

## *Minutes of the*

### **Seventh Meeting of Executive Council (2019-21) of Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi**

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**Date:** Dec. 29, 2020

**Time:** 11.00 a.m. onwards

**Agenda:** Annexure 1

**Venue:** Online (via ZOOM)

**Chair**

Dr R.S. Paroda

President, ISPGR

**Members**

Dr R.C. Agrawal

Vice President, ISPGR

Dr Kuldeep Singh

Vice President, ISPGR

Dr Dinesh Kumar

Treasurer

Dr Sunil Archak

Editor-in-Chief

Dr Rakesh Singh

Joint Secretary, ISPGR

Dr B. Sarath Babu

Councillor (SZ)

Dr K. Joseph John

Councillor (SZ)

Dr Amit Kumar Singh

Councillor (NZ)

Dr Sanjeev Kumar Singh

Councillor (NZ)

Dr Pramod Wasudeo Ramteke

Councillor (CZ)

Dr Jang Bahadur Singh

Councillor (CZ)

Dr Veerendra Kumar Verma

Councillor (EZ)

**Member Secretary**

Dr Anuradha Agrawal

General Secretary

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#### **Agenda 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of Sixth EC Meeting held on Oct. 23, 2020 and Action Taken Report**

- Dr Anuradha Agrawal, General Secretary, welcomed all the EC members and thanked them all for their presence.
- The minutes of the Sixth EC Meeting held on Oct. 23, 2020 were confirmed.
- Thereafter the ATR report was presented by the GS (*Annexure 2*).
- With respect to issue of duration of membership required to become Fellow of ISPGR (10 vs 5 years), EC agreed to retain the 10-year period, given the large number (50%) of members who are yet to become Fellows. Further, it would be an incentive to attract young scholars and students to become Life Members at an early stage.

#### **Agenda 2: General Secretary's Report**

- Dr Anuradha Agrawal presented the General Secretary's report (*Annexure 3*).
- President, ISPGR, appreciated the efforts made by ISPGR for co-organizing the National Seminar on 'Crop Breeding for Wider Adaptation'. He suggested that follow-up action be taken to ensure that organizers (Ranchi Chapter of Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding) bring out the proceedings at the earliest.

*(Action: General Secretary)*

- Comments received from a few members regarding some apprehensions about the revised Award proforma were discussed. It was agreed that the Expert Committee to

judge the awards would not be totally dictated by the scores in the proforma, but would take a holistic approach in assessing PGR contributions of the applicants. This would specially be the case for Dr HB Singh Memorial Award, where lifetime achievements may be judged more subjectively.

Further, EC unanimously agreed that the last date of receiving applications for ISPGR Awards 2020 be extended up to Jan. 31, 2021, in view of several requests received from members (due to change in proforma). The extended date to be announced immediately to all.

*(Action: General Secretary)*

- President, ISPGR, advised that the ISPGR Award Function be planned at the earliest (March-April 2021), either in online or regular mode, depending on the COVID-19 situation. He also asked that Calendar of Events of 2021 be drafted and presented in the next EC meeting, which could be by end of February or early March.

*(Action: General Secretary and Joint Secretary)*

### **Agenda 3: Editor-in-Chief's Report**

- Dr Sunil Archak presented the EIC's report (*Annexure 4*). He apprised the status of manuscripts, and printing of IJPGR. He informed that due to unforeseen reasons, the last issue of Vol 33 (3), 2020 was delayed. It was advised by EC to try and publish the same by end of Jan. 2021.

*(Action: Editor-in-Chief)*

- EC approved the changes in Editorial Board as well for Editors, and suggested that letters be sent accordingly to get consent from new members, at the earliest.

*(Action: Editor-in-Chief)*

- President, ISPGR, suggested that a committee comprising Drs R.C. Agrawal, Kuldeep Singh, Anuradha Agrawal and Sunil Archak meet to discuss in detail about improvement of IJPGR ratings and its visibility.

*(Action: Editor-in-Chief)*

### **Agenda 4: Treasurer's Report**

- Dr Dinesh Kumar presented the Treasurer's Report, providing the status of budget of the current FY (*Annexure 5*).
- The EC placed on record appreciation to the Chartered Accountant and Dr Anuradha Agrawal, GS of ISPGR for successfully getting refund on the ITR of 2017-18, wherein tax of almost 9 lakhs was paid due to the financial resources generated under the IAC2016. President, ISPGR appreciated the roles played by Treasurer and General Secretary in pursuing this case
- President, ISPGR suggested that momentum to increase ISPGR resources through Membership drive be accelerated jointly by all EC members.

