

**INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT SCIENCES/  
COMPUTER SCIENCES (IBMS/CS)  
NWFP AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY  
PESHAWAR (PAKISTAN)  
(Phone: 92-91-9216537 & 5701810)**

No.....

Date:.....

**Report of the Visits of Kabul & Nangarhar Universities  
and Ministries of Agriculture & Livestock Kabul & Nangarhar  
Provinces (15 - 22 December 2003)**

Report By  
Prof. Dr Anwar F. Chishti

As a member of a three person mission of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC, USA) and Agriculture University Peshawar (AUP), consisting of Dr. Abdul Qayyum Khan, Director IALC/UIUC Field office, Dr. Zar Quresh, Director Outreach AUP & Dr. Anwar F. Chishti, Director IBMS/CS AUP, the undersigned visited Jalalabad and Kabul , Afghanistan from 15 to 22 December 2003. The following is the report of the above-referred visit; however, this report puts more emphasis on educational aspects and explores possibilities and potentials of arranging short & long-term trainings and developing linkages between educational institutions of the two countries, leaving the specific aspects of agricultural research to be more appropriately covered by Dr. Zar Quresh, Director Outreach, AUP/Agriculture Research System.

**Report**

**Kabul University:**

1. Met with President M. Akbar Popal of Kabul University and concerned Faculty and discussed matters of mutual interest. The following three separate meetings were held:
  - i. Meeting with the President (Vice Chancellor) Kabul University
  - ii. Dean of Faculty of Agriculture & his staff.
  - iii. Staff of the National Centre for Policy Research (NCPR).
2. The President expressed great interest in our mission and visit. He personally telephoned the Dean of Agriculture and the Faculty and Staff of the NCPR and directed them to give us a warm welcome. He appreciated the purpose of our visit, advised that the two institutions (Kabul University & AUP) should develop linkages in both education and research. He promised to honor the AUP Vice

Chancellor's invitation extended for a visit, along with the Dean of Agriculture Faculty, to the AUP in February 2004.

3. In a separate meeting with Prof. Muhammad Yasin Mohsini, Dean of Faculty of Agriculture along with five of his Faculty members, the Dean emphasized developing linkages through formation of joint committees made up of Faculty members of the two institutions representing different disciplines in both agriculture and livestock areas.
4. On special instruction by the President of Kabul University, we visited the National Centre for Policy Research (NCPR) and met its staff. The NCPR is a newly set center. It has already initiated a number of research projects, mostly of the policy, political, social and trade nature. We promised that we would propose other projects of varied nature and help them to develop linkages also with the Asia Study Centre of Peshawar University.

### **Nangarhar University, Jalalabad:**

1. Met with Mr. Mir Hatim, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and his Faculty members. They expressed the same concerns as Kabul University and their desires to have linkages with the AUP for updating of their syllabi and their own skills through short and long-term trainings.
2. The situation in Nangarhar University is worse than that in Kabul University. For example, Kabul University recently received about twenty computers from two foreign donors, while the Nangarhar University's Faculty of Agriculture has only one computer in its stock.
3. The syllabi and course contents need updating at both the Universities. These Universities offer a 4-year BS degree in only a few agriculture disciplines i.e., Agronomy, Horticulture & Forestry, Plant Protection, Agricultural Economics & Extension and Animal Science. More than two-thirds of the Faculty members who teach these courses have only BS degrees, mostly from local universities, the former USSR or Central Asia states.

### **Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock/Agriculture Research & Agricultural Research Stations at Kabul and Jalalabad:**

1. While in Kabul we met with the Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock, who seemed enthusiastic about our visit and its purpose. He expressed the desire that all the young research and extension workers from all over Afghanistan be gradually given short and long-term training. The Deputy Minister personally called the Director General of Agricultural Research and advised him to take us to various research stations located at and around Kabul. The next two days, we visited Badambagh and Darulaman Research Stations along with the Director General of Agricultural Research and discussed with the staff various problems faced at research

stations. On the return trip to Peshawar, we met with the Director General of Agricultural Research at Shisham Bagh Research Station, Jalalabad and also visited two more research stations/farms in/around Jalalabad.

2. As already mentioned, the various research related problems faced and their suggested solutions are exclusively being discussed separately in the report of Dr. Zar Quresh, Director Outreach. As far as educational and professional qualifications of the staff of various research stations are concerned, the situation is even more disappointing than the Universities. Of the 64 professional staff working at the Directorate of Agricultural Research and its various stations in and around Kabul, only 14 possess M.S. degrees and 50 hold B.S. degrees. Of the 23 professionals working at Jalalabad, none possess a Masters degree, 20 have a B.S. and 3 have diploma.

### **Conclusion/Recommendations**

A sizeable proportion of the teaching Faculty of the AUP and researchers working in its Agricultural Research System are highly qualified, with foreign PhD and Masters degrees obtained under UIUC's TIPAN program. The AUP is presently offering, not only the most updated courses, but it has also introduced a number of new Bachelor, Master and PhD level degrees in new disciplines relating to the agriculture and livestock sectors. Besides, the AUP's Institute of Business & Management Sciences (IBMS) offers Bachelor and Masters degrees in Business Administration, Computer Sciences and Information Technology. The Institute is equipped with 6 computer laboratories (having 200+ computers), one server room and one Electronics laboratory, exclusively meant for teaching and student practicing. The AUP's academic departments are also equipped with computers and computer networking facilities.

The AUP and its Agricultural Research System and its Institute of Business and Management Sciences/Computer Sciences (IBMS/CS) are thus well equipped to impart short and long-term training in almost every modern discipline and field relating to agriculture, livestock, management, computers and information technology sciences. The AUP is particularly well suited to Afghan people for their short and long-term training because of the similarities in culture, sociology and climate of the two countries.

Based on above analysis, it is recommended that:

1. Short-term visits (of a week to 10 days duration) be arranged for senior Afghan management engaged in educational institutions and their agricultural research system. These visits will help senior Afghan education and research management to rapidly accept and adopt new technologies and innovations in their respective fields.
2. Short-term intensive training (of one month duration, in various mutually selected fields/priority areas) be imparted to individuals in second-tier management positions of research and educational institutions.

3. Long-term training at B.S., M.S. and PhD levels be arranged for suitable candidates. Presently engaged BS level teachers and researchers in Afghan Universities and the research system must be given priority to get Masters level education in various disciplines at AUP. In case the present Afghan BS degree is found not up to the mark/does not fulfill the Pakistan equivalency requirements, then the trainees should be brought into Pakistan for Summer and Fall semesters for English, Computer, and deficiency courses so that they are ready for full admission to Masters degree programs with AUP's regular classes in January 2005.
4. Funding for joint Pak-Afghan research projects be explored/arranged.

Prof. Dr. Anwar F. Chishti  
Professor (Agricultural Economics)  
Director, IBMS/CS