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Proceedings of the General Body Meeting held on February 02 and 03, 2024 during the organization of the 74th Annual Conference on "Harnessing Statistics and Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable and Smart Agriculture" at Department of Agricultural Statistics, NM College of Agriculture, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat from February 02-04, 2024

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26. Dr. J. Jayasankar55. Dr. Achal Lama(Online)27. Dr. Mahesh R Patil56. Dr. Manish Sharma(Online)28. Dr. A.D. Kalola57. Dr. K.K. Pandey	24.		53.	Dr. P.K. Sahu	(Online)
27. Dr. Mahesh R Patil56. Dr. Manish Sharma(Online)28. Dr. A.D. Kalola57. Dr. K.K. Pandey	25.	Dr. Mukesh Kumar	<u>5</u> 4.	Dr. G.K. Chaudhary	(Online)
27. Dr. Mahesh R Patil56. Dr. Manish Sharma(Online)28. Dr. A.D. Kalola57. Dr. K.K. Pandey	26.	Dr. J. Jayasankar	55.	Dr. Achal Lama	(Online)
28. Dr. A.D. Kalola57. Dr. K.K. Pandey	27.		56.	Dr. Manish Sharma	(Online)
	28.		57.	Dr. K.K. Pandey	
	29.	Dr. Yogita Gharde	58.	Dr. Himadri Shekhar Roy	(Online)

The following were present:

Following members of ISAS have left for their heavenly abode: Dr. KC Seal (14.05.2022); Shri Suresh Chandra Rai (05.01.2023); Dr. RK Singh (09.01.2023); Dr. Prem Narain (01.10.2023); Dr. MS

Swaminathan (28.09.2023); Dr CR Rao (22.08.2023). All members present kept silence for two minutes and prayed for the departed soul.

The Chairman welcomed all the members of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics (ISAS) present in the General Body Meeting offline as well as online.

Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up as follows:

1. Confirmation of the Proceedings of the last General Body Meeting held at SKUAST-K, Srinagar, J&K, India on November 15, 2022

The Proceedings of the General Body Meeting held on November 15, 2022 at SKUAST-K, Srinagar were circulated among all the members. Since no comment was received, the Proceedings were unanimously confirmed.

2. Action taken on the Recommendations made at the last General Body Meeting held at SKUAST-K, Srinagar, J&K, India on November 15, 2022

The details of the action taken on the recommendations made at the last General Body Meeting were brought to the notice of the members. Action taken report was presented and approved. The Action Taken report is attached in Annexure-I.

3. Consideration of the Secretary's Report on the activities of the Society for the year 2023

Dr. Rajender Parsad, Honorary Secretary presented the report on the activities of the Society for the year 2023. The members expressed their satisfaction on the report.

4. Presentation of Audited Accounts of the Society for the year 2022-23

Dr. KK Tyagi, Treasurer presented the Audited Accounts of the Society for the year 2022-23. The members expressed their satisfaction on the report.

5. Consideration of the Reports of the committee constituted by the General Body of the Society in its meeting held on November 15, 2022

Both the Committees have submitted their reports. The reports were circulated to all members.

Streamlining Election Rules: The Executive Council also discussed the report of the committee constituted to streamline the Election Rules on September 15, 2023 and Award Committee Report on January 28, 2023. Following recommendations of the committee were accepted by the General Body

- i) The elected Treasurer should be a member of ISAS for at least 10 years.
- ii) Maximum of two patrons with honorific positions, duly nominated by EC may be invited to attend the ISAS Executive Council Meeting at any given point in time.
- iii) Inviting the Organizing Secretary of the Annual Conference of ISAS to EC till the conduct of the next Annual Conferences (in case the Organizing Secretary is not an elect6ed member of the Executive Council)

- iv) As Director, ICAR-IASRI is Ex-officio, Secretary of ISAS and there are now five Director Generals in MoSPI, therefore, the following may not be nominated as Ex-officio Members to the Executive Council:
 - The Director, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi
 - Director General, Central Statistical Office, Govt. of India, New Delhi and
 - Director General, National Sample Survey Office, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