*(Action: Treasurer, ISPGR)*

#### **Agenda 5: Proposal for instituting a new award in name of Late Shri S.A. Dadlani**

- A proposal was received from Dr and Mrs N.K. Dadlani for ISPGR to start an award in the name of their late father Shri S.A. Dadlani, on the occasion of his birth centenary (1 Jan., 2021), to commemorate his contributions. They informed that Shri S.A. Dadlani spent most part of his service life in the cause of PGR. Starting at the Division of Plant Introduction, IARI, New Delhi, he retired from NBPGR, New Delhi in January, 1981. Having been trained at the N.I. Vavilov Institute of Plant Industry, Leningrad (formerly USSR), he set up the IARI Plant Introduction Research Station, Phagli, Shimla in early 1960s (now an important NBPGR Regional Station) for the conservation of Himalayan bio diversity and resources.
- Dr and Mrs N.K. Dadlani proposed the award be started by ISPGR to recognise and felicitate the 'Best Post Graduate Research' in India during the year, and offered a sum of Rs 2,00,000 (Rupees two lakh only) towards funding of the award.
- The proposal was discussed in detail by EC members. Based on detailed deliberations, it was unanimously agreed that the present proposal probably may not be sustainable on a long-term basis, given that every award entails a lot of hidden cost in terms of application screening, jury, award function, travel expenses of awardees, etc. Already ISPGR has several awards running, and with the rapid decrease in bank interest rates in the recent past, it is putting pressure on the limited funds of the ISPGR. However, the EC of ISPGR appreciated the gesture on part of the Dadlani's to celebrate their fathers' centenary year, and recognises the contributions of Shri S.A. Dadlani to NBPGR. It was suggested that the decision of EC be conveyed quickly to Dr and Mrs N.K. Dadlani.

*(Action: General Secretary)*

#### **Agenda 6: Remarks by President, ISPGR**

- Dr R.S. Paroda, President, ISPGR, urged that the Society plan events in the new year on role of PGR in addressing contemporary issues like gene editing, climate change, biotic and abiotic stresses. The COVID-19 pandemic also has brought into the fore an important role of diversification of sustainable food systems as well as cropping patterns, in which PGR can contribute immensely. He suggested that ISPGR should consider planning seminar/symposium on similar lines like the United Nations 'Food Systems Summit 2021' which would launch bold new actions to transform the way the world produces and consumes food, to address all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

*(Action: Vice Presidents and General Secretary)*

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and all EC members by Dr Rakesh Singh, Joint Secretary.

**Anuradha Agrawal**  
(General Secretary)

**R.S. Paroda**  
(President)

## Seventh Meeting of the ISPGR Executive Council (EC) (2019-2021)

December 29, 2020 (11.00 a.m.)

Virtual Meeting

### AGENDA

11.00 – 11.05 a.m.	Welcome Remarks	<b>Anuradha Agrawal</b> General Secretary, ISPGR
11.05 – 11.10 a.m.	Confirmation of the Minutes of Sixth EC Meeting held on Oct. 23, 2020 and Action Taken Report	
11.10 – 11.15 a.m.	General Secretary's report	
11.15 – 11.20 a.m.	Editor-in-Chief's report	<b>Sunil Archak</b> Editor-in-Chief, IJPGR
11.20 – 11.25 a.m.	Treasurer's report	<b>Dinesh Kumar</b> Treasurer, ISPGR
11.25 -11.30 a.m.	Proposal for instituting a new award in name of Late Shri S.A. Dadlani	<b>Anuradha Agrawal</b> General Secretary, ISPGR
11.30 – 11.35 a.m.	Any other item, with the permission of Chair	
11.35 – 11.40 a.m.	Remarks by Vice President	<b>Kuldeep Singh</b> Vice President, ISPGR
11.40– 11.45 a.m.	Remarks by Vice President	<b>R.C. Agrawal</b> Vice President, ISPGR
11.45 – 11.55 p.m.	Remarks by President	<b>R.S. Paroda</b> President, ISPGR
11.55 – 12.00 noon	Vote of Thanks	<b>Rakesh Singh</b> Joint Secretary, ISPGR

