

Report of the Sub-Committee for framing rules for the election of office bearers of Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics (ISAS)

Background

The Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics (ISAS), a scientific society, was created in 1947 with the aims to promote the study of and research in statistical theory and its applications to Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Agricultural Economics and allied fields. The Society has broadened its coverage by including research in Computer Applications also. Its membership is open to all persons and institutions interested in the aims of the Society. The membership consists of Honorary Members, Patrons, Life Members, Annual Members and Institutional Members. At present, there are 643 Life Members spread over India as well as other countries. The Society also publishes an International peer reviewed Journal called Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics (JISAS). The Society also conducts an Annual Conference in different parts of the country which provides a platform for sharing research findings among researchers in the field of Agricultural Statistics and Computer Applications.

The present Executive Council of the Society consists of:

President	:	1
Executive President	:	1
Vice Presidents	:	4
Secretary	:	1
Joint Secretaries	:	2
Treasurer	:	1
Executive Members	:	12

In addition, the Ex-officio members of the Executive Council of the Society by designation are as follows:

1. Director General, Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Government of India, New Delhi
2. Director General, National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Government of India, New Delhi
3. Economic and Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi
4. Chair Editor, Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics

Every year, the Council proposes the names of President, Executive President, Sessional President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Joint Secretaries, Treasurer and 6 out of 12 Council members. The remaining 6 positions for Executive Members are proposed by members of the Society for which elections are held in the General Body Meeting of the Annual Conference. At present, Director General, ICAR is the President and Director, IASRI is the Secretary of the Executive Council. The Headquarter of the Society is located at Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI), New Delhi.

The details of present procedure of election of office bearers of the Council are presented in Annexure - I.

Constitution of the Sub Committee

A suggestion was made during the General Body meeting in the Annual Conference of ISAS held at NDRI, Karnal in 2011, that the election of Office Bearers and Members of the Executive Council may be held through ballot papers. As a follow up of these suggestions, the Executive Council of ISAS in its meeting held on 25th April 2012 at NASC under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary DARE, Government of India and Director General, ICAR appointed a sub-committee for the following purpose:

- Framing of rules for the election of Office Bearers of ISAS at par with other scientific bodies such as National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi
- Framing of guidelines for Best Paper Award to be initiated for the papers published in the discipline of Statistics with applications in Agricultural Sciences in a journal suitably identified.

The sub-committee consists of

Dr. A.K. Srivastava, IASRI (Retd.)	Chairman
Dr. U.C. Sud, IASRI	Member
Dr. H.C. Pathak, NAAS	Member
Dr. Seema Jaggi, IASRI	Member Secretary

Approach

The existing process of election of office bearers of ISAS was reviewed. In order to work out the framework for election of office bearers of ISAS, the constitution/ rules/ guidelines of some other societies formed on similar lines were also reviewed. A list of such Societies is given in Annexure - II. The committee members also interacted with some of the officials associated with such Societies. Keeping in view the background and perspective of ISAS and also the review of functioning of various Societies, the committee makes the following recommendations/ proposal for election of office bearers of ISAS and guidelines for new Best Paper Award.

Proposal for the Election of Office Bearers of ISAS

The members of the Executive Council (Executive President, Vice Presidents, Executive Members, Joint Secretaries and Treasurer) may be elected from among the members of the Society by the secret ballot paper for tenure of two calendar years. In the case of unavoidable delays in the elections, the Executive Council may continue to function until new Executive Council takes over but in no case more than three months after expiry of the term.

1. **President:** The Director General ICAR is the present President and this practice should continue.
2. **Executive President and Vice-Presidents:** These may be elected from among the members of the Society by secret ballot paper for tenure of two calendar years.

Keeping in view the dignity and reputation of the post of the Executive President and Vice Presidents of the Society, renowned active members of stature and members taking interest in Society's activities and having long association as member with the society (at least 20 years for Executive President and 15 years for Vice President) may be nominated for these 3 positions. For the sake of continuity, out of four positions of Vice President, two should continue for the next year while two should be selected afresh ever year.

3. **Secretary:** The present practice of Director, IASRI being the Secretary of ISAS should continue.
4. **Joint Secretaries:** Two Joint Secretaries shall be from the headquarters (IASRI) of the Society for conducting the day to day activities of the Society. It is proposed that one more Joint Secretary from outside IASRI could be elected for the purpose of liaison and coordination with other organizations outside Delhi. However, these positions may be filled up by secret ballot paper for tenure of two calendar years. In order to maintain continuity, only one of the two Joint Secretaries may be subjected to election every time.
(Members of the Society with minimum five years of membership may be considered for the position of Joint Secretary).
5. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall be a member from any Delhi based organization, other than IASRI. The Treasurer shall keep accounts, receive and disburse money and operate accounts of the Society in the bank on behalf of the Society. The tenure of the treasurer shall also be of two years.