As per Dr AK Srivastava Committee Report adopted for elections since 2015, there is an existing rule that "for all tenure posts, not more than two consecutive terms be permitted for the same position for the same person". The EC meeting held on November 15, 2023 recommended that the existing provision since 2015 as per Dr AK Srivastava Committee Report, viz. For all tenure posts, not more than two consecutive terms be permitted for the same position for the same person, be dropped and the elections were announced as per the recommendations of the Executive Council (with no restriction of same person holding the same post for more than two consecutive terms). Some members through E-mail have suggested to continue this rule. This issue was deliberated in the GB meeting. Some members felt that the existing rule of no two consecutive terms for the same person for the same post may be continued. There was also another suggestion that the earlier practice of electing all EC members during GB meeting every year maybe continued as per the by-laws in vogue prior to 2015. As there was no consensus among the members present in the GB and since the matter pertains to electing the Executive Council, it was decided that a referendum for taking opinion of Life Members of ISAS may be held to amend the existing Elections rules of ISAS.

Few members have also suggested that the Election of office bearers should be open for all posts and there should be no retention.

Awards Rules: The report of the committee was circulated to all members. The suggestions received were discussed in the ISAS EC meeting held on January 28, 2024. The report was discussed in detail in the General Body Meeting and the following was decided.

- (i) Award(s) except ISAS Fellowship should be open to all whether ISAS Members or not. After receiving the Award, one may be requested to become Life Member of the Society if s/he is not already a member.
- (ii) Council in the Recommendations of the Committee should be replaced at all places with EC.
- (iii) Announcement for each Award should be made May 31 of calendar year of the award *(instead of September 30)*
- (iv) The award(s) are for outstanding contributions made by a person in statistical science (agricultural statistics, computer applications and bioinformatics) or related areas{*in place of Committee Recommendation: This award is for outstanding contributions made by a person (i) in both theory and application of statistical sciences especially to agricultural sciences*}.
- (v) Executive Council Members (Elected or Ex-officio) will not be eligible for any of ISAS Awards during their tenure. Further, none of the Executive Council Members will recommend anybody for the award and will also not be a member of any committee for such awards. Joint Secretaries nominated by EC will facilitate the providing relevant documents to the committees. {in place of Committee Recommendation: Nominations are invited from the scientists / researchers / faculty / statisticians all over India, including the members and office bearers of the Executive Council of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics (ISAS) for the selection of Sankhyiki Bhushan Awardee}.

- (vi) The EC may constitute a sub-committee comprising of scientists of national and international repute in the fields of Statistical Sciences including Agricultural Statistics, Computer Application and Bioinformatics. {In place of Committee Recommendation: The sub-committee may comprise of scientists of repute like winner of National Award(s) including Sankhyiki Bhushan Award, or of equivalent stature. Few members might be Professors from Universities or holding equivalent positions in research organization outside India}.
- (vii) Weightage for Innovative Teaching (Maximum of 10 marks): it should be quantified as follows;
 (i) Curriculum development: 5 marks (1 marks for each new course designed or farmed degree course curriculum Chairman/Member Secretary of BSMA or any other similar committee); (ii) Training Programme conducted as Course Director/Course Coordinator: 0.5 marks for each training of 3 weeks or more duration, 0.25 marks for one week to 20 days duration; 0.1 marks for 3 to 6 days duration(Subject to a maximum of 5 marks); (iii) Courses taught: 0.1 mark for 18 lectures per year delivered subject to a maximum of 5 marks. {Proof to be enclosed}
 - OR

Significant contributions made towards strengthening of statistical system, including agricultural statistics system, in the country and the new innovative statistical methodologies/Software/Information Systems/Portal/Vortals developed: 0.5 marks for each (Proof to be enclosed)

<u>{In place of Committee Recommendation:</u> Weightage for Innovative Teaching (Maximum 10 marks)

Innovative Teaching implies contributions towards Teaching and Curriculum Development Methods at M.Sc. and Ph.D. level. Regarding Curriculum Development Methods, the evaluation may be done based on development of newer teaching techniques and preparation of teaching manual/materials. This also includes the development of practical exercises based on real life situations with description of the output generated along with the detailed interpretation or inferences drawn from the results obtained. List all the courses taught, and the duration of each course taught. Give evidence of curriculum development methods developed.