**Action Taken Report of the Sixth EC (2019-12) Meeting Held on Oct. 23, 2020**

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.	<p>President, ISPGR suggested that draft proceedings of 'National Webinar on Implementation of Access to Plant Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing' be circulated soon amongst the invited speakers and panellists at the earliest to seek their comments. He advised that action be initiated for printing hard copies and to circulate the same widely at the earliest.</p> <p><i>(Action: General Secretary)</i></p>	<p>The Proceedings and Recommendations were circulated and comments received. The soft copy is ready and hard copy is to be printed soon after receipt of ISBN number, which has been applied.</p>
2.	<p>With respect to issue of duration of membership required to become Fellow of ISPGR (currently 10 years), President, ISPGR, suggested that the issue needs to be discussed further. The list of members who have completed 10 years' and 5 years' membership needs to be compiled and presented to the EC in the next meeting to take a decision.</p> <p><i>(Action: General Secretary)</i></p>	<p>List was prepared. Of the total 763 Life members, 16% are already Fellows, 50% are members more than 10 years of membership, and only 14% members fall in the category of 5-10 years' membership. The remaining 20% are below 5 years' members.</p>
3.	<p>Given the situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided by the EC that the Award Function as well as National Symposium be organised by the middle of next year (2021).</p> <p><i>(Action: General Secretary)</i></p>	<p>The events are being planned for June-July 2021.</p>
4.	<p>Membership drive has to be intensified by sending letters to all active and young scientists who could be potential members.</p> <p><i>(Action: Treasurer and Councillors)</i></p>	<p>Personal contact made to induce membership. Letters shall be sent in Jan. 2021 for fresh drive.</p>
5.	<p>Comments on the draft of revised proforma for ISPGR Awards to be sought from the Award Committee and then circulated amongst EC members for comments. Same be used then for the announcement of awards for the year 2020.</p> <p><i>(Action: General Secretary and Joint Secretary)</i></p>	<p>Proforma was circulated amongst all; after suitably incorporating suggestion, it was approved by President, ISPGR on Nov. 28, 2020. Call of ISPGR awards was made on Dec. 1, 2020 with last date of submission as Dec. 31, 2020.</p>
6.	<p>A one-day Workshop be organized on 'Digital Sequence information (DSI)' before the GB9</p>	<p>The DSI meeting is being planned by Director, NBPGR and ISPGR</p>

	<p>meeting of the ITPGRFA in December, 2021. Dr Kuldeep Singh, Vice President, ISPGR &amp; Director, ICAR-NBPGR agreed to take necessary action for the same.</p> <p>In view of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on value chains, a National Seminar/Symposia be planned on food security through sustainable food systems. This will be in line with proposed UN Conference on 'Food Systems Summit' to be held next year.</p> <p><i>(Action: President, Vice Presidents and General Secretary)</i></p>	would partner in the same.
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## Report of the General Secretary

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### 1. Organization of National Seminar

A two-day dual (virtual and offline mode) National Seminar on 'Crop Breeding for Wider Adaptation' was organized by Ranchi Chapter of Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding (ISGPB) in collaboration with ISGPB, New Delhi and Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR), New Delhi at Birsa Agricultural University (BAU) from Dec. 12-13, 2020. Drs RS Paroda, Kuldeep Singh and Anuradha Agrawal from ISPGR were members of National Advisory Committee, while Dr S.B. Chaudhury, Member, ISPGR was in the Organizing Committee.

Dr Kuldeep presented a Lead lecture entitled "Plant Genetic Resources in India: Management and Utilization" and Dr Anuradha Agrawal gave an invited talk on "Role of biotechnology in PGR conservation". Over 200 scientists, teachers and researchers from across the country participated in the two-day event. The experts discussed about plant breeding issues in different technical sessions themed on new frontiers in crop improvement, climate resilient breeding with quality enhancement, plant genetic resource management and pre-breeding, molecular breeding for crop improvement, traditional knowledge, breeders, farmers' rights and intellectual property rights issues.

### 2. Revision of ISPGR Awards Proforma

Based on suggestions and recommendations of experts of the ISPGR Award Committee, all the ISPGR Award proformas were revised to increase objectivity and ease of scoring. The 2020 applications for awards were made on Dec. 1, 2020.

### 3. ABS Proceedings and Recommendations

The drafts of the Proceedings and Recommendations of the 'National Webinar on Implementation of Access to Plant Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing' were circulated amongst speakers as well as panellists. The process of registration of ISBN number was initiated. Suitable action was taken to invite quotations for printing of hard copies and press proof is at final stages.

