**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics**

**M.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.

A large number of students continue to enroll in the department for MSc (Hons) in Agricultural & Applied Economics. The first year of post-graduate study is devoted to advanced courses. These courses include Agricultural Production Economics, Advance Micro and Macroeconomics, Research Methodology, Econometrics, Advance Marketing Analysis, Agriculture Price Policy Analysis, and Resource Economics. In the second year, each student prepares a thesis based on his/her own research. The department tries to tie the theses studies with ongoing research and development projects in rural areas through internship or attachment with national and international agencies.

The Self-Assessment Process was initiated in the department in 2011 by formulating Program Team for M.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 M.Sc (Hons) degree program of Agricultural and Applied Economics was finalized in 2015 by the Program Team (PT) which comprised of Dr. Dawood 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 M.Sc (Hons) Program offered by Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics:

**Strengths:**

1. The department has qualified and experienced teaching staff. Among ten faculty members, eight possess Ph.D degrees from well reputed universities of the advanced countries and four faculty members have also completed Post Doc fellowship from abroad.
2. The faculty is actively involved in academic research and have adequate amount of research publications in peer reviewed journals.
3. The faculty is in close communication with the students.
4. The main strength of the department is its ability of involving their students in research during their internship.
5. Availability of seminar room with latest laptops
6. The curriculum is updated and complies with current needs of the field and market.
7. The career counseling services offered by the department
8. Online journals are available for the faculty which is essential for their research.
9. University research grants are available for the faculty

**Weaknesses:**

1. Small number of books, national and international journals in relevant areas of agriculture and applied economics for graduate research program.
2. The department lacks adequate number of class rooms and common room.
3. Lack of well-equipped departmental library.
4. The current lab in the department is not sufficient to cater the needs of the students.
5. The lab needs expansion to allow large number of students. The current lab is not available to the full time students for whole day. The use of the departmental lab is restricted which can hamper the productivity of the students.
6. Course files of the courses offered are not maintained by the faculty.
7. Lack of departmental research funds for the faculty and graduate research

**Opportunities:**

1. Since Pakistan economy is agrarian economy, so there exists positive chances of employability of the students of agricultural university.
2. Opportunities exist for technical collaboration with private sector in the relevant areas of agriculture and applied economics.
3. The faculty may extend consultancy and advisory services to private sector, particularly in the areas of agriculture and applied economics.

**Threats:**

1. Existence of department of economics in other public and private sector universities are creating competitors for the students of Agriculture and Applied Economics.

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

**Actionable Recommendations**

1. The institution mission in the SAR report needs serious revisions. Consequently, the objectives of the program and outcomes would also need revisions. The strategic plan points should also be revised.
2. Table 2.2 needs revision. Titles of the courses in table 2.3 needs to be specified Table 4.2 needs revision.
3. The department is in need of expanding their current computer lab. In addition, full time

lab assistant would be needed to look after the lab.

1. The department needs development of departmental library and addition of more books to

 the central library.

1. The user manuals should be available in labs for the software.
2. The department at the moment does not have a generator facility. This should be provided as electricity breakdowns can hamper the productivity of the faculty members.
3. The internet facilities needs up gradation to make it more efficient.
4. Additional working space is required for class rooms
5. Multimedia may be installed in classrooms with better furniture and ventilation arrangements.
6. Funds should be arranged for faculty members to participate in conferences, seminars and

workshops to improve exposure and interactions with peer groups worldwide.

1. The proper course files should be maintained by the faculty members.
2. The department should have the required and updated licensed software

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**

