

Minutes of the

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

Date: July 11, 2024

Time: 2.00 PM onwards

Agenda: Annexure 1

Venue: NAHEP Committee Room, Krishi Anusandhan Bhavan 2 and online (Hybrid mode)

**EC Members
(2022-2024)**

Dr R.S. Paroda	President
Dr R.K. Tyagi	Vice President & Editor-in-Chief
Dr Kuldeep Tripathi	Treasurer
Dr Manjusha Verma	Joint Secretary
Dr Monika Singh	Councillor (NZ)
Dr Mohan Lal*	Councillor (EZ)
Dr Veerendra Kumar Verma*	Councillor (EZ)
Dr N. Sivaraj*	Councillor (SZ)
Dr Surendra Kumar Barpete*	Councillor (SZ)
Dr Anuradha Agrawal	General Secretary

Member Secretary

**Online participants*

Agenda 1: Welcome Remarks

- Dr. Anuradha Agrawal, General Secretary (GS), opened the meeting by welcoming the Executive Committee (EC) members who were attending both in person and virtually, and provided an overview of the agenda. (*Annexure 1*).
- She also informed that Drs G.P. Singh, J.C. Rana, S.K. Bera, and Shailesh Kumar Tiwari were unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments.

Agenda 2: Introductory Remarks by Chairman

- In his opening statement, President Dr. R.S. Paroda expressed his satisfaction on the various on-going and planned activities of ISPGR. He urged that planning of the symposium at Umam should be expedited to ensure a successful program.

Agenda 3: Confirmation of the Minutes of Ninth EC (2022- 24) Meeting held on April 29, 2024 and Action Taken Report

- The Minutes of Ninth EC (2022-24) meeting held on April 29, 2024, were unanimously approved.
- Action Taken Report on the recommendations of the Ninth EC Meeting was presented by Dr Anuradha Agrawal, GS (*Annexure 2*). These were duly approved by the EC.

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

- Dr Anuradha Agrawal presented the General Secretary's Report (*Annexure 3*).
- It was agreed by EC to hold the ISPGR Award Function (for 2023 awardees) along with the National Conference schedule in Umam in Oct 2024. The next GBM would also be held during the same event. All to be informed suitably.

(Action: General Secretary)

Agenda 5: **Editor-in-Chief's Report**

- Dr. R.K. Tyagi delivered the Editor-in-Chief's report, providing an update on the articles received and reviewed, along with the expected publication timelines for the 2024 issues of the IJPGR (*Annexure 4*).
- The issues with the MRI publishers' processing of manuscripts, which were causing operational difficulties, were discussed in detail. It was mentioned that they had been given final articles but the publishers were not cooperating and working at their own pace.
- Dr. R.S. Paroda expressed his appreciation for Dr. R.K. Tyagi's dedicated efforts as Editor-in-Chief. Further he suggested that once Dr. Tyagi returned from USA, he should have a rediscussion with the publishers or propose an alternative solution. EC suggested that EIC may consider exploring the possibility of shifting to the e-pubs platform of ICAR-DKMA. The decision on this to be made in the next meeting after a review of the pros and cons.

(Action: Editor-in-Chief, IJPGR and General Secretary)

Agenda 6: **Treasurer's Report**

- Dr Kuldeep Tripathi, presented the Treasurer's report, detailing the income and expenditure incurred in the current financial year (*Annexure 5*). It was confirmed that all grants from the previous year have been received, and applications for the filing of income tax returns and other grants for the current year are in progress.
- EC expressed satisfaction over the financial status.
- There was concern raised by President about meeting the target of 1,000 members by the end of the year, which EC agreed to address.