OR

Significant contributions made towards strengthening of statistical system, including agricultural statistics system, in the country and the new innovative methodologies developed for the national programmes implementation and evaluation.

(viii) Weightage for Awards and Honours ((Maximum 10 marks): it should be quantified as follows;

- International Award from Govt. Agency/CG Centre/FAO/UN etc.: 3 marks for each Award;
- National Awards Received: 2 Marks each (National Award in Statistics, Fellow/Awards by NAAS, INSA, NASI, Awards by ICAR other than Young Scientist Awards/ Associateship). For Young Scientist Awards/ Associateship, it should be 1 mark each)
- Best Teacher Award Received from University or Research Organization: 0.5 Marks each
- Fellowship of Scientific Societies: 0.5 marks each
- Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute, Netherlands / Chief Editor / Executive Editor / Managing Editor/Editor/ President / Executive President/ Secretary/Treasurer of a Journal of a Scientific Society: 0.5 marks each.
- Vice Presidents of Scientific Societies: 0.3 marks each
- Joint Secretary of Scientific Societies/Associate Editor: 0.20 marks each.

- Member of Executive Council of a National Academy or Scientific Societies/ Member Editorial Board of NAAS Rated Journals: 0.1 marks each
- Other recognition of significance / Scientific leadership positions in National and International institutions / etc.: 0.5 marks each
- Patent : 0.5 marks each and Copyrights: 0.1 marks each (Full marks as first author and half of marks as Co-Author)

{In place of Committee Recommendation: Awards, Honours and Recognitions (Maximum 10 marks)

- 1. International Awards Received
- 2. National Awards Received
- 3. Best Teacher Award Received from University or Research Organization
- 4. *Fellowship of Academies / Scientific Societies*
- 5. Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute, Netherlands / Chief Editor / Executive Editor / Managing Editor / Associate Editor / President / Executive President / Secretary / Joint Secretary of a Journal or a Scientific Society / Member of the Executive Council of a National Academy or Scientific Societies / Life member of scientific societies /Other recognition of significance / Scientific leadership positions in National and International institutions / etc.}

(ix) Dr GR Seth Memorial Young Scientist Award

The Executive Council will nominate a panel of judges who will grade the papers on a 10point scale (marks between 0 and 10). Candidates obtaining an average score of **6.0** or above will be selected for presentation during the conference (the average score will be obtained by considering the scores of all the members in the panel). Top 4 candidates with average score of 6.0 or above will be invited for making presentation. No candidate will be called for a presentation if the average score of every candidate is **less than 6.0**, and in that year, no award would be given. {*in place of Committee Recommendation: The Executive Council will nominate a panel of judges who will grade the papers on a 10- point scale* (marks between 0 and 10). Candidates obtaining an average score of 6.5 or above will be selected for presentation during the conference (the average score will be obtained by considering the scores of all the members in the panel). A maximum of 4 candidates would be invited for making presentation. These 4 will be the ones with the highest scores **above 6.5**. No candidate will be called for presentation if the average score of every candidate is **less than 6.5**, and in that year, no award would be given.}

Tie break should not be based on Gender. In case of tie on average scores for inviting speakers for making presentation during the conference, we may invite in the following order: (a) the one for whom the variance of marks given by different judges is less; (b) In case there is more than candidate with same variance, then the preference would be given to the one eldest in age; (c) In case of tie on age also, preference will be given to the one who is still doing her/his research for Ph.D. degree over the one who is in service; (d) In case of tie in (a), (b) and (c), the person belonging to difficult area (identified by Government of India) may be given priority.

