessary actions:

**Actionable Recommendations**

1. Revise the mission statement and objectives in light of the mission statement of the program. Revision of table 2.2
2. Mention the titles of the courses in table 2.3 and table 4.2 needs revision.
3. The library may have latest edition of text books, local & international journals, literature and computers with internet facility.
4. Additional working space is required for class rooms.
5. The capacity of young faculty members may be enhanced through short term and long term (doctoral and post-doctoral) training abroad.
6. Multimedia may be installed in classrooms with better furniture and ventilation arrangements.
7. The present computer lab. facilities needs to be strengthened. A separate large computer room is strongly recommended.
8. Funds should be arranged for faculty members to participate in conferences, seminars and workshops to improve exposure and interactions with peer groups worldwide.
9. The proper course files should be maintained by the faculty members.
10. The department should have the required and updated licensed software
11. The department should have some clerical staff and teaching assistants if possible.

The existing infrastructure of the department, therefore, needs to be further strengthened and upgraded to cope with the new challenges in agricultural economics. For this the Chairman, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics may please be advised to follow Implementation Plan prepared in light of Assessment Team Report (attached) and take necessary action to overcome the weaknesses.

Prof. Dr. Farman Ullah

Director, Quality Assurance

**Vice Chancellor, please**

