

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

Proceedings of the General Body Meeting held on November 21, 2016 during the organization of the 70th Annual Conference (International Conference on Statistics & Big Data Bioinformatics in Agricultural Research) at International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, Patancheru (Telangana) during November 21-23, 2016

The following were present:

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| 1. Dr. Padam Singh (Chairman) | 22. Dr. SP Bhardwaj |
| 2. Shri SD Wahi | 23. Dr. Prawin Arya |
| 3. Dr. UC Sud | 24. Shri Mrinmoy Ray |
| 4. Dr. KK Tyagi | 25. Dr. BK Gupt |
| 5. Dr. AK Paul | 26. Dr. Hukum Chandra |
| 6. Dr. Susheel Kumar Sarkar | 27. Dr. Sandeep Kumar Sharma |
| 7. Dr. Murari Singh | 28. Dr. Tauqueer Ahmad |
| 8. Dr. KN Singh | 29. Dr. Anil Rai |
| 9. Dr. Sanjeev Panwar | 30. Dr. AR Rao |
| 10. Dr. Sukanta Dash | 31. Dr. Mahesh Kumar |
| 11. Dr. Prakash Kumar | 32. Dr. Nitiprasad N Jambhulkar |
| 12. Shri Raju Kumar | 33. Dr. Prabina Kumar Meher |
| 13. Shri Deepak Singh | 34. Dr. Eldho Varghese |
| 14. Dr. Ramasubramanian V | 35. Dr. Ananta Sarkar |
| 15. Dr. V Geethalakshmi | 36. Shri Santosha Rathod |
| 16. Dr. AK Choubey | 37. Dr. Ranjit Kumar Paul |
| 17. Dr. BH Prajapati | 38. Dr. Soumen Pal |
| 18. Dr. GK Choudhary | 39. Dr. BN Mandal |
| 19. Dr. DJ Parmar | 40. Dr. Rajender Parsad |
| 20. Dr. Arpan Bhowmik | 41. Dr. Yogita Gharde |
| 21. Dr. Sudeep Marwaha | 42. Dr. LM Bhar |

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed all the members of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics (ISAS) present in the General Body Meeting.

In the beginning the presentation pertaining to **Dr. G.R. Seth Memorial Young Scientist Award** was made by Dr. Prabina Kumar Meher, Scientist, ICAR-IASRI, New Delhi on his paper entitled **A Non-parametric Regression based Computational Approach for Prediction of Donor Splice Sites** by Prabina Kumar Meher and AR Rao. **The Society awarded Dr. G.R. Seth Memorial Young Scientist Award-2016 to Dr. Prabina Kumar Meher.**

Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up as follows:

1. Confirmation of the Proceedings of the last General Body Meeting held at University of Kota, Kota, Rajasthan on December 16, 2015

The proceedings were circulated among all the members. As no comments were received, accordingly, the proceedings were confirmed.

2. Action taken on the Recommendations made at the last General Body Meeting held at University of Kota, Kota, Rajasthan on December 16, 2015

The details of the action taken on the recommendations made at the last General Body Meeting were brought to the notice of the members. The members expressed their satisfaction on the action taken report (as per Annexure-I).

3. Consideration of the Secretary's Report on the activities of the Society for the year 2016

Dr. UC Sud, Honorary Secretary presented the report on the activities of the Society for the year 2016. The members expressed their satisfaction on the report.

4. Revising Guidelines for various Society Awards

The Executive Council (EC) constituted a committee consisting of Dr. AK Srivastava as Chairman and Dr. AC Kulshreshtha, Dr. Prajneshu as Members and Dr. Susheel Kumar Sarkar as Member Secretary for looking into various documents, suggestions and recommendations and for framing the suitable guidelines for the election of Executive President, Vice President of ISAS, and appointment of Chief Editor of the JISAS. As follows are the recommendations of the Committee:

Recommendations:

- i. Members may be apprised of the dignity and reputation requirements of the positions of Executive President and Vice Presidents before election.
- ii. Members in active service and having association with ISAS for at least 25 years and having rank higher than that of Secretary/Director of IASRI, would be eligible for the position of Executive President.
- iii. Members who have retired and having association with ISAS for at least 25 years and worked as Principal Scientist/National Professor/Professor would also be considered eligible for the position of Executive President.
- iv. For the positions of Vice President, the committee feels that the same guidelines as those for the position of Executive President stated above should be followed.
- v. The names proposed for the position of the Executive President should be first submitted to the EC of ISAS for its clearance for election process. The EC would take into account the academic excellence/awards and stature of the candidates while screening the proposed names. If suitable names are not proposed, the EC would advise appropriate names for the position of Executive President. Election will be held only among the names of the candidates cleared by the EC.
- vi. As far as the appointment of the Chief Editor, JISAS is concerned, this committee is of the opinion that only academic excellence and not election should be the criterion and thus it should be decided by the EC.

The recommendations of the committee were discussed in the General Body Meeting and various suggestions were received in house. The recommendations at (v) above was not accepted by the General Body. The other recommendations were accepted with changes/modifications as under.

