



National Center For Professional
Education Quality Assurance
Foundation

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2021/45

DECREE N 45

May 17, 2021

ON ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF GAVAR STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLAGE AFTER ACADEMICIAN A. TAMAMSHEV

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: Gavar State Agricultural Collage after Academician A. Tamamshev SNPO

Official Address: 8 Azatutyun str., Gavar, Gegharkunik, 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 Gavar State Agricultural Collage (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 self-evaluation:	July 2, 2018
Site-visit by the expert panel	January 16-18, 2020
Submission of expert panel report	January 24, 2020
Submission of the follow-up plan	February 28, 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, 3 of them – "**Research and Development**", "**External Relations and Internationalization**", "**Internal Quality Assurance System**" were evaluated as unsatisfactory.

Having examined Gavar State Agricultural Collage's self-evaluation of institutional capacities, comments 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 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 and risks in terms of credible award of qualifications, but trends for progress and examples are in place.

The academic programmes are in line with the institution's mission, are implemented in accordance with the state education standards, and are described in details according to the expected learning outcomes of the qualifications awarded. The College has a well-developed policy on student evaluation, and some mechanisms to evaluate the effectiveness of academic programmes' implementation.

Theoretical courses prevail in study programmes. Teaching, the choice and effectiveness of teaching methods directed towards the formation of knowledge, skills, capacities, as well as the effectiveness of other educational processes, are not studied comprehensively.

GSAC does not have a clear policy of benchmarking, methodology with a reliable toolset, but some steps have been taken in this direction.

The College emphasizes the need for academic programmes' monitoring process, but no regulated process has been taken place yet.

Although the College is provided with the necessary human resources for educational and other purposes, it is still a problem to include experienced specialists in the teaching staff. There is a problem of rejuvenation and sustainability of the teaching staff, in the direction of which the College is actively working.

The College is provided with sufficient building conditions for the implementation of the academic programmes. Thanks to the current or previously implemented grant programmes of the College

and the regional employers, the College has been replenished with the necessary infrastructure, material-technical base, as well as laboratories for the development of the educational environment. The material resources have been replenished to some extent. However, the professional literature and educational-methodological manuals available in the library for the implementation of the academic programmes are few.

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 TLI has a defined mission in line with the NQF. The goals and objectives of the College reflect the needs of internal and external stakeholders.

The rule of governance of the College is defined by the charter and is carried out on the basis of the combination of collegial and sole governance principles. The College has the necessary human, material and financial resources for the implementation of other educational purposes, but there is no analysis of their satisfaction, as well as the evaluation of the effectiveness of the governance system. Lecturers and students participate in decision-making related to them.

The College implements long-term and short-term planning. The long-term planning is the schedule of the strategic plan. The short-term planning is the annual planning of the current learning process and is presented in the form of study question schedules. The medium-term planning has not been implemented yet.

Although the IQA department has been operating in the college since 2017, the system is still at the stage introduction. There is a quality assurance policy, but it does not have clear procedures, necessary mechanisms and tools for its implementation. Human, material and financial resources are not provided, internal and external stakeholders are not aware of quality assurance processes.

The PDCA cycle of QA is not implemented in the activities of the College. Management processes are at the stage of planning and implementation. There are no mechanisms for evaluation and improvement.

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

The College does not have a policy reflecting its aspirations and interests in research/creative field that would meet the descriptors of the NQF 5th level.

The individual works and course papers are considered as the main mechanisms for the link between the research/creative activity and the educational process of the College. These are weak and do not provide the scientific framework of the research.

The College has and ensures the accountability through the established procedure, takes steps to make its processes more transparent and accessible to the public.

The College does a lot of work directed towards external relations such as cooperation with similar educational institutions, and sectoral employers. However, the work is still in its infancy, and clear planning of activities is expected in this area.

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

5. Implementation of the most part of the College's follow-up plan does not contain risks. The follow-up plan presents clear steps and expected results.

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

DECIDED

1. **To award institutional accreditation to Gavar State Agricultural Collage after Academician A. Tamamshev 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 **“Research and Development”, “External Relations and Internationalization”, “Internal Quality Assurance System”**.
 - b) The necessity to have long-term, medium-term li short-term interconnected planning;
 - c) the requirement to have mechanisms for monitoring of the ongoing processes, and measurable key performance indicators for the evaluation of the progress and results;
 - d) the necessity to create effective mechanisms for the link between research/creative activities and educational process;
 - e) the ensurance of partnerships that are more compatible with strategic objectives;
 - f) the revision of internal quality assurance policies and objectives.
3. To pay special attention to:
 - a) the clarification of the College's mission and strategic goals;
 - b) the development and application of tools for the assessment of the effectiveness and modernization of research / creative work;
 - c) the development of external relations, preparation and implementation of joint strategies with employers;
 - d) the revision of quality assurance mechanisms and tools;

- e) the implementation of the PDCA cycle of the QA at the management level and all the processes of the College;
 - f) the organization of teaching aimed at the development of students' analytical, creative and critical skills,
 - g) the necessity of increasing the hours of practical courses and internships.
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 the activity of Gavar State Agricultural Collage after Academician A. Tamamshev in accordance with the KPIs.

Chairman of the Accreditation Committee:

A. Saghyan

May 17, 2021

Yerevan