UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA "HASAN PRISHTINA"
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY

B.Sc. PLANT PRODUCTION
Reaccreditation

REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

February 2025, Pristina

1

AKA **|** Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Sources of information for the Report:

- *SER*
- *Syllabus*
- *Staff CVs*
- *Annexes*
- *Discussions and observations during the site visit*

Criteria used for institutional and program evaluations

- *KAA indicators*
- *Compliance level according KAA*

Site visit schedule

Programme Accreditation Procedure at UP Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine	
Programmes:	Plant Production, BSc 180 ECTS (Re-accreditation)
Site visit on:	**21st of February 2025**
Expert Team:	Prof Reiner Doluschitz Prof Joachim Muller Mr. Gaga Gvenetadze, Expert Student
Coordinators of the KAA:	Mr. Milot Hasanxhekaj, KAA Officer Ms. Ilirjana Ademaj Ahmeti, KAA Officer

Time	Meeting	Participants
08:30 – 09:00	Meeting with the management of the faculty	Arben Musliu Sali Aliu Alltane Kryeziu Fatgzim Latifi
09:00 – 09:40	Meeting with quality assurance representatives and administrative staff	Skender Musa, Gezim Hodolli Ardita Kastrati Shkumbin Tafilaj
09.45 – 10.45	Meeting with the program holders of the study programme	Sali Aliu Imer Rusinovci Muhamet Zogaj
10:50 – 11:40	Meeting with teaching staff	Vahid Avdiu, Dukagjin Zeka, Arben Mehmeti, Fadil Musa, Bedri Dragusha, Mentor Thaci, Skender Kaciu, Hysen Bytyci, Esat Behrami, Ilirian Miftari, Jehona Shkodra, Lavdim Lepaja,

AKA **|** Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

3

		Albina Kika, Saranda Musa, Mergim Zogaj, Valbona Mehmeti.
11:45 – 12.45	Lunch break	
12-45 – 13:35	Meeting with students	Adelina Hajra, Blerta Xhakolli, Azem Sopa, Blerta Uka, Blerton Sertolli, Edon Fazliu, Edon Hyseni Medina Uka, Yllka Hasani, Arbreshe Mahmuti, Blerte Rexhepi, Ema Rizani.
13:40 – 14:30	Meeting with graduates	Adhuron Hoti, Krenare Kasabaqi, Arianit Bajraktari, Fjolla Plakolli Laura Hasani, Drin Hoxha, Hava Koskoviku, Jehona Birinxhiku, Arton Bekolli Yll Shtavica, Nazif Nishori, Xheneta Isufi, Kaltrina Selimi, Djellorita Lushaku
14:30 – 15:15	Meeting with employers of graduates and external stakeholders	Refki Zogaj, Qendrim Selimi, Betim Bresillac, Shaban Rexhepi, Besnik Sadriu, Burim Ahmeti Zenel Bunjaku - IADK Xhavit Alija – Prilli 98, Flaktrim Rrahimi – Alb Inspect, Nexhat Maxhuni-Agromarket, Krenar Dumani-Proagro, Meriton Hashani-Agrotoni
15:15 – 15:25	Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts	AKA and External Experts
15:25 – 15:35	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program	Arben Musliu Sali Aliu Alltane Kryeziu Fatgzim Latifi Gezim Hodolli
15:35 – 16:00	Visiting Facilities at FAV	All

A brief overview of the programme under evaluation

The Faculty of Agriculture was founded on August 26, 1973. The aim of this foundation has been the faster development of the agricultural sector in Kosovo by graduating well educated people with superior qualifications in agriculture. By decision of the Senate of University in Prishtina in 1996, the veterinary section was established with the aim of educating professionals in veterinary medicine that would serve animal health, food industry, food security and food safety in general. In 2001, the Senate of the University of Prishtina approved curricula based on the Bologna Declaration for Bachelor Degree. In 2006 the Faculty Council and its academic staff proposed expanding the Faculty of Agriculture to the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary (FAV). The proposal became approved by the Senate of the University of Prishtina (UP) and subsequently the Minister of Education, Science and Technology issued an amending Decision no. 883/01-B, on December 2006. In 2023 a total of 2239 students (BSc and MSc) graduated according to the report of the Student Services of FAV

The statistics for students at Bachelor programs, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary grouped by programs and academic years (from 2016/17 up to 2024/25).

Table 1: Number of students enrolled in Bachelor's degree programs at the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine divided by Department:

Department	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Agricultural Economics	145	133	125	76	66	26	26	16	19
Veterinary Medicine	57	43	52	41	27	18	13	9	14
Plant Production	124	124	117	56	52	27	34	35	48
Food Technology	105	99	97	78	91	81	68	66	44
Business Management in Zootechny	56	31	21	8	4	/	/	/	/
Animal Production	/	/	/	/	/	5	1	11	8

Table 2. Number of students enrolled in Master's study programs at the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine divided by Departments:

Department	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Agriculture and Food Economics	24	19	19	19	19	17	20	19	19
Plant Protection - phytomedicine	12	14	10	10	10	10	9	8	5
Pomology and Viticulture	11	12	10	10	14	7	9	10	7
Urban Agriculture	/	/	/	/	/	15	16	/	/
Crop Science	/	/	/	/	/	/	12	10	12
Horticulture-Fruits and Vineyards	12	11	11	10	17	/	/	/	/
Food Sciences	/	/	/	40	40	30	/	/	/
Public Health	11	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/

The program under evaluation for reaccreditation is a 3-year B.Sc. study program with 180 ECTS. The number of students on FAV degree programs is generally declining. One important

5

AKA | Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

reason for this is the demographic development in Kosovo and the decreasing interest of the young generation in agriculture.

