



## Minutes of the

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

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**Date:** November 17, 2023

**Time:** 3:00 PM onwards

**Agenda:** Annexure 1

**Venue:** Dr H.B. Singh Committee Room, ICAR-NBPGR and online (Hybrid mode)

### EC Members (2022-2024)

Dr R.S. Paroda	President
Dr R.K. Tyagi	Vice President
Dr G.P. Singh	<i>Ex Officio</i> Member
Dr Anuradha Agrawal	General Secretary
Dr Manjusha Verma	Joint Secretary
Dr Kuldeep Tripathi	Treasurer & Councillor (NZ)
Dr Monika Singh	Councillor (NZ)
Dr Surendra Kumar Barpete *	Councillor (CZ)
Dr Veerendra Kumar Verma*	Councillor (EZ)
Dr N. Sivaraj*	Councillor (SZ)

\*Online participation

### Agenda 1: Welcome Remarks

- Dr Anuradha Agrawal, General Secretary (GS), welcomed the EC members and briefed about the agenda of the meeting. She also informed that Drs J.C. Rana, Sunil Archak, S. Bera, Mohan Lal, Shailesh Tiwari and Rose Mary Francies could not attend the meeting due to their pre-occupation.

### Agenda 2: Introductory Remarks

- In his opening statement, Dr R.S. Paroda, President, commended the ongoing initiatives of ISPGR, particularly emphasizing the regional activities slated for this year in the realm of genetic resource management.
- He acknowledged the endeavors directed at transitioning IJPGR to an online platform in collaboration with MRI publications, foreseeing a potential enhancement in the Journal's impact in the years ahead.

### Agenda 3: Confirmation of the Minutes of Sixth EC Meeting held on Aug. 7, 2023 and Action Taken Report

- The Minutes of Sixth EC (2022-24) Meeting held on Aug. 7, 2023 EC (2022-24) were duly confirmed.
- Action Taken Report on recommendations of the sixth EC meeting was presented by General Secretary. These were duly approved by the EC (Annexure 2).

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

- Dr Anuradha Agrawal presented the GS report (*Annexure 3*).
- She briefed about two proposals for organizing the regional events submitted by the Zonal Councillors:
  - (i) National Conference at Umiam, Meghalaya by Dr Veerendra Kumar Verma, and
  - (ii) PGR Awareness Program for college students at Hyderabad (regional level) by Dr N. Sivaraj.The proposals were principally agreed by the EC and detailed proposals were sought from the proposers

(Action: Dr N. Sivaraj and Dr V.K. Verma)

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

- On behalf of Dr Sunil Archak, Editor-in-Chief (EIC), Dr Anuradha presented the EIC report (*Annexure 4*).
- It was proposed that authors who did not respond to the decision on manuscript for revision in due time, would not be allowed to submit other manuscripts at least for 2 years.

(Action: Editor-in-Chief)
- The release of online version of Indian Journal of Plant Genetic Resources by MRI Publication was also highlighted.
- Further, EC was informed that M/S Diva Enterprises (Indianjournal.com) had suggested that ISPGR may consider hybrid publication module in which recent content from the past 2-3 years will be paid, older archive content will be available as open access. This approach combines the benefits of open access while allowing journals to generate revenue by charging for the most recent content. The EC turned down the proposal and suggested that EIC along with GS and Treasurer may meet with M/S Diva Enterprises for any other revenue generation model of the journal, provided it does not contradict terms and conditions of the contract with MRI Publications.

(Action: Editor-in-Chief, General Secretary and Treasurer)
- The General Secretary informed about communication sent by present EIC, Dr Sunil Archak on Nov 14, 2023, expressing his desire to relinquish the charge of EIC due to his busy schedule and heavy engagements in other activities of ICAR-NBPGR (*Annexure 5*). The EC reluctantly agreed to his request. Further, EC requested Dr R.K. Tyagi, Vice President, to kindly take additional charge of EIC, to which he agreed as an interim measure. Also, it was agreed that Dr Sunil Archak be requested to extend his support to Dr Tyagi for smooth transition and no interruption in the publication of IJPGR.

(Action: Dr Sunil Archak and Dr R.K. Tyagi)

- The Chairman especially placed on record his appreciation for Dr Archak for his valuable services to ISPGR as EIC. It was proposed that new EIC may consider suggesting changes for improving the editorial functioning, including identification of Associate Editors and active reviewers of papers.