Agenda 8: Discussion on National Conference on Management of Agrobiodiversity in North-Eastern India, Oct 23-25, 2024 at Umiam, Meghalaya

- Dr Virendra Verma gave the details of the forthcoming 'National Conference on Management of Agro-Biodiversity in North Eastern India (NCMAN-2024)', scheduled to take place from Oct 23-25, 2024 at ICAR Research Complex for North Eastern Hill Region, Umiam, Meghalaya.
- He provided the break-up of estimated budget of Rs 13 lakhs under various heads. It was informed that funding support is likely from Alliance for Bioversity International and CIAT, New Delhi, and Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPV&FRA), ICAR, NABARD and State Biodiversity Board. For sponsorship, few other agencies like SBI, private vendors etc would be approached.
- Further, a session on farmers and diversity exhibition was planned wherein some 20 stalls will be fabricated for the exhibition of diversity during the conference farmers/KVKs of each states .
- The Technical Program Committee to work on developing the program, after seeking input from local experts. The committee will refine the program and decide on lead and invited speakers, with plans for another meeting in about two weeks to discuss the program's status and to request funding support. The team to finalize the second circular and the program by the end of the month and circulate to all concerned.

(Action: All concerned)

Agenda 9: Concluding Remarks by Chairman

- In his concluding remarks, Dr. Paroda encouraged everyone to work together to ensure the successful organization of the upcoming seminar in Umiam.

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)

Agenda of Tenth Meeting of the ISPGR Executive Council (2022-2024)

July 11, 2024 (Thursday), 2.00 p.m.

Hybrid mode

Venue: NAHEP Committee Room, Fifth Floor (Room # 511) KAB2,
Pusa Campus, New Delhi - 110 012

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84651460975?pwd=IMaGRfZatwmVd55sslVJaFRGMTI4Fo.1>
Meeting ID: 846 5146 0975 Passcode: 051892

2.00 – 2.05 p.m.	Welcome	Anuradha Agrawal General Secretary, ISPGR
2.05 – 2.10 p.m.	Introductory Remarks by Chairman	R.S. Paroda President, ISPGR
2.10 – 2.25 p.m.	Confirmation of the Minutes of Ninth EC (2022-24) meeting held on April 29, 2024 Action Taken Report General Secretary's Report	Anuradha Agrawal General Secretary, ISPGR
2.25 – 2.35 p.m.	Editor-in-Chief's Report	R.K. Tyagi Editor-in-Chief, IJPGR
2.35 – 2.45 p.m.	Treasurer's Report	Kuldeep Tripathi Treasurer, ISPGR
2.45– 2.55 p.m.	Progress on National Conference in Umaim, Meghalaya	Virendra Verma Councilor, East Zone
2.55– 3.00 p.m.	Any other item, with the permission of Chair	
3.00– 3.05 p.m.	Special Remarks	G.P. Singh Director, ICAR-NBPGR
3.05– 3.15 p.m.	Remarks by Vice Presidents	J.C. Rana R.K. Tyagi Vice-President, ISPGR
3.15– 3.25 p.m.	Chairman's Remarks	R.S. Paroda President, ISPGR
3.25– 3.30 p.m.	Vote of Thanks	Manjusha Verma Joint Secretary, ISPGR

