

## *Minutes of the*

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

---

**Date:** Feb 6, 2021

**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 Sunil Archak

Editor-in-Chief

Dr Rakesh Singh

Joint Secretary, ISPGR

Dr K. Joseph John

Councillor (SZ)

Dr Amit Kumar Singh

Councillor (NZ)

Dr Sanjeev Kumar Singh

Councillor (NZ)

Dr Veerendra Kumar Verma

Councillor (EZ)

Dr Mohan Lal

Councillor (EZ)

Dr Kartar Singh

Councillor (WZ)

**Member Secretary**

Dr Anuradha Agrawal

General Secretary

---

#### **Agenda 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of Seventh EC Meeting held on Dec. 29, 2020 and Action Taken Report**

- Dr Anuradha Agrawal, General Secretary, welcomed all the EC members and thanked them all for their presence. She informed that Dr Kuldeep Singh, Vice President and Dr Dinesh Kumar, Treasurer, had informed about their inability to join the meeting.
- The minutes of the Seventh EC Meeting held on Dec. 29, 2020 were confirmed.
- Thereafter the ATR report was presented by the GS (*Annexure 2*).

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

- Dr Anuradha Agrawal presented the General Secretary's report (*Annexure 3*).
- The President advised that calendar of events be shared with all ISPGR members at the earliest and necessary preparations be initiated for all the events. The hard copies of the ABS webinar be shared with all concerned Ministries, Departments and Research Institutes for wider publicity.

*(Action: General Secretary)*

- Dr Rakesh Singh suggested that proposals may be invited from Universities to hold virtual symposia on topical issues related to PGR, in which ISPGR would support a token amount (~Rs 20,000) towards its arrangement. EC advised that such possibilities be explored.

*(Action: Joint Secretary & Councillors, NZ)*

- Dr Sunil Archak briefed the EC about a 'Virtual Brainstorming on Digital Sequence Information and Germplasm Sharing' being planned during last week of Feb/first week of March 2021. EC approved the same.

*(Action: Dr Sunil Archak & General 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.
- 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)*

### Agenda 4: Treasurer's Report

- As Dr Dinesh Kumar presented was absent, the Treasurer's Report was presented by General Secretary (*Annexure 5*).
- It was also informed to the EC that the Borlough Institute of South Asia (under CIMMYT) as co-organizers of the IAC2016, had paid for certain services/works on behalf of ISPGR (e.g. food, exhibition hall, mementoes etc.). In an email received on Feb 3, 2021 BISA office informed that during its 2019 Audit, with respect to IAC2016, auditors observed "while reconciling the IAC Event 2016 account BISA has made an excess payment to ISPGR for INR 4,51,337 on account of VAT refund received which is already adjusted from expenses details shared earlier". Hence, according to BISA Finance Section, there was an error in the calculation (detected by external audit) and that ISPGR needs to pay Rs 4,51,337 to BISA.

EC advised to get the accounts of IAC2016 checked by its Chartered Accountant. If any amount is due towards BISA, possibilities may be discussed with competent authority of BISA, for reconciliation of the said amount.

*(Action: General Secretary & Treasurer, ISPGR)*

### Agenda 5: Any Other Item

- The General Secretary proposed that salary of the ISPGR staff (one full time and one part time Assistants) be increased w.e.f. April 2021. The increments given in the past are as follows:

Month	Year	Full time Assistant	Part-time Assistant
October	2014	7,500	2,500
October	2015	12,000	4,000
December	2017	16,000	5,000
October	2019	18,000	6,000
April	2021	19,000	6,500

- The EC agreed to the proposal. It was also suggested that in future yearly increment be given w.e.f. the first month of each FY.

*(Action: General Secretary)*

### Agenda 6: Remarks by Vice-President, ISPGR

- Dr R.C. Agrawal, Vice President, appreciated the work being undertaken by ISPGR and extended his full support for all the activities in the calendar year, especially with respect to 2<sup>nd</sup> IAC and GB9 meeting of the ITPGRFA.

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

- Dr R.S. Paroda, President, ISPGR, advised that in preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> IAC, NBPGR may consider coordinating a brief report on implementation of Delhi Declaration on Agrobiodiversity, in coordination with all other bureaus of ICAR (fish, animal, microbes, and insects). He said that ISPGR would be happy to support/participate in this endeavour.  
(Action: Vice Presidents and General Secretary)
- He further suggested that visibility of Society be increased by improving its website, printing new brochure/flier and increasing membership drive.  
(Action: General Secretary and Joint Secretary)
- He also urged that ISPGR should take some initiative to facilitate wider publicity to Farmer's Varieties (especially registered with PPV&FRA) and Farmer Awardees.  
(Action: Dr R.C. Agrawal, Vice President)
- Dr Paroda placed on record his appreciation to EC members, especially Drs Kuldeep Singh, R.C. Agrawal, Anuradha Agrawal and Sunil Archak for their untiring efforts toward the Society activities.