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

- Based on the general consensus of EC members, Dr Kuldeep Tripathi took the charge of Treasurer *w.e.f.* November 1, 2023 till next elections as Dr Sanjeev Kumar Singh has moved from New Delhi to Dimapur, Nagaland.
- As Dr Kuldeep took over charge recently as Treasurer, General Secretary presented the Treasurer's report. She provided details of income and expenditure (*Annexure 6*). The report was considered satisfactory and approved.
- Further, it was recommended that the Life Membership Fees may be enhanced, *w.e.f.* next year. A committee comprising Drs G.P. Singh, R.K. Tyagi, Anuradha Agrawal and Kuldeep Tripathi was constituted for reviewing and revising the membership and suggest ways to generate revenue for the society.  
(*Action: General Secretary and Treasurer*)
- The EC placed on the record of appreciation for Dr SK Singh for his valuable services as a Treasurer.

#### **Agenda 7: Update on 'Seminar on Plant Biodiversity for Food, Nutrition and Health Security in North- West Himalayas, Nov. 27-28, 2023**

- Dr Anuradha apprised of >10 meetings that had been held for planning of 'National Seminar on Plant Biodiversity for Food, Nutrition and Health Security in North-West Himalayas', scheduled during Nov 27-28, 2023 at Shoolini University. Organizers would be ISPGR, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi and Regional Station, Shimla, and Shoolini University, Solan. Co-organizers would be Alliance for Bioversity International and CIAT, New Delhi, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Science (TAAS), New Delhi, HP State Council Science, Technology and Environment (HPSCST&E), Shimla, CSKHP Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (CSHPKV), Palampur, Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (YSPUH&F), Solan, and Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPV&FRA), New Delhi. Local institutes in HP, Uttarakhand, J&K would be the Knowledge Partners.
- Drs Monika and Kuldeep briefed about the technical program including the speakers and talks finalized in each Technical Session. They also gave an update of the abstracts received for Oral and Poster presentations followed by the acceptance of abstracts and registrations of the participants. They also apprised of the financial support received from different Organizations/ Agencies/ Private Companies to organize this Seminar.
- EC appreciated the efforts made. It was agreed to sponsor through ISPGR, some retired/senior experts and EC members (on case-to-case basis) to enable participation in the Seminar.

#### Agenda 8: Special Remarks by Dr G.P. Singh, Director, ICAR-NBPGR

- In his special remarks, Dr G.P. Singh, Director, ICAR-NBPGR appreciated the activities being carried out by ISPGR.
- He also suggested that brief presentations of research work and the contributions in the area of PGR by the selected awardees may be made and reflected in the Award Ceremony.

#### Agenda 9: Remarks by Vice President

- Dr R.K. Tyagi appreciated the efforts made for the preparation of PBFSNWH 2023 and sought cooperation from all for its success.

#### Agenda 10: Concluding Remarks by Chairman

- In the concluding remarks, the Chairman expressed his satisfaction with the initiatives taken by ISPGR for promotion of PGR Science and linking it to Society, through both public awareness and policy advocacy.
- He also urged the Zonal Councillors to make efforts to organise scientific events at the regional level, especially in NEH and Western Ghats, being hotspots of biodiversity.
- For increasing the standard of IJPGR, he suggested that new EIC may approach senior experts in various domains of PGR for contributing articles. Special issue can be considered as outcome of Society events (e.g. PBFSNWH).
- He also mentioned that role of Professor PGR was very important and sought views as to how ISPGR can benefit the students and faculty. Senior and retired PGR experts could be invited to deliver lectures or be requested to become adjunct professors.
- He urged that Director, ICAR-NBPGR, may approach DG, ICAR to revive the Genetic Resources Management Advisory Committee very important for inter-Bureau coordination and to ensure effective implementation of Delhi Declaration on Agrobiodiversity. He also strongly recommended that action be taken for safety duplicate genebank establishment in the country, as recommended by a high level committee.

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



**Anuradha Agrawal**  
(General Secretary)



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

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

Friday, Nov. 17, 2023

### Hybrid mode

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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81299912477?pwd=xbKk5FqQBdgkzL3338vFNWYS7IKR2f.1>  
Meeting ID: 812 9991 2477                      Passcode: 526398