6

AKA **|** Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

6

PROGRAMME EVALUATION

1. MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND ADMINISTRATION

Standard 1.1 The study program is in line with the higher education institution's mission and strategic goals, needs of society and it is publicly available. (ESG 1.1)

The mission of the study program is in line with the missions of FAV and UP as it is stated in the SER and confirmed in the on-site-visit discussion. The agricultural sector in Kosovo is still under development and an important element of the national economy. Therefore, agriculture related study programs are of special high importance for Kosovo.

A particular positive aspect of the study program under evaluation is the close collaboration with local enterprises (confirmed amongst other occasions in the on-site-discussion). This is generally of high relevance in order to provide internships, topics for B.Sc.-theses and foster subsequent job opportunities for students. This is of extraordinary importance in Kosovo due to the difficult situation of its labor markets. The SER confirms that the study program has a long-term vision of fulfilling its function and mission, in creating a perspective for the new generation, modernizing and reforming the education system in accordance with the requirements of the labor market in Kosovo, as well as with regional and European integration in the fields of Agriculture, Veterinary, Food, and Agribusiness.

The program under evaluation is based on a thorough analysis of the labor market, including employment prospects for graduates. This analysis was developed in cooperation with actors from the labor market and agricultural organizations. Stakeholders of the labor market confirmed a high need of graduates of the study program during the site visit.

The intended learning outcomes of the study program are in line with the missions of FAV and UP as stated in the SER.

The infrastructure, in particular the provision of premises has improved significantly compared to the former situation from springtime 2024 when the last evaluation took place.

Standard 1.2 The study program is subject to policies and procedures on academic integrity and freedom that prevent all types of unethical behaviour. The documents are publicly available, and staff and students are informed thereof. (ESG 1.1)

AKA **|** Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

7

It is indicated in the SER that the study program follows specific procedures for handling cases of plagiarism, informing staff and students about the course of the process.

Ethical standards are published on the university website, included in handbooks for staff and students, and are monitored. This is confirmed by the SER. In summary it can be concluded that there are clear ethical regulatory standards that govern teaching and research.

According to the statement in the SER it can be confirmed that the Ethics Commission and other structures are active in monitoring and dealing with cases of unethical behaviour, and their decisions are distributed anonymously to ensure transparency and fairness. Based on the Statute, the Regulation, and the Code of Ethics, the Department of Plant Production continually shows the rights and obligations of the students.

Standard 1.3 Relevant information is collected, analysed and used to ensure the effective management of the study program and other relevant activities and such information is publicly available. (ESG 1.7)

Discussions with representatives from all levels of the study program confirmed that the information management system (SEMS) includes relevant, updated and reliable information. Furthermore, concrete action plans are mentioned during the on-site-visit to monitor the implementation of the study program. This is not explicitly confirmed in detail in the SER.

The information management system (SEMS) includes relevant, updated and reliable information. Furthermore, concrete action plans are in place to monitor the implementation of the study program.

However, the SER indicates that there are clear ethical regulatory standards that govern teaching and research.

Recommendations for improving the study program, given by previous quality assurance procedures, are analysed and implemented effectively (SER).

Standard 1.4 The delivery of the study program is supported by appropriate and sufficient administrative support to achieve its goals in teaching, learning, research, and community service. (ESG 1.6)

All study program activities and operations are subject to a policy and review process that ensures adequate and efficient administrative staff and budgetary support as it is confirmed in the SER.

8

AKA **|** Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

8

The study program has sufficient administration to support the teaching and learning needs of students and academic staff. This is confirmed in the SER. It is mentioned in the SER that the administrative staff is subject to continuous professional training as mentioned above, including training in foreign languages, computer and other important skills.

The SER also confirms that the administrative staff is subject to continuous professional training, which is important for the performance of their duties. Staff trainings are held 3 times a year, which are organized and financed by the rectorate. This has been confirmed by the on-site-visit discussion.

Standard 1.5 The recommendations for quality improvement of the study program from previous internal and external quality assurance procedures are implemented. (ESG 1.10)

Recommendations for improving the study program have been analysed, including activities and actions undertaken based on previous internal and external quality assurance processes (e.g., action plans and reports on implementation based on recommendations from expert panels, examples of results achieved based on recommendations from previous internal and external quality assurance procedures).

It is claimed in the SER that reviews of policies and regulations are conducted "as appropriate in the circumstances of the change", however, there is neither a fixed schedule for a regular review nor a table of progress in the SER.

ET recommendations:
1. *Increase student involvement in the respective procedures.*
2. *External comments and recommendations should become considered more intensively and efficiently (e.g. table of progress).*
3. *A fixed schedule for a regular review and for the table of progress should be included in the SER and regularly updated.*
4. *Increase of efforts for additional professional development of teaching staff is recommended*
5. *Intensified exchange with comparable programs at international level is recommended*

Timeline: Immediate start and completion before the end of the summer semester 2027

2. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Standard 2.1 The study program delivery is subject to an established and functional internal quality assurance system, in which all relevant stakeholders are included. (ESG 1.1)

There is a quality assurance policy. However, it is not mentioned explicitly in the SER whether this is publicly available and fully implemented.

