

INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
IASRI CAMPUS, LIBRARY AVENUE, PUSA
NEW DELHI – 110 012

Proceedings of the General Body Meeting held at
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi on December 19, 2013

The following were present :

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| 1. Dr. SD Sharma | (Chairman) | 22. Dr. M Balakrishnan |
| 2. Dr. Murari Singh | | 23. Dr. Mahesh Kumar |
| 3. Dr. Rajender Parsad | | 24. Dr. Naresh Kumar Azad |
| 4. Dr. PK Malhotra | | 25. Ms. Nidhi |
| 5. Dr. BVS Sisodia | | 26. Shri Amar Singh |
| 6. Dr. Subedar Singh | | 27. Shri KK Mourya |
| 7. Dr. S Durai Raju | | 28. Dr. Subrata K Satpati |
| 8. Shri Sunil Kumar | | 29. Dr. Abhishek Rathore |
| 9. Dr. SP Singh | | 30. Dr. Dwijesh Chandra Mishra |
| 10. Shri SN Islam | | 31. Shri Lal Chand Sekh |
| 11. Dr. SD Batra | | 32. Dr. Sukanta Dash |
| 12. Dr. Hukum Chandra | | 33. Dr. Eldho Varghese |
| 13. Dr. Ramasubramanian V | | 34. Dr. Arpan Bhowmik |
| 14. Dr. Krishan Lal | | 35. Dr. Sangeeta Ahuja |
| 15. Dr. LM Bhar | | 36. Shri SDWahi |
| 16. Dr. Amrender Kumar | | 37. Shri T Rai |
| 17. Dr. Wasi Alam | | 38. Dr. Cini Varghese |
| 18. Dr. Anil Kumar | | 39. Dr. BH Prajapati |
| 19. Dr. Susheel Kumar Sarkar | | 40. Dr. GK Chaudhary |
| 20. Dr. Prawin Arya | | 41. Dr. KK Singh Meitei |
| 21. Dr. Abhishek Singh | | |

At the outset, the Chairman and Joint Secretary welcomed all the members of the Society present in the meeting.

In the beginning the presentations of ISAS Fellowships, Professor PV Sukhatme Gold Medal Award, Dr. GR Seth Memorial Young Scientist Award were taken up.

ISAS Fellows:

The Society honoured the following by conferring the Fellowship of the Society to

1. Dr. Prajneshu, Emeritus Scientist, IASRI, New Delhi
2. Dr. Rajender Parsad, Head, Division of Design of Experiments, IASRI, New Delhi

The Society awarded **Dr. GR Seth Memorial Young Scientist Award** to:

Dr. Bishal Gurung, Scientist, IASRI, New Delhi

Topic: **Fitting Smooth Transition Autoregressive Nonlinear Time-series Model using Particle Swarm Optimization Technique**

by Bishal Gurung, Ranjit Kumar Paul and Himadri Ghosh

Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up as follows:

1. Confirmation of the Proceedings of the last General Body Meeting held at IASRI, New Delhi on December 19, 2012

The proceedings were circulated to all members. The proceedings were confirmed by the members.

2. Action taken on the recommendations made at the last General Body Meeting held at IASRI, New Delhi

The details of the action taken on the recommendations made at the last meeting were brought to the notice of the members. The members expressed their satisfaction on the action taken report. The action taken report is given in ANNEXURE-I.

3. Consideration of the Secretary's Report on the activities of the Society for 2013 and accounts of the Society for the year ending 31 March, 2013

Dr. Rajender Parsad, Joint Secretary presented the report on the activities of the Society for the year 2013. The members expressed their satisfaction on the report. It was informed that the accounts of the Society have been sent to the Auditor for approval. After approval these would be placed on the website of the Society.

4. Election of Office Bearers of the Society for the year 2014 and appointment of Auditors for the year 2013-14

The proposal of Office Bearers and the request for filling up of six/seven positions of the Members of the Executive Council of the Society were sent to all the Members on November 11, 2013. 10 nominations (Shri VK Singh, Dr. BVS Sisodia, Shri SB Lal, Ms. Anu Sharma, Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Ms. Anshu Bharadwaj, Shri Shahnawaj Islam, Ms. Shashi Dahiya, Dr. Prawin Arya and Dr. Abhishek Rathore) were received for filling up six/seven vacant positions of the members of the Executive Council for the year 2014-15. The Executive Council appointed Shri Sunil Kumar, Associate Professor, NDUAT, Faizabad as Returning Officer for this election. Out of 10 nominations, 07 (Dr. Abhishek Rathore, Dr. BVS Sisodia, Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Shri VK Singh, Dr. Prawin Arya, Shri SB Lal and Shri Shahnawaj Islam) were elected to be the members of the Executive Council for the year 2014.

