

## Proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting of the Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi, held on

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The 8<sup>th</sup> General Body (GB) Meeting of the Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR) was held on March 5, 2015 at NBPGR, New Delhi, under the Chairmanship of Dr R.K. Tyagi, Vice-President, ISPGR. The meeting was attended by 55 members of ISPGR. The General Secretary, Dr Anuradha Agrawal, welcomed the Chair and other esteemed members of ISPGR.

### **Agenda No. 1: Report by General Secretary, ISPGR**

The General Secretary apprised the GB briefly about the major activities of the Society since the last GB meeting held on 17.12.2009. She presented the action taken report since last GB (*Annexure 1*), which was approved by the GB.

### **Agenda No. 2: Report by Treasurer, ISPGR**

Dr R.C. Agrawal, Treasurer, presented the audited report (*Annexure 2*), which was approved by the GB.

### **Agenda No. 3: Report by Editor-in-Chief, ISPGR**

Dr R.K. Tyagi, Editor-in-Chief, presented the progress report regarding the progress of IJPGR (*Annexure 3*), which was approved by the GB.

### **Agenda No. 4: Ratification of EC Decisions**

Vice President, ISPGR, Dr R.K. Tyagi apprised the house of major EC decisions. Important ones include:

- (i) Organizing a series of lectures called '**Dr A. B. Joshi Memorial Lecture**', to honour and remember one of the greatest agricultural scientists of the country and Founder Patron of ISPGR. The first lecture is being given by Professor H.Y. Mohan Ram, during the Award function on March 5, 2015 on the topic "Fascinating World of Plants".
- (ii) **Amendment of Constitution with respect to subclause 8 (iii) and addition of a subclause 8 (iv)**

*Clause 8 (iii) The term of the above office bearers will be for a period of three years. The immediate past President will be Ex-officio member of the EC of the Society. The General Secretary, the Editor-in-Chief and the Treasurer shall be from the Headquarters of the Society and in the event of any office bearer leaving the headquarters for more than six months, the EC shall be empowered to fill such vacancies by nomination for the interim period only. None of the office bearers should serve in the same post for more than two terms.*

to be amended and read as follows:

*Clause 8 (iii) The term of the above office bearers will be for a period of three years. The immediate past President will be Ex-officio member of the EC of the Society. The General Secretary, the Editor-in-Chief and the Treasurer shall be from the Headquarters of the Society and in the event of any office bearer leaving the headquarters for more than six months, the EC shall be empowered to fill such vacancies by nomination for the interim period only. None of the office bearers should serve in the same post for more than two terms, except President and General Secretary.*

An additional subclause to be added as follows:

*Clause 8 (iv) Director, NBPGR to be Ex-officio member of the EC of the Society, without having any voting right.*

The GB approved the above decisions.

**Agenda No. 4: Any other item with the permission of the Chair**

**(i) Implementation challenge with regard to Govt. of India Gazette Notification related to exempted crops listed in the Annex I of the ITPGRFA from Section 3 and 4 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002**

This agenda was given by Dr Sudhir Kochhar, Former National Coordinator, NAIP, ICAR, New Delhi. He said that Central Government has exempted crops listed in the Annex I of the ITPGRFA from Section 3 and 4 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BDA) for the purpose of utilization and conservation for research, breeding and training for food and agriculture; provided that such purposes shall not include chemical, pharmaceutical and/or other non-food or feed industrial uses. The exemption has been notified under Section 40 of the BDA after a long drawn effort made by the members of ISPGR, since 2007, in their various capacities (such as *ex-officio* and expert member capacities, etc.). However, the notification has implementation challenges before the NBPGR, ICAR, DARE and DAC, and broadly the GOI wherein the beneficiaries could be more confused than even before unless professional indulgence of the Society is focused, and some possible simplified approach is recommended for the benefit of all players and stakeholders. Thus, it was suggested that ISPGR play pro-active role for generating a policy paper and provide some solutions for implementation of the above. Also, ISPGR should be contributing in other PGR policy matters relating to diversity analysis, genetic erosion, conservation, research funding etc.