UP Senate in February 2007 decided to establish the Office for Quality Assurance. By the Law on Higher Education and the Statute of UP University of Pristina "Hasan Prishtina" has developed its internal system for quality assurance. The position of a quality assurance coordinator has been installed. The quality of education provided is monitored and reviewed by the Office of Quality Assurance (OFQA). This is confirmed in the SER and in the on-site-visit discussion.

Internal quality assurance procedures for the study program are defined by the internal regulations of HEI (for example, quality assurance regulation, quality assurance guideline, etc.).

The policies and processes of the internal quality assurance system are a cycle for continuous improvement (PDCA) should become further elaborated and more efficiently used.

The position of a quality assurance coordinator has been installed. This coordinator does not have teaching obligations. This has been confirmed in the on-site-discussion and is written in the SER as well.

The SER confirms that UP each year prepares electronic questionnaires for students through which it measures quality, complaints, suggestions or student requests. Aspects of academic staff performance are included as well.

Standard 2.2 The study program is subject to a process of design and approval established by the HEI. (ESG 1.2)

It has been repetitively confirmed that the study program fulfils this request. It aligns with the institution's/academic unit's mission and strategic goals.

The study program under evaluation underwent an adequate and transparent internal quality assurance process and was formally approved by the designated strategic management bodies of the institution. Its continuous improvement is planned. Such a process is explained in the

10

AKA **|** Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

10

SER in detail. A continuous improvement system should be further elaborated and implemented.

The process for the development and approval of the study program is well-defined by internal procedures as well as external procedures, e.g. submission of the program description to KAA where it undergoes an evaluation and accreditation procedure including international experts from suitable fields of expertise.

From the SER it can be quoted that Principal Performance Indicators for this level of study program have been established. These performance indicators are measured through the forms set out in the respective regulation. However, key performance parameters should become highlighted more prominently.

Standard 2.3 The study program is periodically monitored and reviewed to ensure its objectives are achieved. The monitoring of the study program involves stakeholder participation. (ESG 1.9)

There is a Stakeholder Board established at the Faculty level. Discussions with members of this board have been taken place during the on-site-visit. International experts and evaluators had the impression that this board is quite active and attentive. The monitoring includes surveys of employers to determine the competences needed in the labor market, analyzes have been carried out in collaboration with stakeholders and examples of improvements based on stakeholders' evaluations of the study program.

The study program undergoes regular checks to establish whether the estimated workload allocation (ECTS) of students and the defined learning outcomes are achievable, realistic and adequate. The course syllabus determines regular assessments of students' achieved results in the course.

It is confirmed in the SER that FAV established the AGRO Career Center for Jobs, since its establishment 40 young graduates in agriculture have been placed in private agribusiness companies. The department maintains constant contact with graduates and often mediates their employment through cooperation with private companies and agencies.

There is a stakeholder survey established. Each academic year, the UP through SEMS assesses the academic staff. The assessment results are made public. Student visits, organized by the Department of Agricultural Economics, to agricultural businesses, allow constant contact with employers from whom feedback is received as well as from employed students and also a list of cooperation with private companies and agencies is provided by the Department. The ET

trusts this statement and recommends to keep up with this integrated system of information flow.

In the SER it is announced that processes for monitoring and improving the quality of student placements are clearly defined, consistently implemented and include stakeholder assessments such as student, mentor and employer questionnaires.

The collected information is analysed and concrete actions are taken to ensure that the program is up to date.

All monitoring results and action plans are publicly announced on the website of UP, and all stakeholders are kept informed of changes or improvements in the program.

Standard 2.4 All relevant information about the study program is clear, accurate, objective, up-to-date and is publicly available. (ESG 1.8)

All policies, regulations and guidelines pertaining to the study program are publicly available and such information is easily accessible by all interested parties.

Information on admission criteria, recognition of qualifications, enrolment quotas, syllabuses, learning outcomes, credits, assessment methods, and final qualification are published in a respective regulation accessible by a website.

It is clearly mentioned in the SER that pass rate and dropout rate information can be found through SEMS. Students who decide to leave the Faculty are obliged to deregister as detailed in the respective regulation.

The responsible units for the maintenance of publicly available information on the study program is accurate and is in place and it provides reliable, objective and updated information. It is convincing and the ET trusts that UP and FAV regularly update all published information and make it accurate according to the needs of the program and society. This information is easily accessible on the website of the FAV and the website of UP. This is confirmed by respective statements in the SER as well as it has been reported during the on-site-visit discussions.

ET recommendations:
1. *Summaries of Reports of surveys and evaluations should be exemplarily provided as documents in the Appendix of the SER.*

AKA **|** Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

12

2. *A monitoring system for measuring continuous progress should become further elaborated, incl. cycle for continuous improvement (PDCA) should become further elaborated.*
3. *Key quality parameters of the study program such as number of applications, enrolment, completion rate, duration of the study and grade overview should be included into the QA mechanism on a regular basis and also provided in the SER continuously.*
4. *Aggregated results of the course evaluations should be provided to the teaching staff, the FAV management and included in the SER.*

Timeline: Immediate start and completion before the end of the summer semester 2027

3. ACADEMIC STAFF

Standard 3.1 The study program delivery is supported by teaching staff who are recruited in line with national legislation, and internal regulations in effect, and it is based on objective and transparent procedure. (ESG 1.5)

It is confirmed in the SER that the HEI advertises vacancies nationally and internationally (for example, HEI website, Official Gazette).