The complete list of Office Bearers for the year 2014 as approved by the General Body is given in ANNEXURE-III.

The General Body also expressed its appreciation and thanks to outgoing Secretary, Dr. VK Bhatia; Joint Secretaries Dr. Rajender Parsad and Dr. PK Malhotra for their contributions to the Society. The members also expressed their appreciation for other outgoing members of the Executive Council for their efforts and time.

5. To discuss the Recommendations of Sub-Committee constituted for framing Rules for the Election of Office Bearers of the Society

The recommendations of the sub-committee after incorporating the suggestions of the Executive Council (as given in Annexure-II) were placed before the General Body for discussion. The General Body unanimously adopted the report and decided that these rules may be made applicable from 2015 onwards. It was also decided that these rules may also be reflected in rules and regulation of the Society. It was also decided that the Sessional President would be nominated by the Executive Council.

6. Appointment of Returning Officer for the Election of the Executive Council 2015

Rules for the Election of Office Bearers of the Society have been approved as in agenda 5. As per the approved rules, the election by secret ballot for office bearers of the Executive Council would be conducted by a Returning Officer duly nominated by the Executive Council in position. Therefore, it was decided that the Executive Council may appoint the Returning Officer in its next meeting.

7. Suggestions for venue and dates of the 68th Annual Conference

It was decided to hold the 68th Annual Conference of the Society in 2014 at Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Gayatrikunj, Shantikunj, Haridwar proposed by Dr. SD Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya. It was decided that the Executive may decide the dates for organizing 68th Annual Conference.

8. Selection of Theme and Sub-themes for the 68th Annual Conference

The Executive Council has been authorized to decide the theme and sub-themes for 68th Annual Conference keeping in view of the venue of the Conference and suggestions received from the members.

9. Any other item with the permission of the Chair

- (i) Some members suggested that the young scientists who were invited for presentation during Dr. GR Seth Memorial Young Scientist Award session and did not get the Award should be given an appreciation certificate. Further, it was also suggested that the papers selected for presentation for Dr. GR Seth Memorial Young Scientist Award should also be published in the Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics. After long deliberations, it was decided that if there are only two speakers are invited for presentation, then first rank may be given the Dr. GR Seth Memorial Young Scientist Award and second rank holder may be given an appreciation/merit certificate. In case of three or more candidates, the Committee may be requested to give two names as first and second. The first candidate would be given the Dr. GR Seth Memorial Young Scientist Award and second in merit may be given the merit certificate. It was also decided that this may be made applicable from 2013 itself and Dr. Arpan Bhowmik may also be given the Merit Certificate as there were only two speakers in the session.

It was also decided that papers may be published in the Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics only after peer review process. It was also decided that the last date of receiving applications for Dr. GR Seth Memorial Young Scientist Award may be changed to July 31 of the corresponding year instead of September 30.

- (ii) The Membership Fees and Journal Subscription rates were revised more than 5 years back. The proposal of the Executive Council to revise the Membership Fees and Journal Subscription rates. After long deliberations and keeping in view of attracting more members to the Society particularly from outside India. It was decided that for resident of India the Membership Fee may be increased by 25% and for residents outside India, the Membership Fee may be kept as earlier. The Subscription Rates of the Journal may also be increased by 25%. The new rates that would be applicable from April 01, 2014 are:

S.No.	Particulars	Existing Rates	New Rates
1.	Life Membership	₹ 4,000.00 (Inland) US \$ 350.00 (Foreign) or equivalent	₹ 5,000.00 (Inland) US \$ 350.00 (Foreign) or equivalent
2.	Ordinary Membership (Annual)	₹ 400.00 per annum (Inland) US\$ 125.00 (Foreign) or equivalent	₹ 500.00 per annum (Inland) US\$ 125.00 (Foreign) or equivalent
4.	Student Membership	₹ 200.00 per annum (Inland)	₹ 250.00 per annum (Inland)