(Members of the Society with minimum five years of membership may be considered for the position of Treasurer).

6. **Executive Members:** These may be elected from among the members of the Society by secret ballot paper for tenure of two calendar years.

(Members of the Society with minimum two years of membership may be nominated for the positions of Executive Members of the Society).

For all the tenure posts, not more than two consecutive terms be permitted for the same position. The Editorial Board has been outside the purview of election process. The sub-committee feels that the present practice for editorial board may continue.

Procedure of Election

The important steps in the election procedure are as follows:

- The election for office bearers of the Society shall be conducted by a Returning Officer nominated by the Executive Council. The Returning Officer shall not be a candidate for any position of the Executive Council.
- The responsibility for inviting nominations to the vacant positions for the different Office Bearers of the Society shall lie with the Returning Officer. The nominations are to 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 shall be sent to the Executive Council. The Executive Council will select one or more candidates for each position.
- The returning officer shall communicate the names approved by the Executive Council to the contestants for their consent. 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.
- Members will have the freedom to add a new name for each position in case of disagreement with the suggested names in the list. Necessary provision should be made in the ballot paper for this purpose.
- After casting the vote, the ballot papers must be sent back by the members to the Returning Officer by the prescribed date to be indicated on the ballot paper.
- The ballots may be counted by the Returning Officer in the presence of at least two members of the Executive Council and the Contestants (optional). The members getting the highest votes will be declared elected.
- In case of a tie, the immediate past Executive President will have the casting vote. The result may 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, counting of ballots etc.) should be worked out by the Society office, approved by the Executive Council and announced well in advance.

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.

Guidelines for new Best Paper Award to be initiated for the papers published in the discipline of Statistics with applications in Agricultural Sciences in a journal suitably identified

We understand that this award to be initiated is for the members of the society. The committee feels that the members of the Society may have papers published in variety of journals. This list is likely to be very large. It is, therefore, very difficult to identify the journals in which the members of the society have published papers. The following procedure may be adopted for such an award:

The award shall be given every alternative year. Any member of the Society may apply for this award with details of the published paper by using the application form prepared for this purpose along with a copy of the reprint of the paper. Only those papers may be considered for this award, which were published in the previous two years of the award year. All award related nominations may be carefully scrutinized and considered by the Committee appointed for this purpose. Suitable criteria may be made for the selection of the best paper. All the authors of the best selected paper should be eligible for the award.

ANNEXURE – I

Present Election Procedure of Executive Council of ISAS

Election of Office Bearers

- The Council will propose for the next year the names of President, Executive President, Sessional President, Vice Presidents, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Joint Secretaries, Honorary Treasurer and 6 out of 12 Council members. For Vice Presidents, selection out of eminent members taking their interest in Society's activities preferably from amongst the active members who are Fellows/existing Vice Presidents as well as Sankhyiki Bhushan awardees.
- The proposal will be circulated among the members of the Society at least one month before the General body Meeting.
- The members may propose the names for filling six vacant positions of the Council. Out of these 6, one may conventionally be reserved for the Organizing Secretary of the conference. The complete procedure of nomination for the vacant positions is to be communicated to all members.
- The person whose name is proposed should be a member of the Society. The proposal, seconded by another member and with the consent of the proposed persons should reach the Secretary before the prescribed date and well before the General Body Meeting.
- The proposal made by the members for filling up six vacant positions will be scrutinized by the Secretary of the Society. The valid nominations will be put to vote through a secret ballot and the result will be announced by the Returning Officer duly appointed by the Executive Council.
- If any vacant position is not filled up as per procedure suggested above, the Council may further propose names for filling up the vacant positions.
- The names proposed by the Council as well as those elected by members will be placed before the General Body for approval.

Nomination to the Executive Council

- The Director, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi; Economic & Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi; Director General, Central Statistical Office, Government of India, New Delhi and Director General, National Sample Survey Office, Government of India, New Delhi and Chair, Editor Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics will be the Ex-officio members of the Executive Council of the Society.
- Not more than two Patrons may also be nominated for the Executive Council.

ANNEXURE-II

List of Academies and Societies Reviewed for Election Procedures

- National Academy of Agricultural Sciences
- Indian National Science Academy
- Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding
- Indian Society of Soil Science
- Indian Society of Probability and Statistics
- Indian Statistical Association
- Nematological Society of India
- Indian Society of Remote Sensing
- Indian Society of Agronomy