### AGENDA

3.00 – 3.05 p.m.	Welcome	<b>Anuradha Agrawal</b> General Secretary, ISPGR
3.05 – 3.10 p.m.	Introductory Remarks by Chairman	<b>R.S. Paroda</b> President, ISPGR
3.10 – 3.20 p.m.	Confirmation of the Minutes of Sixth EC (2022-24) Meeting held on Aug 7, 2023 Action Taken Report General Secretary's Report	<b>Anuradha Agrawal</b> General Secretary, ISPGR
3.20 – 3.25 p.m.	Editor-in-Chief's Report	<b>Sunil Archak</b> Editor-in-Chief, IJPGR
3.25 – 3.30 p.m.	Treasurer's Report	<b>Kuldeep Tripathi</b> Treasurer, ISPGR
3.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Update on 'Seminar on Plant Biodiversity for Food, Nutrition and Health Security in North-West Himalayas, Nov. 27-28, 2023	<b>Monika Singh and Kuldeep Tripathi</b>
3.45 – 3.55 p.m.	Discussion on future ISPGR activities	<b>All Members</b>
3.55 – 4.00 p.m.	Any other item, with the permission of Chair	
4.00 – 4.05 p.m.	Special Remarks	<b>G.P. Singh</b> Director, ICAR-NBPGR
4.05– 4.15 p.m.	Remarks by Vice Presidents	<b>J.C. Rana</b> <b>R.K. Tyagi</b> Vice-President, ISPGR
4.15– 4.25 p.m.	Chairman's Remarks	<b>R.S. Paroda</b> President, ISPGR
4.25– 4.30 p.m.	Vote of Thanks	<b>Manjusha Verma</b> Joint Secretary, ISPGR

### Action Taken Report of the Sixth EC Meeting held on Aug. 7, 2023

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
1.	<p>President discussed about the preparations of the forthcoming ISPGR Awards Meeting, 5th Dr A.B. Joshi Memorial lecture, and the 13th General Body Meeting (GBM) on August 14, 2023. He conveyed his thanks to the Director, Dr G.P. Singh, for providing the support for holding these events on NBPGR campus. It was suggested that an active program organising team be formed for holding the events.</p> <p><i>(Action : General Secretary)</i></p>	<p>5th Dr A.B. Joshi Memorial lecture, and the 13th General Body Meeting (GBM) held successfully on August 14, 2023.</p>
2.	<p>The EC placed on record its appreciation to all editors, especially Dr Anuradha Agrawal, at the final printing stage of the 'Proceedings and Recommendations of the 1st NCPGRM'. It was suggested that hard copies be released during the forthcoming ISPGR Awards Function on Aug. 14, 2023 and soft copy circulated to all members and participants.</p> <p><i>(Action : General Secretary)</i></p>	<p>Needful was done</p>
3.	<p>Dr Veerendra Kumar Verma proposed a National Conference at Umiam, Meghalaya. EC suggested that full proposal be submitted at the earliest.</p> <p><i>(Action : Dr V.K. Verma, East Zone Councillor)</i></p>	<p>Draft proposal received.  <b>Title :</b> Emerging Challenges and Opportunities in Management of Biodiversity for Sustainable Agriculture and Nutritional Security (ECOMBSANS)  <b>Date:</b> 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> May, 2024  <b>Venue:</b> ICAR Res Complex, Umiam, Meghalaya  <b>Budget from ISPGR:</b> Rs. 600,000/-</p>
4.	<p>Dr N. Sivaraj, expressed his interest in organizing a PGR awareness program for college students at Hyderabad (regional level). EC appreciated the initiative and asked him to proceed suggesting date and program.</p> <p><i>(Action : Dr N. Sivaraj, South Zone Councillor)</i></p>	<p>Concept Note received and circulated amongst EC members.  <b>Title:</b> Plant Biodiversity (PGR) Awareness Campaign for College Students  <b>Date:</b> Third week of January, 2024  <b>Budget from ISPGR:</b> Rs. 50,000/-</p>
5.	<p>It was recommended that EIC follow-up with MRI publication about the indexing of journal by SCI index and Thomas Reuters.</p>	<p>Needful is being pursued through MRI</p>

	<i>(Action: Editor-in-Chief)</i>	
6.	It was suggested that new issue of IJPGR and/or new Journal website, be released during the forthcoming ISPGR Awards function on Aug. 14, 2023. <i>(Action : Editor-in-Chief)</i>	Needful was done
7.	<b>‘Seminar on Plant Biodiversity for Food, Nutrition and Health Security in North-West Himalayas</b> It was advised by EC that first circular and formulation of technical program be expedited with guidance from Drs P.L. Gautam, Dr G.P. Singh and Mohar Singh in consultation with Dr P.K. Khosla, Chancellor, Shoolini Univ., Solan. Letters to the Convenors, invitation to potential partners for technical and funding support for organizing the event need to be sent at the earliest. <i>(Action: Vice Presidents, General Secretary, Editor-in-Chief, Joint Secretary, NZ Councillors and Treasurer)</i>	Necessary actions taken for organizing the event in collaboration with Shoolini University.
8.	President, ISPGR appreciated the hard work of the ISPGR office assistants and urged that Society give suitable remuneration on timely basis. He suggested that medical insurance for full-time assistant be extended for all family members and a committee under Dr Tyagi, with GS and Treasurer may review and suggest appropriate salary revision structure and associated benefits like annual raise in salary, honorarium, overtime or transportation charges etc. <i>(Action: General Secretary and Treasurer)</i>	Action pending and will be taken up after the National Seminar.



## Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources

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

EC Meeting # 7

Date : Nov. 17, 2023

### Report of General Secretary, ISPGR

1. **Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> EC meeting** were circulated on Aug. 13, 2023, by email.
2. The **ISPGR Award function** was held on **Aug. 14, 2022**, featuring the **5<sup>th</sup> Dr A.B. Joshi Memorial Lecture** delivered by **Prof. Sanjay Deshmukh**, Former Vice-Chancellor University of Mumbai, entitled on "Conservation of mangroves".
3. The 13<sup>th</sup> GBM was held on Aug 14, 2023. Proceedings were circulated on Sept 20, 2023 and also sent by registered post to the Registrar of Societies Office.
4. Following call for awards of **ISPGR were announced** on October 26, 2023 and widely circulated amongst all ISPGR members, State Agricultural Universities, Central Universities and research institutes:
  1. Dr S.K. Vasal Award for Efficient Use of PGR (2023)
  2. Dr B.R. Barwale Award for Application/Excellence in PGR (2023)
  3. Dr R.S. Paroda Young Scientist Award (2023)
  4. Fellows of ISPGR (2023)
5. More than 10 meetings were conducted for the organization of **National Seminar on Plant Biodiversity for Food, Nutrition and Health Security in North-West Himalayas'** (PBFSNWH 2023).
6. It was recorded in the EC that **Dr Sanjeev Singh, Treasurer**, ISPGR, had left NBPGR, New Delhi, and joined as Senior Scientist-cum-Head, KVK Medziphema, Nagaland w.e.f. Oct 3, 2023. As per Constitution of ISPGR, Treasurer needs to be in the Headquarters (Delhi), for smooth functioning of the ISPGR. Accordingly, matter was discussed with President, ISPGR, Dr R.S. Paroda, in the presence of Dr R.K. Tyagi (VP), Dr Manjusha Verma (JS), Dr Monika Singh (Councillor, NZ), during a meeting held on Oct 18, 2023. Thereafter, it was proposed that **Dr Kuldeep Tripathi**, Councillor (North Zone), shall also **work as Treasurer of ISPGR**, till next elections. All the remaining EC members endorsed the nomination and Dr Tripathi took charge as Treasurer, ISPGR w.e.f. Nov 2023. EC places on record the immense services by Dr Sanjeev Singh as Treasurer.

(Anuradha Agrawal)  
General Secretary





## Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources

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

EC Meeting # 7

Date : Nov.17, 2023

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

##### Manuscript current status

- Total Manuscripts = **39 + 21\*** (\* comprise revised copy pending with authors for long, and articles considered as withdrawn by author or not in under editorial/ review process of IJPGR)
- No. of MS Under Review = 6
- No. of MS with only one or both referee comments = 9
- No. of MS under editorial process = 8
- No. of MS sent back to authors for revision = 16

##### Journal publication status

- IJPGR Vol 36 (2) 2023 is already **published**
- IJPGR Vol 36 (3) 2023 is in **press, ready for publication**

##### Query from Indianjournals.com

Indianjournals is recommending to Society to go with hybrid publication module in which -

- Recent content from the past 2-3 years will be paid.
- Older archive content will be available as open access.
- This approach combines the benefits of open access while allowing journals to generate revenue by charging for the most recent content.

Suggestions of EC are sought in the matter.

(Sunil Archak)  
Editor-in-Chief

## Request to relinquish charge by EIC

**Dr RS Paroda**  
**President, ISPGR**

14 Nov 2023

**Sub: Finding a new Editor-in-Chief for IJPGR**

Respected Sir,

At the outset, please accept my greetings on the occasion of Deepavali. May the festival of lights bring peace and prosperity.

Sir, with your constant encouragement and support, I managed the Journal as Editor since 2015. With your steadfast insistence, many enhancements were brought-in to the publication process of the Journal. The latest change being the transformation of IJPGR into an open access Journal with contemporary international styling. Editorial Board was expanded and all the past articles were added to the archives.