5.	Institutional Membership (Permanent)	₹ 20,000.00 (Inland) US\$ 1,500.00 (Foreign) or equivalent	₹ 25,000.00 (Inland) US\$ 1,500.00 (Foreign) or equivalent
6.	Institutional Membership (Annual)	₹ 2,000.00 per annum (Inland) US\$ 300.00 per annum (Foreign) or equivalent	₹ 2,500.00 per annum (Inland) US\$ 375.00 per annum (Foreign) or equivalent
7.	Subscription to Journal	₹ 1,000.00 per volume (Inland) US\$ 120.00 per volume (Foreign) or equivalent	₹ 1,250.00 per volume (Inland) US\$ 150.00 per volume (Foreign) or equivalent

It was also decided that Sessional Membership charges may be deleted.

- (iii) It was also decided to find ways and means for improving the financial position of the Society.
- (iv) The General Body passed the following proposal for a Vote of Thanks to be forwarded to the Organizers of the 67th Annual Conference. The following resolution was adopted by the General Body:

The General Body of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics expresses its grateful thanks to Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi in general and its Vice Chancellor, Padmashri Dr. Lalji Singh, in particular for organizing the 67th Annual Conference at Department of Farm Engineering, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, BHU, Varanasi during December 18-20, 2013. The members appreciated the efforts made in organizing a successful conference. They also felt the satisfaction on the coverage of this event in the media. The Society is thankful to Dr. Ravi Pratap Singh, Director, Institute of Agricultural Sciences; Dr. Subedar Singh, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture & Organizing Secretary and Dr. Abhishek Singh, Joint Organizing Secretary for the successful conduct of the Conference. The colleagues and staff members took pains to see that each and every item of work was attended to in time and efficiently. The Society expresses its sincere thanks to all concerned for making the Conference a great success. The Society in particular is thankful to the Organizing Committee, volunteers, conveners and members of various committees for shouldering heavy responsibilities in organizing the Conference. The Society also proposes a hearty vote of thanks to chairpersons and conveners as well as speakers of various sessions.

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

**Action Taken Report on the Recommendations made at the General Body
Meeting held on December 19, 2012 at IASRI, New Delhi**

Action Suggested: It was decided that the Executive Council of the Society may decide the venue and dates of the 67th Annual Conference of the Society from the proposals received.

Action Taken: The Executive Council in its meeting held on 23 April 2013 chaired by Hon'ble President, Dr. S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE, Govt. of India and DG, ICAR, New Delhi has decided to hold its 67th Annual Conference at Department of Farm Engineering, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (UP) during December 18-20, 2013 and 68th Annual Conference at Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Gayatrikunj, Shantikunj, Haridwar.

Action Suggested: It was decided that the theme and sub-themes for 67th Annual Conference of the Society may be finalized by the Executive Council.

Action Taken: The Executive Council has decided that the theme of the Conference would be **Statistics and Informatics in Agricultural Research**. The Executive Council also finalized the following sub-themes:

1. Recent Advances in Sampling Techniques
2. Advances in Design and Analysis of Experiments
3. Informatics in Agricultural Research
4. Forecasting and Forewarning Techniques in Agricultural Research

The Conference is being organized with the above mentioned theme and sub-themes.

Action Suggested: It was decided that the report of the Sub-Committee constituted for Framing the Rules for Election of Office Bearers of the Society may be circulated to all the members, requesting their suggestions/comments on the report latest by January 31, 2013. The comments received will then be put up before the Executive Council in its next meeting. The report after incorporation of the suggestions of the members would then be placed in the next general body meeting.

Action Taken: The report of the Sub-Committee constituted for Framing the Rules for Election of Office Bearers of the Society was sent to all the members, requesting their suggestions/comments on the report latest by January 31, 2013. The suggestions received were put up to the Executive Council in its meeting held on April 23, 2013. The Executive Council constituted a sub-committee consisting of Dr. AC Kulshreshtha as Chairman and Dr. RC Agrawal, Dr. Prajneshu and Shri Vijay Kumar as members and Dr. KK Tyagi as Member Secretary for looking into various documents, suggestions and recommendations of the earlier sub-committee concerning framing rules for election of office bearers of ISAS and give its own report.