Recruitment in the Department of Plant Production follows clear, objective, and transparent procedures. These include: Job Announcements, Selection Committees, Committee, Reports. (SER)

It is confirmed in the SER that the recruitment process is designed to fulfill the strategic goals of the Faculty and the Department of Plant Production. In this way, the selection procedures are based on the specific needs and include a rigorous evaluation process.

Candidates for employment are provided with full position descriptions and employment conditions (for example, HEI internal regulations, Code of Ethics for teachers and students).

In the SER, it is claimed that UP and FAV ensure clear, objective, and transparent recruitment processes, including vacancy announcements, the formation of selection committees, committee reports, and decisions made by expert bodies.

Standard 3.2 The study program is supported by sufficient permanent academic staff who are adequately qualified to deliver the study program. (ESG 1.5)

AKA **|** Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

13

The faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary currently has 50 permanent academic staff out of which 16 serve as full professors, 17 as associate professors, 17 as assistant professors and teaching assistant. In order to implement all study programs offered by FAV, 38 additional temporary academic staff is engaged as part time staff. Respective tables are included in the SER.

According to the SER academic staff has a primary job lecturing at the FAV. This has been confirmed at the teaching staff meeting during the site visit. Furthermore, as stated in the SER, it can be verified through the online staff form available at KAA.

According to the SER, significantly more than 50% of the academic staff of the study program are full-time employees and perform for more than 50% of the classes of the study program. This is ensuring a continuous presence of academic resources for students and compliance with legal and accreditation standards. This level of full-time staff guarantees stability and commitment to the successful delivery of the study programs.

The SER states that for each student group (defined by the statute of the HEI) and for every 60 ECTS in the study program, the HEI has employed at least one full-time staff with a doctoral degree or equivalent title in the case of an artistic/applied science institution. the criteria of this standard are met. This has been confirmed in the site-visit discussions as well.

The qualification of the academic staff engaged in the delivery of the study program is adequate and relevant to the courses they teach (CV; publications; books, etc.).

The workload of academic staff aligns with relevant legislation and by laws, regulations issued by competent bodies, etc.
It had been confirmed in the on-site-visit discussions and it is stated in the SER as well that „staff workloads are balanced in accordance with internal regulations and national legislation." Teaching, research, and administrative duties are distributed to ensure they are carried out with high quality. Staff are provided with the necessary space for mentoring and research activities, contributing to both student and program development.

The Department of Plant Production has a sufficient number of qualified mentors who provide guidance to students throughout their studies, including the final thesis. Mentors are selected based on their academic qualifications and experience, ensuring that students receive strong academic and professional support.

The number and qualifications of academic staff are adequate for the implementation of the study program and for conducting research at the required level. This is demonstrated by a list presented in the SER, which includes 16 staff members who teach in the program and hold doctoral degrees. Fifty percent of them have permanent employment contracts with UP. During

14

AKA **|** Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

14

the on-site visit, it was confirmed that the academic staff for the study program do not cover more than two teaching positions within an academic year (one full-time and one part-time).

As demonstrated by the CVs provided in the Appendix, the qualifications of the academic staff teaching in the study program are adequate and relevant to the courses they teach.

According to the SER, the workload of the academic staff complies with relevant legislation. The distribution of teaching responsibilities - including student mentoring, scholarly work, professional development, administrative duties, and community service - is well balanced and responsibly managed. Due to the low student-to-staff ratio, a sufficient number of qualified mentors are available to guide students in the study program, including support for internships and BSc theses.

Standard 3.3 The study program is supported by teaching staff who are subject to advancement and reappointment based on objective and transparent procedures which include the evaluation of excellence. The advancement of staff arises from the higher education institution's strategic goals and is in line with the legislation and internal regulations in effect. (ESG 1.5)

The FAV has documented and implements clear and transparent procedures for the advancement of academic staff (confirmed in the SER).

Among other criteria, Academic staff seeking promotion must have publications in internationally recognized journals with significant impact in their field. To qualify for advancement, staff must be involved in international activities within their scientific field, including presentations at international conferences and research projects (confirmed in the SER). The ET trusts this description.

Feedback from students also plays a key role in assessing the quality of teaching and academic support provided by staff, contributing to their promotion evaluation.

The procedures for advancement of the teaching staff are outlined in UP's special regulations. According to these regulations, a competition for promotion or reappointment is announced before the expiration of an existing contract. A candidate is promoted based on the recommendation of a credible review committee.

According to the SER, advancement candidates must meet specific requirements, including publications indexed in Web of Science or Scopus, strong teaching performance demonstrated through student evaluations, supervision of final theses, successful acquisition of research projects, and involvement in international activities within their scientific discipline.

15

AKA **|** Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

15

Feedback from students and management is considered in the advancement and reappointment of teaching staff, as well as in the renewal of contracts.

Standard 3.4 The academic staff engaged in the delivery of the study program is entitled to institutional support for professional development. (ESG 1.5)

Under the responsibility of the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary an annual operational plan for the professional development of academic staff has been developed.

All academic staff involved in the study program actively participate in various professional development programs, including language courses and methodological training. This had been confirmed in the on-site-visit discussions.

The HEI provides support to all academic staff of the study program in the development of skills related to testing and assessment methods.
SER: "Academic staff are encouraged to participate in international mobility programs and research projects. The faculty provides logistical and financial support to facilitate participation." The ET trusts.