**(ii) Establishment of Regional Chapter of ISPGR**

This agenda was given by Dr Rajasekharan P.E. Principal Scientist, IIHR, Bangalore, to increase the visibility of ISPGR at all India level. In principle the GB agreed to the concept. However, the EC would need to work out the logistics and expenditure involved in this process before its implementation.

In general, the GB appreciated the activities of the ISPGR and online availability of the IJPGR. It was proposed that in the long run, the IJPGR should be available online to all members so desiring, and printing and distribution of hard copies may be minimized. Members also opined that there was need to increase the visibility of ISPGR at both national and international levels by networking and increasing its activities.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and all the GB members.



**(Anuradha Agrawal)**  
General Secretary



**(R.K. Tyagi)**  
Vice-President

## Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources

### 8<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting (GBM) March 5, 2015

#### Report by General Secretary

#### 1. Details of Membership

Presently, total 608 Life members (102 members added), 32 Annual/Institutional members are enrolled. These belong to 11 international and 120 national organizations. Efforts have been made to increase the members by approaching individuals and international and national institutions.

#### 2. Executive Council (EC) meetings

A total of 9 meetings of EC were held to discuss and decide the various issues related to activities and growth of the society. In the EC meeting held in May 2014, the rates for membership were revised as follows:

	Old rates		New rates	
	Indian (₹)	Foreign (USD)	Indian (₹)	Foreign (USD)
Life member	3,000	1,000	4,000	1,000
Ordinary member (annual)	250	50	500	50
Institution member (annual)	2,000	250	10,000	250
Student member (annual)	250	50	500	50
Admission Fee	500	15	100	15

#### 3. Organization of Symposium

A 'National Symposium on Crop Improvement for Inclusive Sustainable Development' was held at the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana from Nov. 7-9, 2014. The symposium was organized jointly by ISPGR, Indian Society of Genetics & Plant Breeding, Indian Society of Plant Genetics Resources, Crop Improvement Society of India, Maize Technologist Association of India, Punjab Agricultural University and Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Some 500 delegates attended the Symposium, including scientists, researchers, policy makers and students from various universities. There were 15 lead/invited lectures, 16 oral presentations and 529 short communications. The symposium was conducted under four major themes:

- Developing varieties having climate resilience and higher productivity
- Integration of biotechnology with conventional crop improvement
- Breeding for nutritional, industrial and quality traits
- Conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources

The major recommendations related to PGR emanating from the symposium were as follows:

- Germplasm acquisition to be a continuous process
- Conserved germplasm to be efficiently used
- Emphasis on collection of CWR
- Gap analysis for collection, conservation characterization and cataloguing
- Emphasis on conducting research on policy issues particularly ABS

- Awareness workshops on IPR issues to be conducted regularly for young plant breeders and scientists

#### **4. New Initiatives**

The ISPGR commenced with a new activity in the form of **Interactive Sessions**. The first interactive session on 'Plant genetic resources-Importance for present and future' was organized on February 5, 2015. This was specially targeted for young professionals including scientists, research associates, research fellows and students. The session was led by Padma Bhushan Dr R.S. Paroda, Chairman TAAS, New Delhi and Founder President ISPGR and moderated by Dr R.K.Tyagi, Vice President, ISPGR. Guests of Honours included Dr S.K.Vasal, a Distinguished Maize Scientist from CIMMYT, Mexico and the World Food Prize Laureate; and Dr K.C. Bansal, Director, NBPGR. Some 120 participants attended and benefitted from the session and freely discussed issues related to PGR with the eminent guests.

Another new activity that was approved by the EC was to hold "Dr A.B. Joshi Memorial Lecture" to honour and remember one of the most leading agricultural scientist of the country and Founder Patron of ISPGR.

#### **5. Participation in Exhibition by ISPGR**

ISPGR participated in the Exhibition held during the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (CBD COP 11) as well as the sixth meeting of the CBD serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP 6) held at Hyderabad from 1-19 October, 2012. The event provided India with an opportunity to consolidate, scale-up and showcase its initiatives and strengths on biodiversity. ISPGR brochure, achievements and books were displayed in a stall along with PPVFRA stall.