The sub-committee submitted its report on October 10, 2013 which was discussed in the Executive Council Meeting of the Society held on October 11, 2013. The Executive Council accepted the recommendations with some suggestions. It was decided that the recommendations of the sub-committee may be put up in the next General Body Meeting after incorporating the suggestions made by the Executive Council in its meeting held on October 11, 2013. The recommendations are being put up in this General Body Meeting as Annexure-II.

Draft Rules for the Election of Office Bearers of ISAS

The members of the Executive Council (Patrons, President, Executive President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Joint Secretaries, Members and Treasurer) may be nominated by the Executive Council / elected from among the members of the Society by the secret ballot paper. The tenure of all the members of the Executive Council, except that of Patrons, President and Secretary will be for two calendar years. No member of the Executive Council holding the tenure position will be permitted to hold that position for more than two tenures. However, the decision to extend the first tenure to the second tenure will rest with the Executive Council in position at that time. In the case of unavoidable delays in the elections, the Executive Council in position may continue to function until new Executive Council takes over but in no case more than three months after expiry of the term.

The members of the Executive Council to be nominated by the Executive Council or to be elected by a secret ballot paper by the members of the Society will be as per the following plan:

Patron: The number of Patrons is not fixed. However, out of all the Patrons only two may be called to attend the Executive Council meeting. These two Patrons will be nominated by the Executive Council.

President (One): The President would be nominated by the Executive Council in position. The Director General, ICAR would normally be the President of the ISAS and Chairman of the Executive Council. Therefore, there would be no fixed tenure for this position.

In the absence of President, the Executive Council meeting will be Chaired by Executive President. However, in the absence of both President and the Executive President, the senior-most Vice-President present in the meeting will be the Chairperson.

Executive President (One): The Executive President would be nominated by the Executive Council in position. The person to be nominated for this position must be a renowned/senior active member of high stature, taking interest in the activities of the Society and having long association as a member of the Society for at least 10 years. The person to be nominated may preferably be a fellow of some academy / Society / winner of International / national award for his / her outstanding contributions.

Vice-Presidents (six): The number of Vice-Presidents would be six and out of these six, one Vice-President would be nominated by the Executive Council from among the Foreign Members for expanding the activities of the Society. Among the remaining 5 positions of Vice-Presidents, two would be nominated by the Executive Council and remaining three would be elected by Secret Ballot paper. The persons to be nominated / elected by secret ballot paper for these positions must be renowned / senior active members of stature, taking interest in the activities of the Society and having long association as a member of the Society for at least 10 years. The person to be nominated by Executive Council / elected by secret ballot may preferably be either a fellow of some academy / society and/or winner of international / national award for his / her outstanding contributions.

Secretary (One): The Secretary would be nominated by the Executive Council in position. Director, IASRI would normally be the Secretary of ISAS. Therefore, there would be no fixed tenure for this position.

Joint Secretaries (Three): Two Joint Secretaries should be from the headquarters (IASRI) of the Society for conducting the day-to-day activities of the Society. The third Joint Secretary would be from outside IASRI, who would be responsible for liaison and coordination with other Institutions/Organizations outside Delhi, besides discharging other responsibilities assigned by the Executive Council. Of the two Joint Secretaries from IASRI, one will be nominated by the Executive Council and the other Joint Secretary from IASRI would be elected by secret ballot. Similarly, the Joint Secretary from outside

IASRI would be elected by secret ballot. The two elected Joint Secretaries would be elected every year in such a way that if one year the Joint Secretary from IASRI is elected by secret ballot then next time the Joint Secretary from outside Delhi would be elected by secret ballot. The persons to be nominated / elected by secret ballot must be having an association as a member of the society for at least 8 years and may preferably be winner of some award from any Statistical Society or any national award. This would ensure that only serious persons with good academic background are nominated / elected by secret ballot.

Treasurer (One): The Treasurer of the Society would be elected by secret ballot. Only members of the society coming from any Delhi based Institution excluding IASRI would be eligible for election. The person to be nominated / elected by secret ballot paper for this position must be renowned / senior active member of stature, taking interest in the activities of the Society and having long association as a member for at least 10 years.

