



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2021/46

DECREE N 46

May 17, 2021

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF STEPANAVAN STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AFTER PROFESSOR A. KALANTAR

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution:	Stepanavan State Agricultural College after Professor A.Kalantar SNPO
Official Address:	Yeritasardakan 47, Lori, Stepanavan, 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 Stepanavan State Agricultural College after Professor A. Kalantar (hereinafter referred to as TLI, 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 self-evaluation:	July 3, 2018
Site-visit by the expert panel:	January 14-16, 2020
Submission of expert panel report:	January 24, 2020
Submission of the follow-up plan	February 27, 2020

The expertise of the College’s institutional capacities 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 Internationlization**”, “**Internal Quality Assurance System**” were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined the College’s self-evaluation of 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 College’s representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

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

All the academic programmes of the College have been developed based on state education standards that comply with the RA NQF and are approved by the authorized body. Not all the academic programmes implemented at the TLI are directly related to the College's agricultural orientation. The College has not conducted a comprehensive analysis of the labor market needs of the region yet. However, due to the close dialogue between the College and the employer, the academic programmes have been adapted to the needs of the labor market as much as possible. In the expected results of the modular study programme the theoretical knowledge often prevails over the skills and competences. The College seeks to engage employers with production experience who contribute to the formation of practical skills.

Though the TLI has developed a "Policy for the selection and modernization of teaching-learning methods", the teaching and learning methods are not always correlated with the expected results set by the state education standards. The College has a system of student assessment, but most of the lecturers are unaware of it and do not have clear criteria to assess the final attestation exam. In general, the teaching staff has the problem of choosing teaching, learning and assessment methods in accordance with the outcomes, which can hinder the achievement of learning outcomes.

The college needs to ensure the sustainability and rejuvenation of the teaching staff. The material and technical equipment of the College is very weak, the classroom and laboratory fund is worn out, which is a big obstacle in the preparation of specialists.

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

The College has a special role in the region and its activities are mainly in line with the mission. It has a defined strategy and strategic tasks, but does not have the experience in result-based management, implementation of strategic tasks, and evaluation of effectiveness. The governance in the College is mainly situational. There are mechanisms for data collection, but the results are not applied purposefully: these are not the basis for work planning, development of strategic plans or review. Information gathering processes are mainly situational in nature and are not regulated by pre-designed procedures. The quality assurance system is at the stage of formation.

3. Internationalization and research/creative activities do not sufficiently support the credible award of qualifications.

The TLI has not set any goals regarding research/ creative field and external relations in its ST. The College has no development policies, mechanisms and procedures for the implementation of its activities. The College considers the individual works and practical assignments given to students as a mechanism for the interconnection of research activities and educational processes, but the research component is very weakly expressed in them.

The lecturers do not conduct research within the modules they teach, which can lead to the stagnation and loss of the professional-pedagogical skills of the existing staff. The TLI lacks adequate financial and laboratory resources for the conduct of research/creative activities.

The College does not have policies or procedures in place to promote the establishment of external relations, as well as infrastructures for the regulation of that area. However, the College actively cooperates with a number of local organizations, including a few international organizations, with which the Career Development and Consultancy Center establishes contacts.

The contact with employers provides employers with an opportunity to conduct internships, organize discussions on the formation of students' practical skills and current requirements of the labour market, as well as to improve the academic programmes.

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

5. The implementation of most of the follow-up plan based on the expert panel report does not contain risks. Achievement of the results outlined in the plan can contribute to the solution of the problems in different areas of the College.

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

DECIDED

- 1. To award institutional accreditation to Stepanavan State Agricultural College after Professor A. Kalantar 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 fields of **“Governance and Administration”**, **“Research and Development”**, **“Infrastructure and Resources”**, **“External Relations and Internationalization”**, **“Internal Quality Assurance System”**.
 - b) the requirement to have a clear timetable for the achievement of the SP goals and requirement of measurable key indicators for assessing the achievement of results;
 - c) the necessity to have long-term, medium-term and short-term interconnected planning;
 - d) the necessity to clarify the interests of the College in the field of research, taking into account the needs of the region and the possible commercialization of research results
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the compliance of all academic programmes with the orientation of the College;
 - b) the establishment of stable and regulated relationships with graduates, employers;
 - c) the development of the teaching staff’s professional and pedagogical skills;
 - d) the increase in the awareness of student-centered teaching among students and teaching staff;
 - e) the implementation of PDCA cycle in all the processes of the College;
 - f) the organization of teaching aimed at the development of the students' analytical, creative and critical skills.
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 effectiveness of the activities of Stepanavan State Agricultural College after Professor A. Kalantar in accordance with the KPIs.

Chairman of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

May 17, 2021

Yerevan