



ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2020/47

DECREE N 47

May 17, 2021

**ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF GORIS STATE AGRICULTURAL
COLLAGE AFTER PROFESSOR KH. YERITSYAN**

Full name of the Institution: Goris State agricultural Collage after Professor Kh.
Yeritsyan SNPO

Official Address: 32 Arakelyan str., Goris, RA

Previous Accreditation decision and date: does not have

Guided by the regulation on the “State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs” approved by the RA Government Decree N 978-N as of 30 June 2011; by the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of 30 June 2011 on the “Approval of RA Standards for Professional Education Accreditation”; by the procedure on the “Formation and Functioning of the Accreditation Committee of the ‘National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance’ Foundation (hereinafter referred to as ANQA) as well as by the regulation on the “Formation of the Expert Panel of ANQA”, the ANQA Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) discussed the issue of accreditation of institutional capacities of Goris State agricultural Collage after Professor Kh. Yeritsyan (hereinafter referred to as TLI or College) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on May 17, 2021.

The main phases of the accreditation process were carried out within the following periods:

Submission of application	February 28, 2018
Submission of the revised self-evaluation	July 12, 2018
Site-visit by the expert panel:	July 12, 2020
Submission of expert panel report	February 26, 2020
Submission of follow-up plan	

The expertise of the College was carried out by an independent expert panel formed in compliance with the requirements set by the regulation on the “Formation of the Expert Panel of the ANQA”. The evaluation was carried out according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of 30 June 2011.

Among 10 criteria of the institutional accreditation, 5 of them — “**Governance and Administration**”, “**Research and Development**”, “**Infrastructure and Resources**”, “**External Relations and Internationalization**”, “**Internal Quality Assurance System**” were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the Collage’s institutional capacities, remarks and suggestions on the draft report of the expert panel, the expert panel report, the follow-up plan based on the expert panel report, having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation of the College which were made by the three members selected by the Chairman of the Accreditation Committee and were formed as a result of the meetings with the expert panel members and the educational institution’s representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

1. There are problems in terms of credible award of qualifications, but trends for the progress and examples are in place.

According to the state education standards, the academic programmes, with their structure and content, provide an opportunity for the credible award of qualifications, but the educational environment, the material and technical equipment as well as the methodological base do not contribute to that.

Mutually beneficial cooperation with internal and external stakeholders in all educational processes is weak. The academic programmes are not generally localized for the region, and there is no analysis of labour market that could be used as a basis for the development or improvement of the academic programmes. The policy of choosing teaching-learning methods in accordance with the expected learning outcomes of the academic programmes is not clear, which may hinder the achievement of the required outcomes for each specialty, whereas it will also contribute to the student-centered teaching. The evaluation on the effectiveness of the academic programmes and identification of the existing problems has not been carried out systematically. The mechanisms for feedback are still being formed.

There is an appropriate teaching staff for the implementation of the academic programmes, but the high average age of the teaching staff, the lack of requirements for the professional qualities of the teaching staff endanger the sustainability of the teaching staff, as well as contain risks for the credible award of qualifications. The teaching staff needs to be rejuvenated.

2. Governance and quality assurance systems are at the stage of formation, but there are trends for development and the governance is directed towards quality improvment and credible award of qualifications.

The College has a strategic plan, but it does not reflect the institution's core ambitions. The institution's short-term planning is not generally based on the strategic plan. The College does not have mid-term planning.

Students are included in student councils and governing boards, but most of them are unaware of the existence of governing bodies, and there is no relevant involvement. In the field of the strategic management, some steps have been taken to rely on key evaluation indicators and key performance indicators, but it is not yet regulated. There are no stable mechanisms for data collection, the monitoring of the processes is almost non-existent.

The quality assurance centre established in 2017 is not currently functioning. The College governance system does not pay proper attention to this centre. Quality assurance procedures and mechanisms have not been developed, no process within the College is carried out through “plan-do-check-act” cycle of the quality assurance. The ongoing processes are mainly at the stage of planning, and are not implemented according to the priority directions. The institution does not have measurable indicators through which it would be possible to assess the effectiveness of the implemented processes.

3. Internationalization and research activities do not provide sufficient support for credible award of qualifications.

The College does not have a strategy for research/creative activities. The teaching staff and students are not involved in research work. There are no processes aimed at the formation of analytical-research skills, as well as mechanisms for the link between research activities and the educational processes.

The work towards internationalization is not in the College. There are no mechanisms for the stimulation of external relations.

The College has not yet developed an infrastructure to regulate and ensure the conduct of external relations, which endangers the continuity of the processes initiated by the institution. No evaluation and analysis of the results of the cooperation with the existing few local and international organizations — which would contribute to further development and progress — has been carried out.

4. The shortcomings mentioned in the expert report are crucial in terms of credible award of qualifications, meanwhile grounds for improvement have been laid.

5. The College’s follow-up is mainly realistic and **in case of implementation** will lead to qualitative changes.

Taking into consideration the above mentioned, as a result of an open voting, the Accreditation Committee:

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to Goris State agricultural Collage after Professor Kh. Yeritsyan SNPO for 2 /two/ years.**

2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit the revised follow-up plan based on the expert panel report and respective time-schedule to ANQA within two months taking into account:
 - a) the need to give urgent solution to the problems existing in the field of “**Governance and Administration**”, “**Research and Development**”, “**Infrastructure and Resources**”, “**External Relations and Internationalization**”, “**Internal Quality Assurance System**” “**Internal Quality Assurance System**”.
 - b) the requirement to have quantitative indicators for the evaluation of progress and efficiency of the College’s ongoing processes;
 - c) the necessity to clarify the amount of financial resources and the time-schedule for the evaluation and implementation of the processes carried out by the College;
 - d) the necessity to stimulate the participation of students and teaching staff in the decision-making process;
 - e) the necessity to develop mechanisms for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the activities of governing bodies.
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the availability of administrative and supporting staff to students, and the student-centered approach;
 - b) the decision-making based on pre-collected and analyzed data;
 - c) the ensurance of the necessary learning environment for the implementation of the academic programmes;
 - d) the provision of human, material and financial resources for the management of internal quality assurance processes;
 - e) the establishment and implementation of mechanisms for the sustainable development of the internal quality assurance system;
 - f) the implementation of PDCA cycle of quality assurance in all the processes of the College;
 - g) the compliance of the academic programmes with the needs of the region and labour market,
 - h) the development of external relations as well as the preparation and implementation of joint strategies with employers;
4. In accordance with the requirements set by the Clause 12 of the regulation on the “State Accreditation of RA Education Institutions and their Academic Programs”, every 6 /six/ months to submit a written report to the ANQA on the results of carried out activities by ensuring the evaluation of improvement of the College’s activity, innovations and achievements.
5. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of efficiency of Goris State agricultural Collage’s activity in accordance with the KPIs.

Chairman of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

May 17, 2021

Yerevan