#### **6. Awards, Recognition and Felicitations**

The process for electing the Honorary Fellows, Fellows of the ISPGR, Dr H.B. Singh Memorial Award, and Dr R.S. Paroda Young Scientist Award were undertaken for the years 2009-14, through expert committees and duly approved by EC. Based on these, the following were approved for presentation of awards during the function on March 5, 2015:

##### **1. Honorary Fellow of ISPGR (2014)**

**Professor H.Y. Mohan Ram**, INSA Srinivasa Ramanujan Research Professor and Former Professor of Botany, University of Delhi

##### **2. Dr Harbhajan Singh Memorial Award (2011-2012)**

**Dr Rai Singh Rana**, Former Director, NBPGR

D-43, Inderprastha Apartments, Sector-14 Rohini, New Delhi

##### **3. Dr Harbhajan Singh Memorial Award (2013-2014)**

**Dr Hari D. Upadhyaya**, Principal Scientist & Head Genebank

ICRISAT, Patancheru, Telangana

##### **4. Dr R.S. Paroda Young Scientist Award (2011)**

**Dr Latchumi Kanthan Bharathi**, Senior Scientist (Hort.),

Central Horticultural Experiment Station, Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Aiginia, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

**5. Dr R.S. Paroda Young Scientist Award (2012)**

**Dr Sundeep Kumar**, Senior Scientist (Biotechnology), National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi.

**6. Dr R.K. Arora Best Paper Award (2012)**

**Dr O.P. Yadav**, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research, Pusa Campus, New Delhi

**7. Dr R.K. Arora Best Paper Award (2013)**

**Drs D Mohan, RK Gupta and BS Tyagi**, Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal, Haryana

**8. Dr K.L. Mehra Award (2013)**

**Mr Kuldeep Tripathi** for best M.Sc. (PGR) student from PG School, IARI, during the 51<sup>st</sup> Convocation

**9. Dr K.L. Mehra Award (2014)**

**Mr Manish Kumar Mittal** for best M.Sc. (PGR) student from PG School, IARI, during the 52<sup>nd</sup> Convocation

**10. Dr K.L. Mehra Award (2014)**

**Ms Padmavati Ganpat Gore** for best M.Sc. (PGR) student from PG School, IARI, during the 53<sup>rd</sup> Convocation

**11. Special Recognition**

**Dr K.C. Bansal**, Director, NBPGR, New Delhi for his contributions to PGR Management.

**12. Fellows (2011)**

<b>Dr Rema Menon</b>	Professor (Hort) & Officer-In-Charge ,AICRP-Tropical Fruits, Banana Reaserch Station, Kannara, Thrissur
<b>Dr Rajasekharan P.E.</b>	Principal Scientist, Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Hessaraghatta, Bangalore
<b>Dr Celia Chalam Vasimalla</b>	Principal Scientist, NBPGR, New Delhi
<b>Dr E. Roshini Nayar</b>	Principal Scientist, NBPGR, New Delhi
<b>Dr Kamala Venkateswaran</b>	Principal Scientist, NBPGR Regional Station, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad

**13. Fellows (2012)**

<b>Dr Kookal Chandran</b>	Principal Scientist, Sugarcane Breeding Institute, (Research Institute), Kannur
<b>Dr Sandhya Gupta</b>	Principal Scientist, NBPGR, New Delhi
<b>Dr Vandana Tyagi</b>	Principal Scientist, NBPGR, New Delhi
<b>Dr Rakesh Singh</b>	Senior Scientist, NBPGR, New Delhi

**14. Fellows (2013)**

<b>Dr M. Elangovan</b>	Principal Scientist, Directorate of Sorghum Research (DSR), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad- 500 030 Andhra Pradesh.
<b>Dr D.R. Bhardwaj</b>	Principal Scientist, Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
<b>Dr Mukesh Kumar Rana</b>	Principal Scientist, Division of Genomic Resources, NBPGR, Pusa Campus, New Delhi- 110 012.
<b>Dr S.R. Pandravada</b>	Principal Scientist, NBPGR, Regional Station, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500 030, Andhra Pradesh.
<b>Dr Nilamani Dikshit</b>	Senior Scientist, NBPGR, Regional Station, Dr. PKDV Campus, Akola - 444 104, Maharashtra.