{in place of Committee Recommendation: In case of tie on average scores for inviting speakers for making presentation during the conference, we may invite in the following order: (a) the one for whom

the variance of marks given by different judges is less; (b) In case of same variance, preference will be given to the female candidate; (c) In case there is more than one female candidate with same variance, then the preference would be given to the one eldest in age; (d) In case there are no female candidates, then among the male candidates preference would be given to the one eldest in age; (e) In case of tie on age also, preference will be given to the one who is still doing her/his research for Ph.D. degree over the one who is in service; (f) In case of tie in (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), the person belonging to difficult area (identified by Government of India) may be given priority}.

The award is open to all young Indians, whether member of the ISAS or not. After receiving the Award, one may be requested to become Life Member of the Society if s/he is not already a member. {in place of Committee Recommendation: The award is open to all young Indians, whether member of the ISAS or not. All those invited for making presentations may be asked to become life members of the ISAS.

- The research paper submitted for the award should be an original contribution and not published / accepted for publication in any Journal at the time of submission of nomination for the award. The work must have been carried out in India???? {in Place of Committee Recommendation: The research paper submitted for the award should be an original contribution and not published / accepted for publication in any Journal <u>at the time of submission of nomination for the award</u>.

(x) SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The ISAS may think of introducing some cash prize also for the award to make it more attractive. (Not Considered}

- a) Efforts may be made to initiate a few Endowment Lectures, provided, the Endowment sum for meeting the expenses for the Endowment Lecture are received. {In place of Committee Recommendation: The ISAS may also think of introducing some more awards of different kinds. Even Endowment Lectures may be introduced. Of course, efforts have to be made to get the Endowment sum for meeting the expenses for the Endowment Lecture.
- b) Just in case for some uncontrollable reasons the conference is not held during a year, then all those contestants around 35 years of age would be at a loss because they would miss to compete for the award in the following year. It is suggested that the nominations may be invited every year and if the conference is not held in any year, then the nominations may be considered during the next year when the conference is held. There may be two awards, one for the missing year and the other for the year in which the conference is being held. (NOT Agreed)

The above suggestions may further be circulated to all ISAS members.

6. To discuss the matter relating to Election of Office Bearers of the Society for the year 2024-26

a) As per recommendations made by the Executive Council in its meeting held on September 15, 2023, The election process was initiated. The nominations were received for various positions, however the election was deferred because of some concerns raised on having the elections in "online" mode. Some members through E-mail have suggested to continue the existing rule "for all tenure posts, not more than two consecutive terms be permitted for the same position for the same person". This issue was deliberated in the GB meeting. There was also another suggestion that the earlier practice of electing all EC members during GB meeting every year maybe continued as per the by-laws in vogue prior to 2015. As there was no consensus among the members present in the GB and since the matter pertains to electing the Executive Council, it was decided that a referendum for taking opinion of Life

Members of ISAS may be held to arrive at amending the existing Elections rules of ISAS. Following was also decided

- The elections would be held as per outcome of the referendum. The efforts should be made to complete the referendum by July 31, 2024 and then Election be held. For the smooth functioning of the activities of the Society, the present Executive Council may continue till the new elections are held.
- In the nomination proforma, the information on Year of becoming Life Member, Last Designation held along with affiliation, Whether in services or superannuated may also be included.
- Dr Sudeep Marwaha may continue as returning officer, if he agrees. If he does not agree, a new returning officer may be nominated.
- b) The suggestion of Honourable President that the position of President of ISAS may also be filled through Elections rather than Ex-officio was deliberated. The General Body unanimously decided that Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR should continue to guide the Society as its Ex-Officio President.
- c) The Few members desired that the position of Secretary may be elected rather than Director, ICAR-IASRI as Ex-Officio. This was deliberated and it was not agreed to. It was decided that Director, ICAR-IASRI should continue as Ex-Officio Secretary of the Society.