For contesting election for the position of Vice President, one should be associated with ISAS as Life Member for 20 years, while for contesting election for Executive Membership, one should be Life Member for 10 years. The position of Chief Editor of JISAS, may be kept outside the Executive Council.

Executive President raised the concern over some of the EC Members not attending the EC meetings. It was suggested that if any EC Member does not attend the EC meetings consecutively for three times, the EC must have the right to cancel his EC membership in the absence of any genuine reasons furnished by them.

5. Eligibility Guidelines for Sankhyiki Bhushan Award

The Executive Council constituted a committee consisting of Dr. Padam Singh as Chairman and Dr. SK Raheja, Dr. UC Sud as Members and Dr. KK Tyagi as Member Secretary for suggesting the eligibility guidelines for Sankhyiki Bhushan Award. The recommendations of the Committee are as follows:

- For observing transparency and avoiding any kind of controversy, the SANKHYIKI BHUSHAN Award should be adjudged by a high-powered committee to be constituted by Executive President, ISAS. This committee should be headed by former Sankhyiki Bhushan Awardees.

Committee recommended that a transparent scoring system should be adopted. However, with the existing marking system in place, the role of Experts in judging the suitability of a candidate for Sankhyiki Bhushan Award is limited. Accordingly, it was felt that criterion for adjudging for this Award should be a mix of Evaluation/Marking System (50%) and Committee Members Observations on the basis of Nominee's Bio-data (50%).

It was also decided that the recipient of Sankhyiki Bhushan Award should not apply for other awards such as Prof. Sukhatme Gold Medal, etc. The Governing Body was also informed that the Executive Members will not be eligible for any of the awards and will not be involved in the process of evaluating and even recommending for any award.

6. Suggestions for Venue and Dates for the 71st Annual Conference

As no suggestion was received during the GB Meeting, it was decided that the EC might finalize the venue and dates of the 71st Annual Conference to be held during 2017. However, it was suggested to explore the possibility of organizing the 71st Annual Conference either at ICAR-Directorate of Rapeseed & Mustard Research, Bharatpur (Rajasthan) or ICAR-Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) during December 2017.

7. Selection of Theme and Sub-themes for the 71st Annual Conference

EC was authorized to finalize the themes and sub-themes for the 71st Annual Conference of ISAS, keeping in view the venue of the Conference and suggestions received from the members.

8. Any other item with the permission of the Chair

The General Body of the ISAS expressed its grateful thanks to Dr. David Bergvinson, Director General, ICRISAT and all other ICRISAT officials associated with the organization of the Conference for successfully organizing the 70th Annual Conference during November 21-23, 2016. The members appreciated the sincere efforts made by them in making various arrangements (boarding, lodging, transport etc.). The members expressed their heartfelt thanks to Dr. Abhishek Rathore, Senior Scientist, ICRISAT & Organizing Secretary for his concerted and untiring efforts made in the successful organization of the Conference. The Society expresses its sincere thanks to all concerned for making the Conference a great success. The Society in particular is thankful to the Members of the Organizing Committee, Chairmen, Conveners and Members of various committees, Volunteers, for shouldering responsibilities in the successful organization of the Conference. The Society also proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Chairmen and Conveners of different Technical Sessions as well as to all the Invited Speakers etc. who took all the trouble in travelling from their countries as well as from within India.

Executive President mentioned that the two-years term of this elected Executive Council shall be over during July 2017. It was decided that elections for various positions of the new Executive Council, as per the approved norms and procedure of ISAS, may be conducted during 2017. For conducting the election of the Executive Council for the year 2017, Dr. AR Rao, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IASRI, New Delhi was unanimously appointed as Returning Officer. Dr. Anil Rai, Principal Scientist & Head, CABG, and Dr. Tauqueer Ahmad, Principal Scientist & Head, Division of Sample Surveys, ICAR-IASRI, New Delhi may be requested to extend all co-operation to Dr AR Rao in smoothly conducting the election process.

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

Action Taken Report on the Recommendations made at the General Body Meeting of ISAS held on December 15, 2015 at University of Kota, Kota, Rajasthan

Action Suggested: The Executive Council of the Society may decide the venue and dates of the 70th Annual Conference of the Society during 2016.

Action Taken: A request from ICRISAT has been received for organizing 70th Annual Conference of the Society as an International Conference. The Executive Council in its meeting held on 17 March 2016 chaired by Hon'ble President, Dr. S Ayyappan has decided to hold the 70th Annual Conference of the Society as an International Conference at International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, Patancheru, Hyderabad, Telangana during November 21-23, 2016. It was also decided that a Pre-conference two workshops may be organized on November 20, 2016.

Action Suggested: For the election of Executive President, and appointment of Chief Editor of the JISAS, proper guidelines may be framed.

Action Taken: The Executive Council constituted a committee consisting of Dr. AK Srivastava as Chairman and Dr. AC Kulshreshtha, Dr. Prajneshu as Members and Dr. Susheel Kumar Sarkar as Member Secretary.

Action Suggested: Proper eligibility guidelines for the award of Sankhyiki Bhushan may be framed.

Action Taken: The Executive Council constituted a committee consisting of Dr. Padam Singh as Chairman and Dr. SK Raheja, Dr. UC Sud as Members and Dr. KK Tyagi as Member Secretary.