Action Taken Report of the Tenth EC Meeting held on April 29, 2024

	Recommendation	Action Taken
1.	<p>Editor-in-Chief informed about the technical issues being faced with MRI Publishers in the effective processing of manuscripts (such as timelines of processing, copyediting, proofreading, reference style, lack of online first appearance of accepted papers etc.) and timely publication of IJPGR. He suggested reviewing the contract clauses with the publisher, MRI. The President constituted a committee of Dr R.K. Tyagi (Chair) Dr J.C. Rana, Dr Anuradha Agrawal and Dr Manjusha Verma (Member Secretary) to resolve this issue through meeting with the Publisher. (Action: Drs R.K. Tyagi, J.C. Rana, Anuradha Agrawal and Manjusha Verma)</p>	<p>A online meeting was called inviting MRI representatives to discuss the various issues in detail. Ms Mansi Gupta attended the meeting on behalf of MRI as Dr Pradeep Tewari, Director, MRI could not attend the meeting. In principle, MRI did not agree to format the references as per IJPGR format as part of copyediting. Currently, Editor-in-Chief is taking care of formatting the references with the help of ISPGR staff which itself is very time-consuming job. MRI failed to set any timeline for processing the articles in spite of writing three times to MRI, even did not respond to the emails of EIC about the timeline. EIC wish to place on records that MRI is not cooperating as per Agreement to expedite the publications of coming Issue IJPGR 37(2) 2024 in time.</p>
2.	<p>To enhance the quality of IJPGR and resolve manuscript backlog, Dr. Tyagi proposed that authors failing to meet a 10-day revision deadline (post-refereeing) would be excluded from further consideration. Additionally, he raised concerns regarding editorial accountability and outlined procedures for appointing new editors. The EC endorsed these proposals and tasked him with their implementation. (Action: Editor-in-Chief, IJPGR)</p>	<p>The authors of pending articles were informed about the resubmission of the pending articles subjected to revision within 10 days; some responded and submitted revised articles which are under process and articles of non-respondents were deleted from our records/system.</p>
3.	<p>Dr R.S. Paroda suggested that Editorial Board be reconstituted comprising of existing and new members based on their active support. Also, a retired scientist member of the Society may be approached to provide assistance to EIC, who may be provided with some honorarium. (Action: Editor-in-Chief, IJPGR)</p>	<p>EIC wrote email twice to all the Editors to seek their consent whether they can devote some time to act as Editor(s). Some of the Editors committed whereas some did not respond at all. On the basis of their responses and limited or no time dedicated as Editor in past; following Editors were dropped from the list during processing the articles for IJPGR Vol 37(2) 2024 onwards: Dr Pitchaimuthu M. (IIHR); Dr</p>

		<p>Rakesh Bhardwaj (NBPGR); Dr Kavita Gupta (NBPGR)</p> <p>At the same time, following Editors were included:</p> <p>Dr Vikender Kaur, Senior Scientist, Economic Botany, NBPGR; Dr Sudip K Dutta, Senior Scientist, (Horticulture), ICAR Res. Complex, Sikkim</p> <p>In addition, EIC contacted a few in-service and retired scientists (to act as Associate Editor who eventually can take over as EIC) but no commitment as such so far.</p>
4.	<p>It was proposed that a new Chartered Accountant be now hired for the next financial year (2024-25) onwards by calling quotations from new firms. EC agreed for the same. (Action: General Secretary and Treasurer)</p>	<p>Quotations from new firms shall be called soon after filing of ITR returns for 2023-24.</p>
5.	<p>The revised membership rates should be notified to all members and placed on ISPGR website and IJPGR, Also a new brochure be developed soon. (Action: General Secretary and Treasurer)</p>	<p>Needful has been done.</p>
6.	<p>Letters to be sent to all ISPGR awardees at the earliest. Changes suggested by the Award Committee may be incorporated in the proforma and got approved in the next EC meeting (July 2024). (Action: General Secretary)</p>	<p>Letters have been sent. Changes in proforma are pending.</p>
7.	<p>The draft of the First Circular has been shared with all EC members, and suggestions/ comments, if any, need to be communicated to Dr Verma by 6 May, 2024. The Technical Program Committee should work on developing the program (Action: Dr Virendra Verma)</p>	<p>First Circular announced. Other details to be discussed in EC meeting.</p>
8.	<p>The President suggested that estimate of budget be made and sponsors approached. Plans may also be made to include farmers session and a diversity exhibition. (Action: Dr Virendra Verma and Dr Mohan Lal)</p>	<p>Needful is being pursued.</p>
9.	<p>Application for ICAR grant for the event be made before May 15, 2024. (Action: General Secretary and Treasurer)</p>	<p>Application submitted to ICAR. Meeting expected to be held in early August.</p>



Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources

Meeting of the Executive Council (2022-2024)

EC Meeting # 10

Date : July 11, 2024

Report of General Secretary, ISPGR

1. **Minutes of 9th EC meeting** were circulated on May 5, 2024, by email.
2. ISPGR participated in the NAAS-PAAS (Professional Association of Agricultural Sciences) meeting held at NAAS on May 31, 2024. President NAAS informed that the meeting was meant to build close partnership in various scientific and academic activities., especially improving the quality of scientific journals being published by various societies.
3. Hard copies of Proceedings of Seminar at Shoolini University were circulated.
4. Changes in membership was informed to all members, new brochure printed, and ISPGR website updated.
5. First circular for 'National Conference on Management of Biodiversity in North Eastern India (NCMBN-2024)' circulated on June 11, 2024.
6. Papers were collated and submitted to IT office for getting 80G status for ISPGR.
7. Room rent for 2023-24 for ISPGR office was paid to NBPGR office.

