



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
QUALITY ASSURANCE FOUNDATION

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

ANQA-2025/117

DECISION No. 117

March 1, 2025

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

General Information about the Institution

Full name of the Institution: Stepanavan State Agricultural College named after
Professor A. Kalantar (SNPO)

Official Address: 47 Yeritasardakan St., Stepanavan, Lori Region, RA

Previous Accreditation **Conditional institutional accreditation for a period of**
decision and date: **two years, Decision No. 46 of May 17, 2021**

Guided by the Statute on State Accreditation of Tertiary Level Institutions and their Academic Programmes approved by the RA Government Decree N 978-N as of June 30, 2011, the RA Government Decree N 959-N as of June 30, 2011 on the Approval of Accreditation Criteria for Tertiary Education of RA, the Procedure on the Formation and Operation 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 ANQA’s Expert Panel, ANQA’s Accreditation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) discussed the issue on accreditation of institutional capacities of the Stepanavan State Agricultural College named after Professor A. Kalantar (hereinafter referred to as “TLI”) in the session of the Accreditation Committee held on March 1, 2025.

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

Submission of application: February 1, 2024

Submission of self-evaluation: May 2, 2024

Site visit by the expert panel: June 18-20, 2024

Submission of the expert panel report: September 9, 2024

Submission of the preliminary follow-up plan September 25, 2024

The external review of the TLI's institutional capacities was carried out by the following expert panel:

- **Kristine Hakobyan**, deputy director for educational activities and teacher at the Kotayk Regional State College, chair of the expert panel.
- **Aida Dabaghyan**, quality assurance manager, deputy director for human resources at the French-Armenian Vocational Education Center.
- **Alisa Grigoryan**, teacher at the Chair of Animal Origin Product Processing Technology of the Armenian National Agrarian University.
- **Aram Hakobyan**, student of the AP "Nursing" at the Yerevan State Base Medical College.

The evaluation was conducted according to the 10 criteria of institutional accreditation approved by the RA Government Decree N 959 as of June 30, 2011. Evaluation according to accreditation criteria:

Evaluation	Conclusion
1. Mission and Purpose	Satisfactory
2. Governance and Administration	Satisfactory
3. Academic Programmes	Satisfactory
4. Students	Satisfactory
5. Faculty and Staff	Satisfactory
6. Research and Development	Unsatisfactory
7. Infrastructure and Resources	Unsatisfactory
8. Societal Responsibility	Satisfactory
1. External Relations and Internationalization	Satisfactory
2. Internal Quality Assurance System	Satisfactory

Having examined the institution's self-evaluation of institutional capacities, the expert panel report, the follow-up plan; having heard the conclusions on the expert panel evaluation, which were made by the two members selected by the Chair of the Accreditation Committee and were formed as a result of the meetings with the expert panel members and the TLI's representatives; as well the comments and suggestions made by the Accreditation Committee members, the Committee stated the following:

1. The institution has enhancement areas, mainly related to the sufficient provision and effective use of resources.

The institution takes steps towards the development of its academic programmes (APs) in cooperation with employers.

The teaching staff is recruited through a competitive selection process, with employers also engaged in teaching.

Meanwhile, some APs are not aligned with the institution's mission and the needs of the regional labour market. Challenges also remain in the credible award of qualifications. Some graduates do not fully demonstrate the skills defined by the intended learning outcomes.

The institution's material-technical resources provide limited opportunities for the achievement of all intended learning outcomes. The learning environment does not provide the practical facilities required for vocational training and no post-accreditation upgrade or renovations of the resource base have been carried out. The building conditions do not fully support the effective organisation of the educational process.

2. Strategic management and the QA system are still in the stage of formation. However, there are development trends and governance is aimed at quality enhancement.

The governance is based on the principle of collegiality, planning is implemented in accordance with established regulations. The stakeholder needs are identified.

The institution's mission envisages the preparation of mid-level specialists in agriculture. However, only four of its eight APs are related to this field. Mechanisms for data collection are in place, but comprehensive studies are not conducted.

The institution has established a documentary framework for the QA system. Some documents have undergone evaluation and revision. Stakeholder surveys are also conducted.

3. Internationalisation and research activities do not currently support the credible award of qualifications.

The research component is not fully integrated into the APs. There are no policies or procedures to promote the teachers' research activities. Though some APs include research components, the institution does not have a clearly articulated research strategy, and the overall scope of research activity remains limited. Only a small number of teachers are engaged in research, the study of international practice in their professional fields and the adoption of innovations.

The institution has taken certain steps towards internationalisation, the development of external relations and cooperation. Meanwhile, the level of foreign language proficiency is insufficient to support the full development of international cooperation. The institution considers the attraction of financial-material resources through international programmes as one of its key development priorities. Though there is some positive cooperation experience, further efforts are needed to establish new partnerships and make fuller use of the potential of existing ones.

5. The follow-up plan in the expert panel report is generally realistic and does not contain any risks. The implementation will lead to qualitative enhancements.

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

DECIDED

- 1. To award institutional accreditation to the Stepanavan State Agricultural College named after Professor A. Kalantar for 4 /four/ years with conditions.**
2. After the publication of the decision on accreditation award, to submit a revised follow-up plan based on the expert panel report and respective time schedule to ANQA within two months. The plan should be approved by the institution's Governing Council and consider the need to give urgent solution to the existing problems.
3. To pay special attention to:

- a) the improvement of the building conditions and infrastructure through the provision of resources required for the relevant professional fields;
- b) the strengthening of the institution's agricultural profile and the submission of the matter to the founder to clarify the strategic direction of the institution's development;
- c) the integration of the research component into the APs and the promotion of research activities among the teaching staff;
- d) the establishment of international partnerships, the improvement of foreign language proficiency and the full use of cooperation opportunities.

The effective management and enhancement process in these areas require ongoing monitoring, a systematic approach to evaluation and the definition of relevant KPIs. These should be incorporated into the strategic management framework to enable the institution to track progress, conduct results analysis and undertake relevant enhancement measures.

- 4. In accordance with the requirements set by point 12 of the Statute on State Accreditation of Tertiary Level Institutions and their Academic Programmes, every 2 /two/ years to submit a written report to the ANQA on the results of carried out activities by ensuring the evaluation of enhancement of the TLI's activity, innovations and achievements.
- 5. To assign the ANQA to carry out mandatory monitoring of the effectiveness of the TLI's activities in accordance with the KPIs.

Chair of the Accreditation Committee:

V. Gabrielyan

March 1, 2025

Yerevan