7. Suggestions for venue and dates as well as Theme and Sub-themes of the 75th Annual Conference of the Society during 2024

The proposals for organizing 75th Annual Conference may be invited from interested organizations. Therefore, willing members/organizations may be requested to send their Proposal of Interest as soon as possible. The decision on venue and dates may be taken up by the President/Executive President.

8. Any other item with the permission of the Chair

- a) The General Body of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics expresses its sincere thanks to Dr. Z.P. Patel, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat and other N.A.U. officials associated with the successful organization of the 74th Annual Conference of the Society during February 02-04, 2024. 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. R.M. Naik, Principal and Dean, N.M. College of Agriculture, Dr. T.R. Ahlawat, Director of Research, Organizing Chair and Organizing Secretary, Dr. Alok Shrivastava, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Statistics, N.M. College of Agriculture for their 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, Chairpersons, Convenors and members of various committees, volunteers for shouldering the responsibilities in the successful organization of the Conference. The Society also proposes a hearty Vote of Thanks to Chairpersons and Convenors of different Technical Sessions as well as to all the invited speakers, etc. who took all the trouble in travelling from their places.
- **b)** It was also decided to bring out following three special issues of Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics: (i) 1. In Memory of Professor CR Rao; (ii) In Memory of Professor Prem

Narain and (iii) to Celebrate birth Centenary of Dr MN Das. Guest Editors may be nominated by the Chair Editor.

- c) It was discussed that the current address including E-mail address as well as contact numbers of some Life members are not available with the Society Office. Therefore, it was suggested to provide said information of these life members to the Society as soon as possible. A letter along with the list of these life members may be sent to all life members to provide information of these life members so that the list of life members may be completed for record and election purpose.
- **d)** The suggestions of having regional chapters of the Society was discussed. It was decided that this may be discussed in the Executive Council first for its feasibility.

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

Annexure-I

ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE SUGGESTIONS MADE AT THE GENERAL BODY MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2022 AT SKUAST-K, SRINAGAR, J&K, INDIA

	Action Suggested	Action Taken
1	It was proposed to constitute committees to streamline the rules for election and awards. The recommendations of these committees would be circulated to EC/GB to provide the inputs, if any.	constituted with Dr. SD Sharma as Chairman, Dr. AK Srivastava, Dr. Prajneshu, Dr. Dalip Singh, Dr. Anshu Bharadwaj and Dr. SA Mir as members has submitted its report. The report has been

2	It was suggested that for conducting	-	As per recommendations of the Executive Council
	the election of the Office Bearers of		in its meeting held on September 15, 2023, Dr.
	the Society, Dr. Sudeep, Principal		Sudeep agreed to be the Returning Officer.
	Scientist and Head (A),		Returning officer initiated the Election Process in
	ICAR-IASRI, New Delhi was		Online Mode. The voting has been deferred as
	nominated as Returning Officer.		some members wrote some concerns on online
	C C		election process from the Members.
	Tenure of the existing EC of the	-	After elections have been deferred, some
	Society was extended upto March		members have also expressed their dissatisfaction
	2023. Election of the Office bearers of		on deferring the election and requested to
	the Society may be held to form the New Executive Council.		complete the process at the earliest through online
	New Executive Council.		mode at the earliest without any further delay and
			scrutinizing the list of contestants as per the
			approved proceedings of the GB. They have also
			mentioned that as per earlier GB
			recommendations, no executive committee member
			can hold the office for two consecutive terms.
		-	The issue has been deliberated in EC. As per
			request of some of the senior members of the
			ISAS due to their inability to be at ease with electronic process, the EC recommended that the
			election process, the EC recommended that the election process may be re-initiated with a
			physical ballot paper. EC also recommended that
			the same returning officer may continue, if he
			agrees. If he does not agree, the GB may nominate
			a new returning officer.
		-	In the nomination proforma, the information on
			Year of becoming Life Member, Last Designation
			held along with affiliation, Whether in services or
			superannuated may also be included.
		-	It is suggested that the issue should be deliberated
			in GB with focus on all points.
		A	t present with the permission of the President, the
			nure of present EC has been extended till March 31,
		20	24. Election will now be held after receiving the
		re	commendation of the GB meeting to be held at
			avsari on February 02, 2024.
3	M/s NPGA & Company, Chartered		ne auditor has been negotiated and agreed for an
	Accountants have requested to	au	dit fee of Rs. 10,000.00 per annum including taxes.
	enhance the audit fee from		
	Rs. 7,670.00 to Rs. 14,000.00 w.e.f.		
	April 2022-23. It was suggested		
	that negotiations may be held with		
	the firm for an audit fee of Rs.		
	10,000.00 including taxes per		
	annum.		