(Anuradha Agrawal)
General Secretary



Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources

Meeting of the Executive Council (2022-2024)

EC Meeting # 10

Date : July 11, 2024

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

Manuscript current status (Offline Processing)

- Total Manuscripts = 24
- No. of MS Under Review = 2
- No. of MS under editorial process = 9
- No. of MS sent back to authors for revision = 11

Manuscript Current Status (Online Processing)

- Total Manuscripts = 29
- No. of MS Under Review = 17
- No. of MS under editorial process = 10

Grand Total Manuscripts under Process = 60

Journal publication status

- Second issue of IJPGR Vol 37 (2) 2024 is due by August 2024; however, already ready to be published (15 articles + Germplasm Registration Notice, under approval of authors)
- 2 (manual) + 2 (online) articles accepted for third issue i.e. IJPGR Vol 37 (3) 2024 (due in December 2024)
- 21 Authors requested for articles from Shoolini Seminar; Only 4 Review Articles received; 3 Edited and finalized for publications; remaining did not respond even after reminders.
- Six foreign authors/experts contacted for Review Articles on PGR; 4 (Malaysia, China, Bolivia, Peru) accepted request; expected in 2-3 weeks.

(R.K. Tyagi)
Editor-in-Chief



Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources

Meeting of the Executive Council (2022-2024)

EC Meeting # 10

Date : July 11, 2024

Report of Treasurer, ISPGR

- The summary of income and expenditure of ISPGR for the period April 1, 2024 to July 11, are as follows:

Bank Balance and Cash in Hand (Till July 11, 2024)

Source	Amount (Rs)
Fixed Deposit	1,05,37,448.44
Amount in Bank (saving account)	6,19,388.31
Cash in Hand	22,411.00
Total (Rs one crore, eleven lakhs, seventy nine thousand, two hundred and forty seven, seventy five paise)	1,11,79,247.75

Income (From April 1, 2024 to July 11, 2024)

Source	Amount (Rs)
Institutional Membership Fees	20,000.00
Life Membership Fees	82,000.00
Annual Membership Fees	15,500.00
IJPGR Subscription for Vol 36 (3), 2023, Diva Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.	35,313.00
Bank Interest (From saving account)	7,873.00
Total (Rs Twenty seven lakhs, twenty nine thousand, seven hundred and twenty eight only)	1,60,686.00

Expenditure (From April 1, 2024 to July 11, 2024)

Expenditure Head and Details	Amount (Rs)
Secretarial Fee, Honorarium etc.	1,36,200.00
Rent of ISPGR Office (2023-24)	19,950.00
Printing & Publishing (IJPGR & Others)	95,344.00
Office Expense (Stationery, Cartridge, Paper etc.)	500.00
ISPGR EC & Other Meetings (Refreshment etc.)	5456.00
Auditor Fee	11,800.00
ISPGR Website Maintenance	5,000.00

Postage & Courier	1,592.00
Issue new cheque Dr P. Govindaraj for Dr R.K. Arora Best paper award for the year 2022	20,000
GRAND TOTAL (Rs two lakhs, ninety five thousand, eight hundred and forty two)	2,95,842.00

- The ISPGR membership details are as follows:

Total ISPGR life members	956
Institutional Membership April 01, 2024 to July 11, 2024	1
Life Members, April 01, 2024 to July 11, 2024	14
Annual Members, April 01, 2024 to July 11, 2024	11

Kuldeep Tripathi

(Kuldeep Tripathi)
Treasurer, ISPGR