(Anuradha Agrawal)  
General Secretary

## Report of the Editor-in-Chief, IJPGR

### A. Manuscript current status

Total Manuscripts = 84\*

- i.No. of MS Under Review = 25
- ii.No. of MS which only one referee comments = 4
- iii.No. of MS under editorial process = 20
- iv.No. of MS sent back to authors for revision = 34
- v.No. of MS Accepted = One article [for vol. 34 (1) 2020]

- ❖ 15 articles and XXXIX<sup>th</sup> PGRN published in IJPGR 33 (2) 2020.
- ❖ 15 articles and XXXX<sup>th</sup> PGRN will be published in IJPGR 33 (3) 2020.

### B. Review articles from foreign authors

#	Name	Topic
1.	Dr Mariana Yazbek, Genebank Manager, ICARDA	Genebank Relocation without Affecting Utilization
2.	Dr Pitambar Shrestha, (LI-BIRD), Nepal	ITPGRFA: Concerns unattended
3.	Prof Bikram Gill, University Kansas State University	Genetic and Genomic Resources of Wheat: Past Driving the Future
4.	Professor Nigel Maxted, University of Birmingham, UK	<i>Ex situ</i> conservation of crop wild relatives: merits and pitfalls
5.	Dr Muhabbat Turdieva,, Alliance Bioversity-CIAT, Tashkent	<i>Ex situ</i> conservation of PGR in Central Asia: Challenges and Opportunities

### C. Reorganization of Editorial board

#### Proposals

#### 1. Induct more foreign editors and editors from CG genebanks

- a. Ashutosh Sarker, ICARDA
- b. AK Joshi, CIMMYT
- c. Rajeev Varshney, ICRISAT
- d. PK Joshi Ex-IFPRI
- e. RS Hamilton, Ex-IRRI
- f. Axel Diederichsen, PGRC
- g. BM Prasanna, CIMMYT
- h. Sanjeet Kumar, AVRDC

#### 2. Induct editors from other organizations/SAUs in India

Proposals required



**3. Drop non-responsive editors due to their preoccupation with research or willingness to discontinue**

- a. IS Bisht
- b. MC Yadav
- c. MK Rana



(Sunil Archak)

Editor-in-Chief

### Report of the Treasurer

- The status of ISPGR accounts (as on Dec. 28, 2020) is as follows:

Category	March 31, 2020 (Rs)	Dec. 28, 2020 (Rs)
<b>Cash and Bank Balance</b>		
Fixed Deposit	57,01,298.98	69,03,757.20
Cash-in Hand	971.00	6,430.00
Cash in Bank (saving account)	2,40,432.80	2,48,083.27
<b>Incomes</b> (membership, donation etc.)	12,05,278.26	16,15,858.00
<b>Expenditure</b> (journal, secretarial expenses)	16,33,851.10	3,71,991.00

- Income details (in Rs) are as follows:

Particulars of Income	Amount (Rs)
Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT, Donation for National Webinar	2,00,000
Federation of Seed Industry of India, Donation for National Webinar	98,500
IJPGR Subscription Diva Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.	1,20,251
Refund of Income Tax for FY-2017-18	9,72,630
Membership (Institutional)	20,000
Membership (Life)	1,70,000
Membership (Annual)	12,000
IJPGR Color Printing Charges	16,000
Bank Interest	6,477
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,15,858</b>

*NB: ICAR sanctioned Rs. 2,00,000/-amount for IJPGR publication 2020-21; amount to be received as yet*

- Expenditure details (in Rs) are as follows:

Particulars of Expenditure	Amount (Rs)
<b>ISPGR Office</b>	
Capital (Hitachi Window AC, V Guard Stabilizer and Fitting Service Charges)	32,500
Salary & honorarium	2,20,000
Stationery	703
Postage	2,029
Toner Cartridge for Printer	3,577
Antivirus for PC	2,419
Travel (local)	1,700
CA services for Audit and ITR	26,550
Printing (miscellaneous)	6,440
<b>IJPGR</b>	

Printing of IJPGR Vol 33(1), 2020	76,073
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,71,991</b>

*NB: Contribution of ISPGR (Rs. 50,000/-) for National Seminar on Crop Breeding Amount not debited in bank-*

- The status of ISPGR membership is as follows:

Total ISPGR life members	<b>773</b>
Life Members, April 01, 2020 to December 24, 2020	<b>34</b>
Institutional Members, April 01, 2020 to December 24, 2020	<b>1</b>
Annual Members, April 01, 2020 to December 24, 2020	<b>12</b>

- Increasing membership drive is being undertaken, including through Councillors from various zones.



(Dinesh Kumar)  
Treasurer, ISPGR