

## **Report on the Activities of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), KUFOS (2024–25)**

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) continued its mandate during the academic year 2024–25 by fostering a culture of academic excellence, institutional growth, and quality enhancement in line with NAAC guidelines. The Cell functioned as a catalyst to streamline teaching, research, extension, and governance activities, ensuring that the University maintained high standards across all domains. The activities of the IQAC were more aligned with the NEP 2020 and as per the guidelines of UGC and National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The following practices were institutionalised to ensure quality i.e., implementation of Outcome Based Education, Academic Bank Credit, Blended Learning Platform and conduct of seminars and workshops aiming at quality enhancement for NAAC assessment. It also initiated the ICAR accreditations for BTech program under Faculty of Fisheries Engineering and certification/ranking process by NIRF, ARIIA and KIRF. Following are the details of the activities conducted by IQAC.

### **NAAC Accreditation**

The University received an 'A' grade during its first cycle of NAAC assessment, marking a major milestone in India's fisheries and ocean studies sector. KUFOS is the first fisheries university in the country to get NAAC accreditation. It is also rare opportunity to achieve an 'A' grade during the first cycle itself. The IQAC submitted the Self Study Report (SSR) for NAAC Accreditation in June 2024 and during December 3-5, 2024, the NAAC Peer Team lead by Dr. Balu Chopade, and Dr. FA Masoodi, Dr. Pranab Chandra Kalita, Dr. Varaha Siva Prasad and Dr. Sagartirtha Sarkar as members visited the university.



*Sri. Saji Cherian, Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor of KUFOS receiving NAAC Peer Team members*



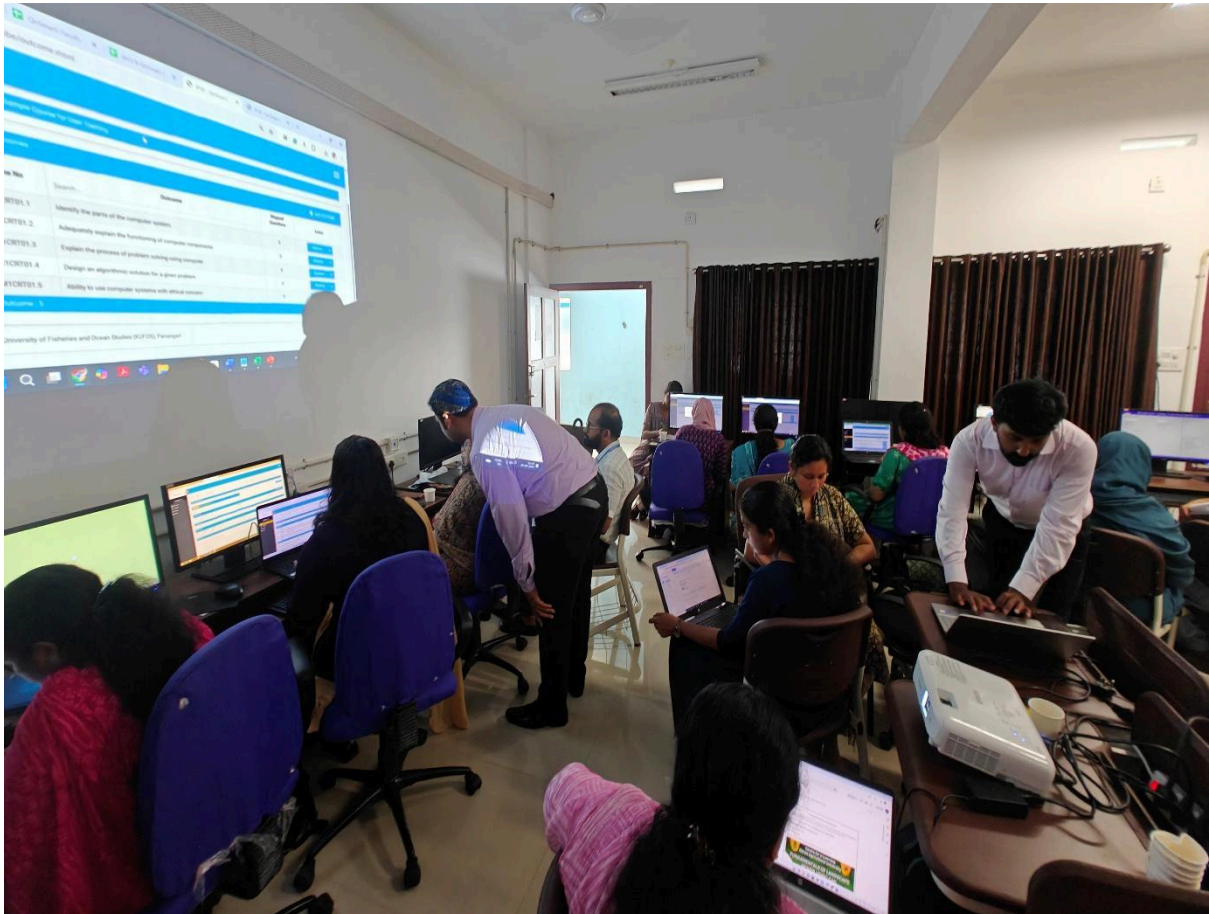
*NAAC Peer Team submitting Final Report to Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. Pradeep Kumar T*

