

## Minutes of the

# Fourth Meeting of the Executive Council (2022-2024) of Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR), New Delhi

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**Date:** Dec. 14, 2022

**Time:** 3.00 p.m. onwards

**Agenda:** Annexure 1

**Venue:** Hybrid mode - Dr H.B. Singh Committee Room, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi and Online(via Zoom\*)

<b>Chair</b>	Dr R.S. Paroda	President	
<b>Members</b>	Dr R.K. Tyagi*	Vice President	
	Dr J. C. Rana	Vice President	
	Dr Sunil Archak	Editor in Chief	
	Dr Manjusha Verma	Joint Secretary	
	Dr S. K. Singh	Treasurer	
	Dr Monika Singh	Councillor (NZ)	
	Dr Kuldeep Tripathi	Councillor (NZ)	
	Dr S.K. Barpete*	Councillor (CZ)	
	Dr Mohan Lal*	Councillor (EZ)	
	Dr Veerendra Kumar Verma*	Councillor (EZ)	
	Dr Anil Patidar*	Councillor (WZ)	
	<b>Ex-Officio Member</b>	Dr G.P. Singh	Director, ICAR-NBPGR
	<b>Member Secretary</b>	Dr Anuradha Agrawal	General Secretary

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\*Attended virtually

## Agenda 1: Welcome Remarks

- At the outset Dr Anuradha Agrawal, General Secretary (GS), welcomed the EC members present. It was informed that Dr N. Sivraj Councillor (SZ), Dr Rose Mary Francies, Councillor (SZ), Dr Shailesh Tiwari, Councillor (CZ) and Dr SK Bera (Councillor (WZ), had expressed their inability to attend the meeting due to other commitments.
- Dr G.P. Singh, Director, ICAR-NBPGR extended a formal welcome to all EC members, especially to Dr R.S. Paroda, President, ISPGR whose presence was always very encouraging. He appreciated the meticulous planning and organization of the 1st NCPGRM held during Nov 22-24, 2022. He assured that all required action would be taken to strengthen the PGR system.

## Agenda 2: Introductory Remarks by Chairman

- Dr R.S. Paroda, President had greeted all the EC members on the occasion of the New year and thanked Dr G.P. Singh for the excellent support extended by NBPGR staff for the organization of the 1st NCPGRM. He suggested that NBPGR may facilitate and be proactive in areas of trait discovery, use of crop wild relatives in

pre-breeding, gene editing and in situ conservation of PGR. He also advised that Director, NBPGR may like get the Advisory Board on Genetic Resources reconstituted by the DG, ICAR.

### **Agenda 3: Confirmation of the Minutes of Third EC Meeting held on Oct. 3, 2022 and Action Taken Report**

- The minutes of the Third EC (2022-24) meeting held on Oct. 3, 2022, 2022 were duly confirmed.
- Action Taken Report on recommendations of the Third EC meeting were presented by General Secretary (*Annexure 2*).

### **Agenda 4: General Secretary's Report**

- Dr Anuradha Agrawal presented the General Secretary's report including the glimpses of 1<sup>st</sup> NCPGRM, and acknowledged the support of EC and ICAR-NBPGR in making the event successful (*Annexure 3*).
- Regarding revision of constitution of ISPGR, President suggested that the final report of the Committee be circulated amongst all EC members and discussed in the next EC meeting.
- With respect to awards, it was unanimously agreed that current EC members will not be considered for the ISPGR awards, so as to avoid any conflict of interest. For Dr Harbhajan Singh Award, nominations will henceforth be invited from the EC members, ISPGR Fellows, Head/Directors of Institutions, Vice Chancellors of the Universities or Dean of the Colleges, instead of inviting applications. Accordingly, it was desired that the announcement inviting application for various awards be announced at the earliest  
*(Action: General Secretary)*
- All EC members agreed that the '1<sup>st</sup> National Conference on PGR Management (NCPGRM)' was very successfully concluded, based on feedback from participants. The shortcomings were also discussed to improve in future.
- The General Secretary encouraged the Zonal Councillors to strengthen the regional activities by organizing events (workshop, symposia, seminar etc.) in their regions, as discussed in earlier EC meetings.

*(Action: All Zonal Councillors)*

### **Agenda 5: Editor-in-Chief's report**

- Dr Sunil Archak, Editor-in-Chief, presented the report for status of manuscripts under process and status of publication of Indian Journal of Plant Genetic Resources (IJPGR) (*Annexure 4*).
- He informed that based on the recommendations by the Journal Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr R.K. Tyagi, the IJPGR has initiated the process of signing the MoU with M/S MRI Publication for open access system. Last three volumes have been uploaded for open access at the new webpage by MRI Publication. It was suggested that EIC make critical corrections in the development of new website of IJPGR.

