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Improving Relevance of Higher Education through Improvement of Curriculum; Case Study in Food Technology Study Program, Bogor Agricultural University

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Abstract

To meet the challenge of industrialization era in Indonesia and the globalization of world economy, particularly those concerning the provision of competent employees who are able to take highly competitive national and international post of employment, it is indispensable to design an up to date compatible programs of higher education. The objective of this activity is to continuously evaluate and update the Food Technology Study Program (FTSP) curriculum so that it will meet the need in the job market. Simultaneously, the activity was also enhanced by the improvement of FTSP staff performance and competency.

Improvement of curriculum consist of evaluation of curriculum and course content involving technical assistants from governmental institutions, industries and universities to achieve curriculum more relevant to the job market. The activity will be supported by staff development program. The approach for FTSP curriculum revision was based on the two surveys data. The first survey figured the job distribution and variability of FTSP alumni. The second survey figured the competence of FTSP graduates according to the perception of FTSP alumni and users (food industries and other institutions). A comparative study with other similar study programs in other universities was also conducted. The success of the activity will be measured by a set of indicators. Main indicators to be measured are average GPA of the graduates, graduate average length of study, graduate-waiting time before getting their first job, TOEFL and GRE scores.

Some indicators, especially impact indicators, have shown improvement. The percentage of FTSP graduates with GPA > 3.0 and the GPA average during the last five years have been increasing. Improvement was also indicated by a decrease in the percentage of graduates with GPA < 2.75. The average length of study of FTSP student as well as percentage of students with length of study > 48 month have improved. Average length of study was 4.41 year. The average job waiting time has shortened significantly from 3.62 to 3.33 months. Of the 77.1% graduates obtained their first job within < 3 months, 39.5% was female graduates.

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