4	It was suggested that the Society is completing its 75 years in 2023 as the Society was registered on 23 December 1948. So it was suggested that the 75th Annual Conference (Platinum) will be organized as an International Conference. Before the organization of this Conference, it was decided that an online 74 th Annual Conference may be organized. The suggestions for venue for holding 75 th Annual Conference were invited from all members.	The 74th Annual Conference is being organized at N.M. College of Agriculture, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat during February 02-04, 2024. The suggestions for the venue for holding the 75th Annual Conference are being invited from all members.
5	It was suggested that Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra ji, Former President of the Society who has led the Society, may be felicitated in a meeting at Delhi to express sincere thanks for providing guidance.	Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra has been invited to be Guest of Honour during the inaugural function of the 74 th Annual Conference at Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat and delivered the 57 th Dr Rajendra Prasad Memorial Lecture. He has kindly consented for the same.
6	A special issue of JISAS may be brought out on the occasion of Dr Daroga Singh Centenary Celebrations.	For this special issue, Dr. Padam Singh, Dr. Pranesh Kumar, Dr. BVS Sisodia and Dr. AK Srivastava were requested to serve as guest editors. The Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, Volume 77, No. 01, April, 2023 as a special issue has been brought out during the year.
7	It was suggested that a special session in honour of Dr. MN Das, Former Vice President of the Society during 74/75 th Annual Conference of the Society.	-
8	Dr. Ranjit Kumar Paul, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IASRI, New Delhi may be requested to explore the possibility of obtaining DOI for research papers published in the Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics	Dr. Ranjit Kumar Paul informed that registration amount towards our Society Journal per paper to be deposited in some international doi agencies. However, no clear proposal came from him. For obtaining DOI, CROSSREF : https://www.crossref.org/ was contacted and they replied that a minimum yearly fees of US\$ 275 is required to register with them for getting DOI. Once we apply, it usually takes a week or so to complete the process.
		At present communications are being made with Informatics Publishing Limited and Directorate of Knowledge Management in this regard.

9	The members may be encould by	The decision has been implemented
2	The members may be enrolled by	The decision has been implemented.
	paying their life membership fee in	
	different installments in two	
	financial years w.e.f. 01.04.2023.	
10	The President should be apprised of	The President has been apprised about ICAS VIII
	the details of organization and	details.
	accounts of ICAS VII organized	
	during November 18-21, 2019.	
11	It was suggested that for increasing	Request letters had been sent to Heads of Department
	the number of papers in the Journal,	of Statistics in different organizations to submit their
	invited papers and review articles	research papers in the Journal of the Society. The
	on various relevant and recent	non-active Associate Editors have been reviewed.
	topics may be invited. It was	The Changes to be made will be put up in the Next
	suggested that for smooth	Executive Council Meeting.
	functioning of the Editorial Board,	
	the Associate Editors may be	
	reviewed and the non-active	
	Associate Editors may be replaced	
	with more active and diversified	
	researchers in the areas of	
	Statistical Sciences.	
12	the old website of the Society may	The old website of the Society (http:isas.org.in) could
	be linked with the new website of	not be linked with the new one (http:isas.org.in/isa)
	the Society.	as back up is not available with ISAS.