(Action : Editor-in-Chief)

- He also shared that update of articles received and reviewed; and the contents of next volume of IJPGR with 15 articles are ready.
- The economic considerations by making the IJPGR an open access was discussed and members suggested that the payment model be reviewed periodically.

#### Agenda 6: **Treasurer's report**

- Dr Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Treasurer, gave a brief report on the income and expenditure incurred for organizing 1<sup>st</sup> NCPGRM, as well as the general Society expenditures (*Annexure 5*).
- President and General Secretary placed on record the sincere efforts made by Organizing Secretary, Treasurer, Core Organizing Committee, Dr Kavita Gupta and Dr Mukesh Rana for the NCPGRM.

#### Agenda 7: **Any other Item**

- A committee was constituted for preparation of Proceedings and Recommendations of the NCPGRM comprising Drs R.S. Paroda, G.P. Singh, R.K. Tyagi, J.C. Rana, Anuradha Agrawal, Sunil Archak and Manjusha Verma. President, ISPGR suggested that by Jan 15, 2023 all recommendations be compiled by Dr Tyagi and Dr Archak, and Dr Manjusha to compile the proceedings after suitable inputs from all rapporteurs and convenors. Dr Tyagi may review the compiled draft, edit it and circulate to other members for their input. Efforts be made to send the proceedings to press by Jan. 30, 2023.

(Action: All Concerned)

#### Agenda 8 : **Remarks by Vice Presidents**

- Dr J.C. Rana and Dr R.K. Tyagi appreciated the teamwork and overall success of 1<sup>st</sup> NCPGRM. They also acknowledged the inputs ICAR-NBPGR in organizing the event.

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



**Anuradha Agrawal**  
(General Secretary)



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

Date: Jan 6, 2023

## Fourth Meeting of the ISPGR Executive Council (2022-2024)

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022

Hybrid mode

**Venue:** Dr H.B. Singh Committee Room, ICAR-NBPGR, Pusa Campus, New Delhi - 110 012

**Zoom Link :** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82355549234?pwd=b3dXcVdVTkxlazBBa3FGRWFxZ2JhZz09>

Meeting ID: 823 5554 9234

Passcode: 239293

### AGENDA

3.00 – 3.05 p.m.	Welcome Remarks	<b>G.P. Singh</b> Director, ICAR-NBPGR
3.05 – 3.10 p.m.	Introductory Remarks by Chairman	<b>R.S. Paroda</b> President, ISPGR
3.10 – 3.25 p.m.	Confirmation of the Minutes of Third EC (2022-24) Meeting held on Oct .3, 2022 Action Taken Report General Secretary's report	<b>Anuradha Agrawal</b> General Secretary, ISPGR
3.25 – 3.35 p.m.	Editor-in-Chief's report	<b>Sunil Archak</b> Editor-in-Chief, IJPGR
3.35 – 3.45 p.m.	Treasurer's report	<b>S.K. Singh</b> Treasurer, ISPGR
3.45 – 3.50 p.m.	Any other item, with the permission of Chair	
3.50 – 4.00 p.m.	Remarks by Vice Presidents	<b>J.C. Rana</b> <b>R.K. Tyagi</b> Vice-President, ISPGR
4.00 – 4.10 p.m.	Concluding remarks by Chairman	<b>R.S. Paroda</b> President, ISPGR
4.10 – 4.15 p.m.	Vote of Thanks	<b>Manjusha Verma</b> Joint Secretary, ISPGR

### Action Taken Report of the Second EC Meeting held on Oct 3, 2022

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
1.	Dr Kamal Bawa be contacted so that ISPGR Honorary Fellow award is bestowed on him on a suitable occasion when he visits Delhi next. <i>(Action: General Secretary, ISPGR)</i>	Dr Bawa has informed that he is likely to visit Delhi in early February. A formal handing over of ISPGR Honorary Fellowship shall be arranged accordingly.
2.	Necessary technical and logistic arrangements be made for organizing the event suitably. <i>(Action: Drs Manjusha Verma, Sanjeev Singh, J.C. Rana, R.K. Tyagi and Anuradha Agrawal)</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> NCPGRM organized successfully from Nov 22-24, 2022 at NASC, New Delhi
3.	IJPGR issues from Volume 36 (1), 2023 to be hosted in the new website. Also, new Editorial Board proposal to be suggested by EIC in the next EC meeting. <i>(Action: Editor-in-Chief)</i>	EIC to present the progress in the 4 <sup>th</sup> EC meeting
4.	President desired that efforts be made in NCPGRM for increased participation and registration of new members. <i>(Action : Treasurer)</i>	NCPGRM attended by >300 participants