The Journal is at a stage to take-off to achieve higher impact factor and greater readership. However, the changes implemented demand constant attention by the Editor, so that the online system of manuscript management indeed functions at its optimum.

Unfortunately, at this critical juncture, I am unable to devote adequate time to the Journal. This is perhaps due to increased workload including being the Professor of PGR discipline of IARI and taking over the charge of Germplasm Exchange and Policy unit of NBPGR. Both responsibilities require my full attention and time to achieve specific objectives I have set for myself.

Sir, as I had requested earlier, it is time to identify a new Editor-in-Chief for IJPGR. A new person will always bring new ideas and energy. May I be audacious to suggest the name of Dr RK Tyagi to take back the mantle. His tenure as EIC was the best in IJPGR's history. With his enormous experience and exposure as well as contacts, I am sure he would take the Journal to new heights.

I humbly request you to consider my request during the 7th EC Meeting ISPGR scheduled on Friday, November 17, 2023 and effect the change. I will not be able attend the EC meeting as I will be traveling to Rome to attend GB10 of ITPGRFA.

With warm regards,



Sunil Archak



# Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources

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

EC Meeting # 7

Date : Nov. 17, 2023

### Report of Treasurer, ISPGR

- The summary of income and expenditure of ISPGR for the period April 1 to Nov 16, 2023, are as follows:

<b>Bank Balance and Cash in Hand (Till Nov. 16, 2023)</b>	
<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount (Rs)</b>
Fixed Deposit	99,16,176.44
Amount in Bank (saving account)	11,98,494.81
Cash in Hand	6,585.00
<b>Total (Rs one crore, eleven lakhs, twenty one thousand, two hundred fifty six, twenty five paise)</b>	<b>1,11,21,256.25</b>

<b>Incomes (From April 1 to Nov. 16, 2023)</b>	
<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount (Rs)</b>
Payment received from Diva	36,980.00
Donation for Dr. B.R. Barwale Award 2022	1,00,000.00
Donation for S.K. Vasal Award 2022	1,00,000.00
Donation for Dr. Pratibha Brahmi	50,000.00
Membership (Institutional)	60,000.00
Membership (Life)	95,000.00
Membership (Annual)	8,000.00
Bank Interest (From saving account)	15,238.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,65,218.00</b>

<b>Expenditures (From April 1 to Nov.16, 2023)</b>			
<b>Head</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount (Rs)</b>	<b>Total amount (Rs)</b>
<b>Office expenses</b>	Rent of ISPGR Office	19,950.00	
	Miscellaneous expenditures (Stationery, postage, local travel, tea and refreshment etc.)	40,843.00	
	Website maintenance	5,000.00	<b>3,28,893.00</b>
	<b>Professional charge (CA)</b>	Audit fee FY 2022-23 and 10 BD form (Income tax)	29,500.00
<b>ISPGR Award Function</b>	ISPGR Awards prize money	4,40,000.00	
	Shawal for Guests	5,760.00	

	Mementos for ISPGR Awards	14,840.00	
	Printing (Certificate, Posters, sides panels, panel podium, gate banner etc.	20,226.00	
	Secretary ICAR for booking VIP dining hall at IGH NASC Complex for lunch for ISPGR Awards	5,000.00	
	Catering and refreshment	59,905.00	
	Flowers and decorations	21,150.00	
	Photography for ISPGR Award function and GBM	10,000.00	<b>6,06,381.00</b>
<b>Publications</b>	MRI Publishers (Web development and review platform development)	92,040.00	
	MRI Publishers (For Archival updating of IJPGR Vol (1), 1988 to Vol 35(3), 2023 and Article Processing and Printing of IJPGR Vol 36 (1 and 2), 2023	2,70,031.00	
	Designing of Proceeding NCPGRM 2022	10,000.00	<b>3,72,071.00</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>13,36,845.00</b>

- Funds received for 'National Seminar on Plant Biodiversity for Food, Nutrition, and Health Security in the North-Western Himalayas (PBFSNWH), 2023', so far, are as follows:

Heads	Details	Amount (Rs)	Total (Rs)
<b>Income</b>	Registration Fees	36,500	<b>36,500.00</b>
	Sponsorship (PPV&FRA)	2,94,000	<b>2,94,000.00</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>3,30,500.00</b>

- The ISPGR membership details are as follows:

Total ISPGR life members	<b>942</b>
Institutional membership (April 1 to Nov. 16, 2023)	3
Life membership (April 1 to Nov. 16, 2023)	19
Annual membership (April 1 to Nov. 16, 2023)	8

*A. Agrawal*  
for  
Treasurer, ISPGR