## 15. Felicitations

- **Dr P.L. Gautam** (Former President, ISPGR, 1993-95) for being appointed as one of the members of Executive Board of Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDT) by the Governing Body of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for a period of three years starting from January 2014 (in absentia).
- **Dr B.S. Dhillon** (Former President, ISPGR, 2005-06) for receiving the Dr B.P. Pal Memorial Award (2015) of the National Academy of Agricultural Science (NAAS), an apex biannual award for singular outstanding contribution to overall agricultural research and development.
- **Professor Swapan Kumar Datta** (President ISPGR 2010-15) for becoming Pro-Vice Chancellor, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan (in absentia).

## 7. Elections of Executive Council (EC)

The elections are due and the process shall be undertaken from April onwards.

Sincere thanks are extended to all the EC members, member of the Society and also the staff of the NBPGR who have contributed and extended great support to carry out the various activities and in the growth of the Society. Thank you!

**Report of the Treasurer for the audited accounts up to 31 March 2014**

The summary of status of finance of the Society is as follows:

**Summary of Auditor's Report (2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14)**

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>March 31, 2012</b>	<b>March 31, 2013</b>	<b>March 31, 2014</b>
Opening Balance (₹)	34,04,895	37,22,878	38,23,026
Receipts (₹)	5, 30,974	7,78,662	3,29,210
Payments (₹)	2,12,991	6,78,515	2, 83,054
Closing Balance (₹)	37,22,878	38,23,026	39,36,182

**ISPGR Balance Sheet as on March 31, 2014**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount (₹)</b>
Opening Balances	
Cash on Hand	4470
Fixed Deposit	36,25,221
In Saving Account	1,93,335
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,23,026</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>3,96,210</b>
<b>Payments</b>	<b>2,83,054</b>
Closing Balance	
Cash on Hand	160
Fixed Deposit	38,66,246
Savings	69,776
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,36,182</b>

### Report of Editor-in-Chief

The number of manuscripts (ms) received, processed and published, along with timelines of IJPGR publication during 2011-14 are as follows:

Year	No. of ms received	No. of ms rejected	No. of ms accepted	Vol No.	Issue No.	Due date	Publication date
2011	90	45	45	24	1	1 April, 2011	15 Feb., 2011
					2	1 Aug., 2011	15 June, 2011
					3	1 Dec., 2011	25 Sept., 2011
2012	143	69	74	25	1	1 April, 2012	1 Jan., 2012
					2	1 Aug., 2012	3 August, 2012
					3	1 Dec., 2012	30 Oct., 2012
2013	105	53	37	26	1	1 April, 2013	2 April, 2013
					2	1 Aug., 2013	27 July, 2013
					3	1 Dec., 2013	1 February, 2014
2014	112	41	31	27	1	1 April, 2014	7 July, 2014
					2	1 Aug., 2014	16 Nov., 2014
					3	1 Dec., 2014	15 Feb., 2015

Thus, all the issues up to 2014 have been published. The average number of papers published per issue are 13 full papers and 2 short communications. The average time taken for processing was 6-7 months, ranging from 1-18 months. With the cooperation of Editors and Refrees, the IJPGR is being published on time and with improved quality. Due to this, IJPGR rating given by NAAS on Jan 1, 2013 was increased from 3 to 4.61.

We started the online processing of the journal, which can be done at the web address <http://www.indianjournals.com/ijor.aspx?target=ijor:ijpgr&type=onlinesubmission>  
 The Journal pdf is available at the website <http://www.indianjournals.com/ijor.aspx?target=ijor:ijpgr&type=home>



The IJPGR earlier had only the ISSN no. for print (0971-8184). We also obtained online ISSN No. 0976-1926 during this period. Additionally, from the Vol. 27(2) 2014 onwards, we are getting *doi* nos. for each paper. Nevertheless, there is scope of improvement and need to overcome constraints like non-receipt of mss in IJPGR format, slow or no response of Referees and many papers received are substandard.

I sincerely thank members of the Editorial team: Drs Ruchira Pandey, Anjula Pandey, Dinesh Kumar, Vandana Tyagi, V. Celia Challam, S.K. Malik, Rakesh Singh and S. Gopal Krishnan for their cooperation and support.