## Report of the General Secretary

1. Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> EC meeting were circulated on Dec. 12, 2022.
2. **Committee for ISPGR Revision of Constitution**  
Executive Council (EC) of ISPGR, vide its 1<sup>st</sup> EC (2022-24) meeting constituted following committee for revising the ISPGR Rules and Constitution and the criteria for nominations of awards:

<b>Dr B.S. Dhillon</b>	Former Vice Chancellor, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana	Chairperson
<b>Dr Bhag Mal</b>	Secretary, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), New Delhi	Member
<b>Dr R.K. Tyagi</b>	Coordinator, Asia Pacific Consortium for Agricultural Biotechnology and Biodiversity (APCoAB), Bangkok	Member
<b>Dr Anuradha Agrawal</b>	General Secretary, ISPGR, New Delhi	Member Secretary

A virtual meeting of all members was held on Oct 7, 2022. The specific points for deliberations (based on issues raised during earlier GB meetings) by the Committee were as follows:

- For all posts of EC, there is restriction of a candidate to apply for a given post for maximum of two tenures [Section 8 (iii) of Rules and Regulations, 2015]. Exception has been made for the posts of President and General Secretary. The Committee needs to review the restrictions in tenure, for the better functioning of the Society in the long run.
- As per Section 8 (iv) of Rules and Regulations, 2015, The Director, ICAR-NBPGR is *Ex-Officio* Member of EC without any voting rights. The Committee to review the *proviso*.
- Should ISPGR continue the traditional methods of postal ballots for voting during elections, or switch to digital/online voting?
- With respect to awards, should the EC members be allowed to apply for awards while holding any post in EC, considering that all awards are approved finally by the EC? Further, the criteria for selection of 'Dr Harbhajan Singh Lifetime Award' has been criticized by a few applicants in the past and needs to be reviewed.
- Any other modification to improve the functioning and transparency of the Society.

A revised draft of constitution was prepared. The major recommendations emerged were:

- Since proforma for all awards were revised in 2020, no further changes were required except for 'Dr Harbhajan Singh Memorial Award', wherein the column for allocation of marks has been removed, to allow for both qualitative and quantitative assessment of the applicant, as it is a prestigious lifetime achievement award.
- With respect to guidelines of all awards, the committee unanimously agreed that EC members should not be eligible to apply for any award while holding any post of the EC.
- With respect to Section 8 (iii) of Rules and Regulations, 2015, all the posts should be open for contesting without any restrictions, as was the provision under the original rules of the Society at the time of its inception. Further, voting rights to be given to the *Ex-Officio* Members, provided they are life member of the ISPGR.

- With respect to mode of elections, ISPGR may follow digital mode of casting votes, given that it saves time and resources. The best software to undertake electronic method of voting to be determined prior to elections, based to the available options which is economical, fool-proof and maintains the required secrecy of votes casted.
- Under Section 13 (Funds and Accounts) Subsection (viii), ISPGR may increase its minimum reserve fund from Rs 5 lakhs to Rs 25 lakhs.

The final proceedings of the committee would be submitted to the EC shortly.

### 3. Organization of 1<sup>st</sup> NCPGRM (Nov 22-24, 2022)

The 1<sup>st</sup> NCPGRM was successfully organized at the NASC, New Delhi from Nov 22-24, 2022. A total of 316 participants attended the conference including 197 registered delegates, 89 invited guest and organizers, 9 farmers and 21 participants representing Sponsors. The NCPGRM was organized by ISPGR, ICAR, NBPGR, Alliance for Bioversity International & CIAT and the PPV&FRA. Coorganizers included TAAS, CIMMYT, ICARDA, World Agroforestry, ICARISAT and NAAS. Sponsors included FSII, Hytech Seeds, Mahyco, Kaveri Seeds, Rasi Seeds, NSAI, Imperial Life Sciences, UD Associate, Sim Biochem, Biovis, Elementar and Perkin Elmer. The conference was held in hybrid mode.

The program commenced with an inaugural session which was Chaired by Dr Himanshu Pathak, Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR. The Plenary lecture was delivered by Dr R.S. Paroda, President ISPGR. The conference comprised five technical sessions – 1. Augmentation of Germplasm for Enhanced Utilization; 2. Trait Discovery, Gene Mining and Genome Editing; 3. Conservation Through Utilization; 4. On-Farm PGR Management and Local Food Systems; 5. Enabling Policy on PGR Management. One panel discussion was held on Public-Private Partnership in PGR Management and last was the Valedictory Session.