Executive Members (Twelve): All the positions of the Executive members would be filled by election through secret ballot. However, 50% of the positions would be filled each year by secret ballot. The remaining 50% Executive members would continue and those 50% positions would be filled next year by election through secret ballot. The persons to be nominated / elected by secret ballot must be having an association as a member of the society for at least 5 years.

Note: The election procedure should be through secret ballot paper to be sent to every member of the ISAS either through e-mail or by post. Elections should not be held in the General Body Meeting, as only a small proportion of members of the ISAS participate in these GB meetings, mostly organised during the Annual conferences of the ISAS Conference.

The election to various positions by secret ballot would be as follows:

- The election by secret ballot for office bearers of the Executive Council would be conducted by a Returning Officer duly nominated by the Executive Council in position. The Returning Officer should not be a candidate for any position of the Executive Council.
- The responsibility for inviting nominations from all the life members of the society to fill the vacant positions for the different Office Bearers of the Society shall lie with the Returning Officer. Each member would suggest names (one or more) for every vacant position from the list of life members of the society available at the website of the society. The nomination papers would be returned to the Returning Officer by a specified date.
- The Returning Officer and the Secretary will scrutinize the nominations for their validity.
- The valid names obtained after scrutiny by returning officer and Secretary for all the positions for which elections are to be held shall be sent to the Executive Council. The Executive Council will select one or more candidates from among the list of valid names for each position, as scrutinised by the returning officer and the Secretary.
- The returning officer shall communicate the names approved by the Executive Council to the contestants for seeking their consent to contest elections. The names of the members communicating/conveying their willingness for contesting elections will be included in the ballot paper.
- The ballot paper shall contain the names and address of the contesting candidates duly numbered and signed by the Returning Officer. A brief bio-data running in half page (A4 size) should also accompany the ballot paper to enable the members to understand the contestant.
- After casting the vote, the ballot papers must be sent back by the members to the Returning Officer by the prescribed date, which will be indicated on the ballot paper.
- The ballots may be counted by the Returning Officer in the presence of two members of the Executive Council and the Secretary. The members getting the highest votes will be declared elected.
- In case of a tie, the Executive Council of the ISAS would nominate one among the candidates tied depending upon the merits of the tied candidates. The results of the nominations / elections would be announced by the Returning Officer at the Annual Meeting of the Society.

- A time frame for the entire election process (inviting nominations, dispatch of ballot papers, receipt of ballot papers, withdrawal of nominations, counting of ballots, etc.) should be worked out by the Society office, approved by the Executive Council and announced well in advance.

The election process by secret ballot is time consuming and needs adequate human resource. The office of the society would need to be strengthened by appointing staff. In order to make this feasible, the funds of the Society need to be enhanced immediately for appointing staff. Till such time the Returning Officer would have to complete the electoral process by making some extra efforts.

Note: The procedure described here is based on traditional ballot paper approach. In due course, efforts need to be made to develop procedure for electronic voting.

**INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
OFFICE BEARERS 2014**

President	S Ayyappan
Executive President	Prem Narain
Sessional President	Sudhir Gupta
Patrons	James H Matis JS Rustagi KC Seal BN Singh KC Raut Bal BPS Goel* AK Srivastava*
Vice Presidents	Aloke Dey
	VK Gupta
	SD Sharma
	AK Vishandass
	VK Bhatia
	Sat Gupta (from Overseas)
Members	Alka Arora
	Sangeeta Ahuja
	KK Chaturvedi
	AK Paul
	Subedar Singh
	Abhishek Rathore
	BVS Sisodia
	Mahesh Kumar
	VK Singh
	Prawin Arya
	SB Lal
	Shahnawazul Islam
Honorary Secretary	UC Sud
Honorary Jt. Secretaries	LM Bhar
	Hukum Chandra
	M Balakrishnan
Honorary Treasurer	RC Agrawal
Ex-Officio Members (By Designation) :	
1. Director, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi;	
2. Principal Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi;	
3. Director General, Central Statistical Organization, Govt. of India, New Delhi;	
4. Director General, National Sample Survey Organization, Govt. of India, New Delhi;	
5. Chair Editor, JISAS, New Delhi.	
* Patrons nominated to attend the Executive Council Meetings during 2014.	