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)

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

**Feb 6, 2021 (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 Seventh EC Meeting held on Dec 30, 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.	Preparation of National Symposium and 2 <sup>nd</sup> IAC	<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

**ATR on the Seventh EC Meeting of ISPGR**

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.	<p>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.</p> <p><i>(Action: General Secretary)</i></p>	Proceedings have been prepared and uploaded on ISPGR website
2.	<p>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.</p> <p><i>(Action: General Secretary)</i></p>	Last date extended to Jan 31, 2021. A total of 67 applications received.
3.	<p>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.</p> <p><i>(Action: General Secretary and Joint Secretary)</i></p>	Being planned accordingly
4.	<p>Dr Sunil Archak presented the EIC's report (<i>Annexure 4</i>). 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.</p> <p><i>(Action: Editor-in-Chief)</i></p>	Second proof is in press.
5.	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>(Action: Editor-in-Chief)</i></p>	A meeting of the Editorial Members was held on Feb 3, 2021. EIC to provide update in his report.
6.	<p>It was suggested that the decision of EC be conveyed quickly to Dr and Mrs N.K. Dadlani regarding proposed award in the name of their father.</p> <p><i>(Action: General Secretary)</i></p>	Needful was done.

7.	<p>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.</p> <p><i>(Action: Vice Presidents and General Secretary)</i></p>	Being planned accordingly (GS Report)
----	--	---------------------------------------

## Report of the General Secretary

### 1. NAAS Proforma for Society Evaluation

The National Academy of Agricultural Science (NAAS) has brought out a new proforma to evaluate the scientific output and functioning of all Societies that seek funding from ICAR (for journals as well as seminar/symposia). Accordingly, the proforma was filled with respect to activities undertaken in the last five years, and submitted to NAAS on Jan. 31, 2021 (online). Hard copy has also been submitted.

### 2. ABS Proceedings and Recommendations

The final soft and hard copies of the Proceedings and Recommendations of the 'National Webinar on Implementation of Access to Plant Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing' were circulated appropriately, after getting ISBN number.

### 3. National Seminar on Crop Breeding for Wider Adaptation

The Proceedings and Recommendations of this seminar have been uploaded on ISPGR website.

### 4. Calendar of Events for 2021

The following activities are proposed for this year

Date	Venue	Activity
March 1, 2021	Online	<b>Webinar on DSI</b> (NBPGR and ISPGR)
April 26, 2021	ICAR-NBPGR , New Delhi	<b>11<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting (GBM) of ISPGR</b> <b>ISPGR Award Function</b> (Awards of 2019, 2020) <b>4<sup>th</sup> Dr A.B. Joshi Memorial Lecture</b>
July (third week), 2021	NASC/NBPGR, New Delhi	<b>National Symposium on 'Role of in Sustainable Food Systems'</b> To be organized by ISPGR in collaboration with ICAR-NBPGR, PPV&FRA, NBA, TAAS, MSSRF, Alliance for BI & CIAT etc.
Aug-Dec , 2021		<b>ISPGR Elections</b>
Oct (fourth week), 2021		<b>2nd International Agrobiodiversity Congress 2021 (IAC2021)- Session on "Status of Implementation of Delhi Declaration on Agrobiodiversity Management".</b>

(Anuradha Agrawal)  
General Secretary

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

### 1. Current status of manuscripts

i.	Total number of manuscripts	85
ii.	Number of manuscripts in press Vol 33 (3)	16
iii.	Number of manuscripts accepted for Vol 34 (1)	04
iv.	Number of manuscripts under Review	28
v.	Number of manuscripts under editorial process	10
vi.	Number of manuscripts under authors' revision	27

- Plant germplasm registration notices NOT included in Vol 33 (3)
- 40<sup>th</sup> plant germplasm registration notices will be published in first volume of 2021 [34(1)]

### 2. Editors' Meeting

- Editors' meeting was organized on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2021. Out of 15 Indian Editors, 10 members attended. Dr Pradheep was on exploration, Dr Vandana Tyagi was indisposed due to ill health and three Drs IS Bisht, MC Yadav & Mukesh Rana were absent with no information.
- EIC made a presentation listing
  - i. concerns raised by EC regarding the quality and regularity of the Journal and impact factor
  - ii. delay in manuscript processing at various stages
  - iii. generic procedure of manuscript handling
  - iv. change the author instructions as a step to modernize the publication style. **New Author instructions will be developed by EIC and will be presented for concurrence of EC.**
- As approved by EC, reorganization of the editorial team was also discussed.
  - i. The proposal includes organizing the editorial team as
    - Editorial Board
    - Editors
  - ii. Editorial Board will have advisory role; provide review articles in their area of expertise; become a link to IJPGR from their organization. The Editorial Board will have members from India and abroad. Names proposed include
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rajeev Kumar Varshney, ICRISAT</li> <li>▪ Ashutosh Sarker, ICARDA</li> <li>▪ Arun K Joshi, CIMMYT</li> <li>▪ Javed Rizvi, ICRAF</li> <li>▪ Andreas Graner, IPK</li> <li>▪ BM Prasanna, CIMMYT</li> <li>▪ Kanchit Thammasiri, MU, Thailand</li> <li>▪ RK Tyagi, APAARI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sadar Uddin Siddiqui, NARC , Islamabad</li> <li>▪ Axel Diederichsen, Plant Gene Resources of Canada</li> <li>▪ NK Singh, NIPB</li> <li>▪ S Natesh, Formerly with DBT</li> <li>▪ Andy Jarvis, CIAT</li> <li>▪ Bart Panis, Bioversity-CIAT</li> <li>▪ Hugh W Pritchard, RBG-Kew</li> <li>▪ Hari Upadhyay</li> </ul>
---	--