The HEI proves that all academic staff engaged in the study program participate in international activities (such as mobility programs, study visits at foreign HEIs, international projects, sabbatical leaves, networks, etc.), which are relevant to the study program, and academic staff are encouraged and supported by their own HEI in these activities.
However, in spite of the SER confirms this issue, there is quite some space left for improvement. This is recommended by the ET. In this context it would be interesting what are major destinations and major partners at the international level.

The faculty ensures that junior faculty members and new staff members participate in specialized training for preparing and delivering lessons, as well as student assessment. These trainings focus on teaching methods and course preparation, ensuring that junior faculty are well-prepared for the challenges of modern teaching.
In addition, the HEI ensures newly employed staff members to undergo adequate onboarding.

UP provides support for the professional development of the academic staff involved in the study program. It ensures participation and guarantees equal opportunities for all academic staff to engage in professional development programs aimed at strengthening their competencies and skills, including language training. To facilitate this, UP has established the Center for Excellence in Teaching (QPM), which offers comprehensive training for newly hired teachers. Existing staff members are required to attend two training sessions before the

AKA **|** Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

16

expiration of their first contract. The training provided by QPM includes lesson preparation and delivery, assessment methods, mentoring, and management of the entire educational process in higher education.

The UP actively supports participation in international research and education programs as part of the professional development of its academic staff. During the on-site visit, it became clear that many academic staff members engage in international activities; however, the support for these endeavors should be further strengthened.

According to the SER, the UP also aids academic staff in developing their research programs through various mechanisms, including mentoring by senior colleagues, participation in project teams, assistance with research proposal development, and funding for research projects.

Standard 3.5 External associates who teach at the study program have adequate qualifications and work experience for the delivery of the study program and achievement of the intended learning outcomes. (ESG1.5)

As assured during the on-site visit, external collaborators from the industry occasionally engage in teaching within the study program. By sharing their practical experience, they positively contribute to the teaching process and the achievement of expected learning outcomes. The FAV management would welcome specific didactic training for external instructors, although it has not yet been implemented.

External collaborators from industry and agencies also contribute to practical internships and final theses, as examples shared during the on-site visit demonstrated. However, a formal agreement regarding workload and expectations is not yet in place. Nonetheless, FAV has prepared a practical training implementation guide that outlines the expectations for external collaborators during these activities**.**

External collaborators are encouraged to participate in supervising students' final theses and graduation projects.
This is confirmed by SER and on-site-visit discussions. However, such trainings and support could become improved and intensified.

The workload and expectations from the external associates are clearly agreed to ensure that the teaching is performed on high quality. This is clearly quantitatively defined.

ET recommendations:

1. *Specific budget allocation to additional professional development of teaching staff is recommended.*
2. *Intensified exchange with comparable programs in international level is recommended.*
3. *The HEI should provide more evidence that it organizes specific training for its academic staff on the methods.*
4. *Major destinations and major partners at the international level should be documented and made publicly available.*
5. *In future SERs, it should not only be stated that the indicators are fulfilled, but also how they are fulfilled, supported by corresponding documents in the Appendix.*

Timeline: Immediate start and completion before the end of the summer semester 2027

4. EDUCATIONAL PROCESS CONTENT

Standard 4.1 The study program intended learning outcomes are formulated clearly, precisely, and comprehensively according to the best practices; they are aligned with the published institution's/academic unit's mission and strategic goals and are publicly available. (ESG 1.2)

The mission of the FAV is stated in the SER as "The main mission of the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary lies in the transfer of knowledge and competences to future experts in all branches of the agro-food chain". In general, the learning outcomes and the goals of the study programme are aligned with the overall institution's mission. A more detailed and systematic proof of alignment of learning outcomes with the FAV mission is not provided in the SER.

The general intended learning outcomes of the study programme are listed in the SER. They are in line with the objectives of the program. More detailed learning outcomes are found in the course descriptions in the annex of the SER.

The intended learning outcomes are described for each course in the Appendix to the SER. They are written from a student's perspective, focusing on what the student will know and be able to do upon completing the program.

The intended learning outcomes are designed according to examples of good practise. FAV has adjusted the curriculum and learning outcomes to a similar program at University of Ljubljana. An 80% similarity is mapped in the SER.

18

AKA **|** Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

18

The intended learning outcomes are at the B.Sc. level. Elements of knowledge, skills and competencies can be found in the course descriptions to varying extends. A more systematic presentation in the SER would be desirable.

Standard 4.2 The study program intended learning outcomes comply with the National Qualification Framework and the European Qualifications Framework level descriptors. (ESG1.2)

The learning outcomes of the study programme are correctly attributed to EQF level 6 as confirmed in the SER and the syllabus. The intended learning outcomes of the individual subjects and overall course reflect the Bachelor-level requirements.

It is confirmed by the SER that intended learning outcomes of the study program are following a structure which avoids overlaps with other study programs, and providing contents which clearly can be linked to each qualification level.

Standard 4.3 The content and structure of the curriculum is coherent and enable the students to achieve the intended learning outcomes and to progress smoothly through their studies. (ESG 1.2)

The curriculum as presented in the SER provides a logical flow of courses and is compatible to similar programs in the EHEA. The learning outcomes of previously successfully passed courses are sufficient to meet the prerequisites of the next courses in the curriculum. The core disciplines necessary for achieving the leaning outcomes are adequately covered by the program courses. The study program is 80% similar to a study program at the University of Ljubljana and offers opportunities for horizontal and vertical mobility and employment in the European market.

Standard 4.4 If the study program leads to degrees in regulated professions, it is aligned with the EU Directives and national and international professional associations. (ESG 1.2)

Not applicable. The study program does not lead to a regulated profession.