In the five technical sessions, 7 keynote lectures and 20 invited lectures were delivered by eminent scientists from India (physical) and abroad (online). Technical sessions also included 8 short lectures from senior scientists and 33 rapid oral presentations from young scientists and students. In all 150 posters were displayed from all the technical session. One panel discussion with eight panelists was also held. Awards were given for best oral presentations (12) and best posters (11) from the various technical sessions. The conference also had a welcome dinner and cultural program on the first day. Overall, participants expressed great satisfaction with the organization of NCPGRM.

4. A **new computer** has been installed in ISPGR office, to replace the old one which had become dysfunctional.

(Anuradha Agrawal)  
General Secretary

## Report of Editor-in-Chief, Indian Journal of Plant Genetic Resources


### IJPGR Publication Status

- All issues of 2022 i.e IJPGR Vol 35 (1, 2 & 3) are published. Date of publication is indicated below:

Volume no	No of articles published	Issue	Due date	Publication date
35	15	1	1 Apr, 2022	02 June, 2022
	15	2	1 Aug, 2022	17 August, 2022
	80	3	1 Dec, 2022	29 August, 2022

### Manuscript Processing Status

- No. of manuscripts under review = 33
- No. of manuscripts with only one or both referee comments = 08
- No. of manuscripts under editorial process = 17
- No. of manuscripts sent back to authors for revision = 30
- Total 15 articles accepted for first issue i.e. IJPGR Vol 36 (1) 2023

  
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**(Sunil Archak)**



## Treasurer's Report

- The summary of income and expenditure of ISPGR for the period April 1 to Dec 13, 2022 are as follows:

Cash and Bank Balance		(in Rs)
	<i>Fixed Deposit</i>	78,70,949.99
	<i>Cash in Bank (saving account)</i>	33,60,794.26
	<i>Cash in Hand</i>	24,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>112,55,743.26</b>
<b>Incomes</b>	<b>Membership, donation etc.</b>	<b>7,64,226.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Journal, secretarial expenses</b>	<b>15,30,335.00</b>

- The details of expenditure (in Rs) for the period April 1 to Dec 13, 2022 are as follows:

Expenditure Head	Details	Amount (Rs)	Total (Rs)
<b>Office expenses</b>	Salary, honorarium, arrears	372,905.00	
	Rent of ISPGR Office	49,994.00	
	Stationery	5,250.00	
	Postage	4,407.00	
	Travel (local)	3,207.00	
	Chartered Accountant fees (for Audit and ITR of 2021-22)	26,550.00	
	Website maintenance	5,000.00	
	Refreshment and lunch for EC and Committee Meetings	33,987.00	<b>5,01,300.00</b>
<b>ISPGR Award Function</b>	ISPGR Cash Awards	290,000.00	
	Hall arrangements and refreshments	64,750.00	
	Printing, banners, mementoes etc.	59,469.00	<b>4,14,219.00</b>
<b>Publications</b>	Printing of Proceedings on 'National Consultation for Plant based local food systems'	96,536.00	
	IJPGR Vol 34 (3), 2021	69,195.00	
	IJPGR Vol 35 (1), 2022	80,168.00	
	IJPGR Vol 35 (2), 2022	88,777.00	
	IJPGR Vol 35 (3), 2022	280,140.00	<b>6,14,816.00</b>
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>15,30,335.00</b>

- The details of income (in Rs) for the period April 1 to Dec 13, 2022 are as follows:

Income Source	Amount (Rs)
IJGR Subscription 2021-22 Diva Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.	1,37,191
Donation for Dr. B.R. Barwale Award 2021	1,00,000
Donation for Dr S.K. Vasal Award 2021	1,00,000
Membership (Institutional)	1,00,000
Membership (Life)	2,50,000
Membership (Annual)	14,000
Bank Interest	17,135
Income tax return for the FY 2021-22	31,900
Color Printing of IJGR	14,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,64,226</b>

- The ISPGR Membership details and status as on date is as follows:

Total ISPGR life members	<b>910</b>
Institutional Membership April 01, 2022 to December 14, 2022	5
Life Members, April 01, 2022 to December 14, 2022	50
Annual Members, April 01, 2022 to December 14, 2022	14
Active Life Members	759
Expired life Members	30
Members whose email is not in ISPGR records	58
Wrong Address & no email members	63

- The summary of income of NCPGRM is follows:

Income Source	Amount (Rs)
Registration fee	9,88,000
Sponsorship	25,28,000
Organizers contribution	13,65,000
Co-organizers contribution	6,04,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54,85,000</b>

- So far, an expenditure of Rs 22,78,260 is incurred towards arrangement of NCPGRM including printing, refreshments, accommodation, registration kits, support to experts, mementoes, secretarial help etc. Final expenditure would audited and presented after completion of pending activities (proceedings etc.)



(Sanjeev Kumar Singh)

Treasurer