**EC may advise on this please. Letter of invitation may go from President, ISPGR.**

- iii. **Expansion of Editors' List** essential to ensure reduced burden-increased speed of processing. NAAS, UGC and ISI evaluate the diversity of editorial team. It is proposed to include experts from SAUs, CSIR institutes, Central Universities, etc. in addition to next generation from NBPGR.

#### **NBPGR**

▪ Joseph John, NBPGR  
Thrissur

▪ Sheikh Sultan, NBPGR  
Srinagar

▪ Vimala Devi, DGC, NBPGR

▪ Rajkumar S, DGC, NBPGR

▪

#### **SAU**

▪ RK Salgotra, SKAUST

▪ PAU, UASB, UASD,

▪ Nirmala Kumari, TNAU

#### **Other ICAR institutes**

▪ Amita, NIPB

▪ D Krishnaveni, IIRR

▪ Pichaimuthu, IIHR

#### **Central University**

▪ Rajesh Tandon, DU

▪

#### **CSIR**

▪ CS Mohanty, NBRI

▪ CIMAP

### **Number of manuscripts handled by editors (2018-2020)**

	<b>Editor Name</b>	<b>No. of paper processed</b>
1.	Dr Kavita Gupta	19
2.	Dr Sherry R Jacob	19
3.	Dr N Sivaraj	18
4.	Dr K Pradheep	17
5.	Dr Celia Chalam V	16
6.	Dr Manjusha Verma	16
7.	Dr Rakesh Singh	16
8.	Dr Lalit Arya	15
9.	Dr Vandana Tyagi	13
10.	Dr Anjula Pandey	12
11.	Dr Kamala Venkateswaran	9
12.	Dr Ruchira Pandey	5
13.	Dr IS Bisht	4
14.	Dr MC Yadav	3
15.	Dr Mukesh Rana	2

EIC will send thank you letters to **Drs IS Bisht, MC Yadav and MK Rana** for their service to the Journal and the Society. **Request consent of EC.**

### **3. Special Issues of IJPGR**

- As was mentioned in the last EC meeting, EIC proposes to bring out a special issue of **“Large-scale Characterization of Genebank Accessions”** carried out under CRP on Agrobiodiversity. **Request consent of EC.**
- EIC will negotiate to cover the expenditure of the special issue by the project funds. **Request consent of EC.**

- EIC will identify and invite a team of **Guest Editors** from the project team for the special issue. **Request consent of EC.**

**EIC also proposes a special issue on CGIAR-collaborative PGR research in India. Details will be presented in the next EC meeting.**



(Sunil Archak)

Editor-in-Chief

### Report of the Treasurer

- The status of ISPGR accounts (as on Feb 5, 2021) is as follows:

Cash and Bank Balance		Amount (in Rs)
	Fixed Deposit	6,903,757.20
	Cash in Bank (saving account)	28,657.00
	Cash in Hand	10,550.00
<b>Income</b>	Membership, donation etc.	52,000.00
<b>Expenditure</b>	Journal, secretarial expenses	3,49,098.00

- Expenditure details (in Rs) are as follows:

<b>ISPGR Office</b>	Salary of staff	53,000.00
	Postage	10,140.00
	Toner Cartridge for Printer	200.00
	Travel (local)	500.00
	CA services for Professional Charges for Filling Income Tax Return and Income Tax Refund for A.Y 17-18	59,000.00
	Contribution of ISPGR for National Seminar on Crop Breeding (BAU), Ranchi	50,000.00
	Proceeding Printing for National Webinar on Implementation of Access to Plant Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing	86,376.00
<b>IJPGR</b>	IJPGR Vol 33(2), 2020	89,882.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,49,098.00</b>

- Income details (in Rs) are as follows:

Membership (Institutional)	20,000.00
Membership (Life)	30,000.00
Membership (Annual)	2,000.00

**Note:** ICAR sanctioned amount for IJPGR publication 2020-21- in due –Rs. 2,00,000/-

- ISPGR Membership details

Total ISPGR life members	<b>779</b>
Life Members, Dec 29, 2020 to February 06, 2021	<b>6</b>
Institutional Members, Dec 29, 2020 to February 06, 2021	<b>1</b>
Annual Members, April Dec 29, 2020 to February 06, 2021	<b>2</b>



(Dinesh Kumar)  
Treasurer, ISPGR