Standard 4.5 The intended learning outcomes of the student practise period are clearly specified, and effective processes are followed to ensure that learning outcomes and the strategies to develop that learning are understood by students (if applicable). (ESG 1.2)

Not applicable. No student practise period such as an internship is included in the curriculum (although it would greatly enrich the degree program).

Standard 4.6 The study program is delivered through student-centred teaching and learning. (ESG 1.3)

In the study programs general small groups of students are enrolled. This normally implies a more student-centred pedagogical approach as professors can dedicate individual attention to students. The didactic concept of combining lectures with exercises supports students in achieving their intended learning outcomes.

The combination of lectures, exercises, group work and self-study time encourage interactive learning, problem-solving and creative and critical thinking. Teaching methods are evaluated by student questionnaires. The program delivery is monitored by the UP Office of Quality Assurance.

According to the SER, teaching methods are adapted to support a diverse student population, including part-time, older and international students as well as students with learning difficulties and special needs.

The delivery of the study program is ensured through the use of modern technology, including online platforms, software and laboratory equipment to support teaching and learning in the field of crop production.

Standard 4.7 The evaluation and assessment used in the study program are objective and consistent and ensures that intended learning outcomes are achieved. (ESG 1.3)

It is a statement in the SER that the study program has established a clear structure that links the intended learning outcomes (knowledge, skills, and competencies) with each individual module offered. This is documented on course level in the syllabus. However, the learning outcomes have to be explicitly structured into knowledge, skills, and competencies for each course in preparing the next SER.

According to the detailed syllabus, mainly written and oral exams are applied for assessment. Where courses have a strong component of practical skills development, the assessment methods should be adapted accordingly, and students' applied knowledge and skills should be assessed through practical tests.

Evaluation criteria and methods, as well as grading criteria for the study program, are published and students are informed about.

According to the SER, the study program ensures objective and reliable grading of students through the use of clear and standardized assessment methods. Students are promptly notified

AKA **|** Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

20

of assessment results. When necessary, they receive guidance on how to improve their learning process based on these assessments. This was also confirmed by the students during the site-visit.

The SER confirms that the FAV has functional appeal procedures in place, allowing students to raise concerns and complaints regarding assessments and that the procedures are transparent and accessible to students, ensuring that complaints are handled fairly and promptly. The ET trust this statement.

Standard 4.8 Learning outcomes are evaluated in terms of student workload and expressed in ECTS. (ECTS 1.2)

The study program ensures objective and reliable grading of students. The assessment criteria describe student performance in a measurable way, ensuring that the assessment is based on the demonstration of skills, knowledge, and competencies.

For each course of the study program the workload is calculated for all learning activities such as lectures, exercises, tutorial contact the teacher, homework, presentation, self-study time and preparation for final exams. ECTS are assigned accordingly.

ET recommendations:
1. *Integrate an internship with defined ECTS in the curriculum. Consider Standard 4.5 for implementation.*
   Timeline: mandatory for students who will be enrolled in winter semester 2026/27
2. *The learning outcomes have to be explicitly structured into knowledge, skills, and competencies for each course in preparing the next SER.*
   Timeline: ready before end of the summer semester 2027

5. STUDENTS
Standard 5.1 Clear admission policies, including requirements, criteria and processes for the study program are clearly defined and are publicly available. (ESG 1.4)

The admission policies for the B.Sc. Plant Production program are clearly outlined and publicly accessible through the university's official communication channels. Admission criteria ensure transparency and equal opportunity for all applicants, including both national and international students. The primary requirement for enrollment is the successful completion of secondary

education and the State Matura Exam. International students must fulfill additional conditions as specified by national higher education regulations.

The selection process is structured to ensure that candidates possess the necessary prior knowledge and competencies for successful academic progress. Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is managed through institutional transfer policies, which facilitate student mobility and academic credit recognition.

During the site visit, students confirmed that they are aware of the admission requirements, but requested clearer guidance on program transfers and recognition of previous academic achievements. ET recommends that the faculty enhance communication efforts, such as organizing informational workshops and digital guidance materials to better assist students in navigating these processes.

Standard 5.2 Student progression data for the study program are regularly collected and analyzed. Appropriate actions are taken to ensure the student's completion of the study program. (ESG 1.4)

The faculty systematically collects and analyzes student progression data through the Student Electronic Management System (SEMS). This includes tracking enrollment numbers, dropout rates, and graduation rates to monitor student success and identify potential areas of concern.

While mechanisms exist to support student retention, students reported difficulties in accessing their academic records and course registration due to digital system inefficiencies. This has caused challenges in tracking academic progress and planning course selections. The ET recommends improving digital infrastructure to ensure students can efficiently manage their academic journey.

Academic advising is available twice per week, but no formal records are kept tracking advisory sessions. Students indicated that while they receive support from professors, structured mentoring and advisory mechanisms could be improved. The ET suggests formalizing academic advising records and introducing a structured peer mentorship program to enhance student support.

Standard 5.3 The study program ensures appropriate conditions and support for outgoing and incoming students (national and international students). (ESG 1.4)

The faculty promotes student mobility through Erasmus+ and CEEPUS programs, offering opportunities for students to gain international academic experience. These exchange programs are officially regulated, ensuring the recognition of ECTS credits for students participating in

mobility initiatives. However, while mobility opportunities exist, participation remains low, primarily due to a lack of awareness, administrative barriers, and language limitations.