### **Academic Programmes**

In the field of academic quality enhancement, the IQAC coordinated curriculum review workshops with the Boards of Studies to strengthen outcome-based education and align programs with emerging industry requirements. IQAC in association with IPSR Solutions Ltd., Kottayam conducted four hand-on training programme during this period for the teaching faculty to convert the syllabus of all the programs offered by KUFOS in to OBE mode. University also procured deQ OBE, a cloud-based software to support OBE mapping and preparation of Question Bank.







*Hands-on training programme for Faculties on Implementation of OBE system*

A series of faculty development programmes were conducted on ICT-enabled teaching, advanced research methodologies, and applications of artificial intelligence. In association with Linnk Academy, Kakanad a one-day workshop on the topic “Leveraging AI Tools for Research & Content Creation for Faculties” was conducted on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025.



*Faculty attending Workshop on AI tools*



*Mr. Vyasan J, Academia and Industrial Mentor handling the session*

Further, student feedback mechanisms were strengthened, ensuring continuous improvement in teaching and curriculum delivery. An online data acquisition system was put in place to collect feedback from different stakeholders including Students, Alumni, Faculties and Farmers. For documenting the monthly activities of the faculties and department, a Sharepoint-based app has been created.

### **Research and Innovation**

Research and innovation received special emphasis during the year. IQAC deputed Dr. Jenny Ann John to attend the training sessions on intellectual property rights for data collection on patent drafting at KSCSTE, Trivandrum on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025. Similarly, Research ethics, and scientific writing classes were organized to build capacity among scholars. A quality audit of research publications was carried out to encourage high-impact contributions in SCOPUS and SCI-indexed journals. Additionally, interdisciplinary collaborations were promoted in priority areas such as Blue Economy and Functional Foods.

### **Student Support and Progression**

In the area of student support and progression, the IQAC associated with induction and orientation programmes for newly admitted students, familiarizing them with the academic system and university culture. IQAC also supported a series of events on Anti-ragging, Anti-Drug abuse, Human Rights, Environmental protection organized by NSS and NCC units of KUFOS. To create an awareness among the faculty and students of KUFOS on the necessity to uphold the dignity of Indian Constitution an



invited talk by Dr. Bismi Gopalakrishnan, Registrar, Mahatma Gandhi University was conducted on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025.



*Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. A. Biju Kumar honouring Dr. Bismi Gopalakrishnan*  
**Quality Assurance**

Quality assurance and benchmarking were pursued through regular academic and administrative audits. The IQAC prepared documentation and reports required for NAAC accreditation and national ranking frameworks such as NIRF and ARIIA. IQAC participated in the AISHE survey of 2023-24 and also in the NIRF, KIRF and ARIIA ranking systems for the period 2024-25. IQAC is in the process of revising the Institutional Development Plan for KUFOS based on the new guidelines by UGC under eight Enablers. IQAC also started processing the application of faculty promotion under the CAS programme. Digital initiatives also advanced significantly during the year. The Learning Management System was promoted to strengthen blended and online learning. IQAC is in process of acquiring an LMS platform from Digital University of Kerala for streamlining its academic delivery. The digital repository of dissertations, theses, and research publications was expanded, improving access for both students and researchers. The IQAC also initiated steps towards ERP-based e-governance for admissions, examinations, and finance, thereby enhancing efficiency and transparency in administration. IQAC initiated steps to include KUFOS under the list of institutes recognized by ICCR to enrol Foreign students.

In conclusion, the IQAC at KUFOS played a pivotal role during 2024–25 in consolidating academic quality, strengthening research output, fostering student development, and deepening the university's engagement with society. Its initiatives in digital transformation, environmental sustainability, and governance reforms have added further strength to the institution's progress. In future the IQAC aims to focus on preparing a master plan for the University to increase its visibility, achieve higher national and international ranking, developing academic and research programs with international collaborations, strengthening industry-academia partnerships and to acquire additional funds for developing its infrastructure that will position KUFOS as a leader in fisheries and ocean studies at the national and global level.