Students expressed concerns regarding the lack of structured guidance in the mobility application process, as well as insufficient promotion of exchange programs by faculty advisors and administrative offices. The faculty provides information on mobility opportunities through its website and social media platforms, but students reported that they require more direct and personalized support to navigate the process. Many are unfamiliar with application deadlines, available scholarships, and credit recognition procedures.

Another key barrier to mobility is the lack of English-language course offerings. Although some professors provide explanations in English, the faculty does not currently offer courses formally taught in English, making it difficult for incoming exchange students to integrate into the program. Expanding English-taught courses would significantly improve international student participation and increase the attractiveness of the program for incoming mobility students.

The faculty should take concrete steps to improve the visibility and accessibility of student mobility opportunities. This includes organizing regular mobility information sessions, offering more structured advising services, simplifying credit transfer procedures, and expanding English-language course offerings. Addressing these issues will help increase both outgoing and incoming student mobility and align the faculty's internationalization efforts with European higher education standards.

Standard 5.4 The study program delivery is ensured through adequate resources for student support. The needs of a diverse student population (part-time students, mature students, students from abroad, students from under-represented and vulnerable groups, students with learning difficulties and disabilities, etc.) are taken into account. (ESG 1.6)

The faculty provides basic student support services, including academic advising, career counseling, and access to library resources. The AGRO Career Center for Jobs plays a crucial role in connecting students with potential employers and has successfully helped over 40 graduates secure positions in the industry. However, there are several areas where student support is insufficient, particularly regarding library access, digital infrastructure, and study spaces.

During the site visit, students reported inconsistent access to online library resources from home, limiting their ability to conduct research outside university hours. While the university provides some digital materials, access procedures are unclear, and students face difficulties navigating the online library system. Moreover, students indicated that the physical library

23

AKA **|** Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

23

lacks an engaging and modern study environment, with outdated facilities that do not adequately support group study or independent research.

Another major issue raised was the lack of full functionality in the university's digital academic platforms. Students often experience technical difficulties with course registration, accessing grades, and communicating with faculty online. These issues create administrative burdens and negatively impact the overall academic experience. The faculty should prioritize upgrading its digital systems and ensuring that students have access to dedicated IT support to resolve technical challenges efficiently.

Additionally, the absence of a peer mentoring system has left students without structured academic and social support. Many students, especially first-year and international students, struggle to navigate their academic journey without student-led mentoring initiatives. Establishing a structured peer mentorship program would foster academic engagement, social integration, and student success.

The faculty must take immediate action to improve online library access, modernize library spaces, upgrade digital academic platforms, and introduce structured peer mentoring initiatives. Addressing these gaps will significantly enhance the student experience and ensure that diverse student needs are properly met.

ET recommendations:
1. *Improve communication on admission and transfer policies by providing structured guidance sessions and digital information resources.*
2. *Enhance the digital academic management system to improve course registration, academic advising, and student record tracking.*
3. *Increase student awareness and participation in mobility programs through dedicated advising sessions, structured monitoring, and enhanced international partnerships.*
4. *Increase and document introduction of selected English-language courses to facilitate international student mobility and exchange.*
5. *Expand digital library access and improve physical library spaces to create a more engaging and functional learning environment.*
6. *Increase functionality of online academic systems and provide ongoing technical support to assist students with digital academic management step by step.*

Timeline: Immediate start and completion before the end of the summer semester 2027

6. RESEARCH

Standard 6.1. The study program aligns with the institution's/academic unit's mission and the research strategic goals.

In the SER research objectives are not explicitly defined. However, the senate of the UP, considers the number of scientific articles in refereed international journals as a main criterion for the promotion of academic staff. During the on-site-visit, the academic staff has been aware of the importance of research for the development of the FAV and their own career. Some funds are given by UP and the FAV for research. However, research budgets should become increased significantly, including funds from external sources.

Greater efforts could still be made. In terms of finances, no clear responses were obtained for the next 3-5 years. The expectation is that academic budgets will remain at a similar level. The implementation of an institute would make it possible to have additional finance in conjunction with the partners.

It still has to be further elaborated and intensified that the study program becomes subject to clear policies that define recognized research and relate to international standards and established norms in the field of study program

The policies for promoting scientific research within UP are only addressed superficially in the SER. During the on-site visit, it was revealed that research is supported by financial rewards for publications.

Standard 6.2. The academic staff engaged in the study program is committed and supported to achieve high-quality research work and/or professional activity.

In the SER it is stated that involvement of teaching staff in research activities and their performance in relation to academic promotion are specified in regulation no. 465, dated 02.03.2018 of the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" and Administrative Instruction 1/2018 of the Ministry of Education Science and Technology for the recognition of international publication platforms and journals. During the visit, the teaching staff clearly states to the ET that they were aware of the importance of research activities in their evaluation and promotion and consider that the mechanism is transparent. The teaching load appears for some of them a little high at the expense of the research.

Track records of publications are included in the academic staff CVs. It should be noted that some publications were difficult to evaluate for the ET. A classification according to impact factors should be prepared and included.

AKA **|** Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

25

It is confirmed by the SER that the academic staff who are involved in delivering professional bachelor study programs have at minimum master's degree and at least five years of relevant professional activities.

All academic staff members of the study program hold doctoral degrees and have more than five years of teaching experience.

Standard 6.3 The academic staff engaged in the delivery of the study program is encouraged to participate in different aspects of cooperation with national and international partners.

The staff of the Plant Production program are committed to improving and developing teaching methods by providing training and obtaining lessons and practises from advanced experiences.

According to the SER "clear policies are specified in regulation no. 465, dated 03.02.2018 of the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" and Administrative Instruction 1/2018 of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for the recognition of platforms and international journals with peer review".

The FAV has established cooperation agreements with various industry partners in Kosovo and encourages teaching staff to collaborate with local companies and agencies on joint research projects, as well as the shared use of equipment and resources. According to the SER, staff members receive support to engage in technology and knowledge transfer with industry and the public sector. This was also confirmed through discussions with stakeholders during the on-site visit.
The Stakeholder Board established by the faculty is of assistance to this aspect, that the teaching staff engaged in the study program is supported to cooperate with local business partners through joint research projects, cooperative strategies for development, and shared use of equipment when it is possible.

In addition, the teaching staff engaged in the study program is supported and involved in technology transfer and cooperation to transfer knowledge with the industry and public sector.

The department staff actively provides expertise to government and public institutions in the areas of plant production and related public health issues. They engage in collaborative research projects with other higher education institutions at both national and international levels.

26

AKA | Qendra e Studentëve, kati 2-të, 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Tel. +381 38 213722 | Fax +381 38 213087 | www.akreditimi-ks.org

26

Standard 6.4 The teaching staff engaged in the study program has a proven record of research results on the same topics as their teaching activity.

Academic staff engaged in the study program are encouraged to include in their teaching the results of their research and information about their scholarly activities relevant to the courses they teach.

It very clearly has been confirmed in the SER and in the on-site-visit discussions that students enrolled in the study program are engaged in research activities with the academic staff.

Academic staff incorporate research findings into their courses. Students in the study program participate in research during their internships and in their final theses. They are frequently acknowledged as co-authors in the resulting scientific publications.

ET recommendations:
7. *The UP/FAV should find additional funding to further boost research within the programme.*
8. *The FAV should pay special attention that all academic staff respect the criterion of an average of one publication per year*

Timeline: Immediate start and completion before the end of the summer semester 2027

7. INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES

Standard 7.1. The HEI ensures adequate premises and equipment for performing education processes and research. ESG (1.6)

As the new teaching, research and office building of the FAV is still not completed and the recent provisional accommodation in a secondary school was no longer acceptable, the UP has provided lecture halls at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FME) on Rruga Agim Ramadani Street, near the city center. This current temporary solution is much better than the one encountered by the ET during the on-site visit in spring 2024.

The lecture halls, provided by FME on a temporary basis, are adequate in number and quality for the study program under evaluation. The rooms are in the basement of the building and are accessible via elevators for students with walking disabilities.

As the FAV laboratories are still located on the previous premises and the research farm is located on the premises of the new FAV building, the students have activities at three distant locations, which requires time consuming traveling through city traffic. The FAV management is making an effort to cluster the teaching activities in a way to reduce traveling during the day. The current situation is not optimal but temporarily acceptable until the new FAV building is ready for occupancy. FAV management was able to credibly demonstrate through correspondence that the endangering power lines would be relocated in the foreseeable future, and the move to the new building is expected within the years 2025/2026.

The FAV laboratories, still located on the previous premises of the FAV, are in good structural condition and well equipped. The computer training room is well equipped with student workplaces. State-of-the-art software is available with valid licences.

Standard 7.2 The HEI ensures adequate library resources for study program. (ESG 1.6)

According to the SER, the Central University Library and the FAV Library offer reading rooms with a sufficient number of seats and easily accessible support services. The FAV Library provides good internet coverage, enabling students to access electronic resources. Additionally, the opening hours extend beyond regular lecture times. The book collection includes a sufficient amount of Albanian and foreign professional literature, and the libraries maintain an adequate number of subscriptions to both domestic and international journals.

Standard 7.3 The study program is appropriately funded to deliver its intended educational activities and research. (ESG 1.6)

According to the SER, funding for basic infrastructure and operational expenditures related to the study program is incorporated into the overall UP budget, which is allocated by the Assembly of Kosovo through the national budget law, in conjunction with revenues generated by the institution. The FAV operates with an annual budget designated for materials and services. Beside this regular budget, equipment is occasionally purchased through acquired projects.

ET recommendations:
1. *The move to the new FAV research, teaching and office building has top priority. While the electric power lines are being moved, the building must be renovated and completed simultaneously.*
   Timeline: Immediate start and completion before the end of 2026

OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

In conclusion, the Expert Team considers that the study program B.Sc. Plant Production offered by the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina", Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary is *substantially compliant* with all Standards as included in the *KAA Accreditation manual* and, therefore, recommends *to accredit* the study program for *3 years* with a number of 40 students to be enrolled in the program.

1. MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND ADMINISTRATION	Substantially compliant
2. QUALITY MANAGEMENT	Fully compliant
3. ACADEMIC STAFF *Mandatory	Substantially compliant
4. EDUCATIONAL PROCESS CONTENT	Substantially compliant
5. STUDENTS	Substantially compliant
6. RESEARCH	Substantially compliant
7.INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES *Mandatory	Substantially compliant
Overall Compliance	**Substantially compliant**

Expert Team

Chair

(Signature)	Prof. Dr. Reiner Doluschitz	03.03.2025
	(Print Name)	(Date)

Member

(Signature)	Prof. Dr. Joachim Müller	03.03.2025
	(Print Name)	(Date)

Member

(Signature)	Mr. Gaga Gvenetadze, Student Expert	03.03.2025
	(Print Name)	(Date)