

Proceedings of the General Body Meeting of Indian Society of Weed Science held on 16 February, 2014.

A meeting of the general body of Indian Society of Weed Science was held on 16 February, 2014 at the Directorate of Weed Science, Jabalpur. The meeting was attended by ___ members, besides the following members of the Executive Council.

1. Dr. N.T. Yaduraju, President
2. Dr. A.R. Sharma, Secretary
3. Dr. Shobha Sondhia, Treasurer
4. Dr. R.K. Ghosh, Vice president
5. Dr. J.S. Mishra, Joint Secretary
6. Dr. Sushilkumar, Chief Editor

At the outset, Dr. N.T. Yaduraju, President of ISWS welcomed the members and thanked for their confidence and support. Dr. A.R. Sharma, Secretary, ISWS apprised the house about the activities carried out by ISWS during 2013-14. He informed about the steps taken to improve the website of ISWS. The proceedings and journals published during the last 5 years have been uploaded on the website for free access to the users, which had increased the visibility of the Society. He also informed that combined issues of Indian Journal of Weed Science (1 and 2, 3 and 4) were being brought out since 1984 but we have brought out 4 individual issues during 2012 and 2013. Dr. Shobha Sondhia, Treasurer, ISWS presented the details of receipt and expenditure of last two years. It was unanimously approved by the GB.

Dr. Sushilkumar informed about the efforts taken by the present EC to improve the quality of Indian Journal of Weed Science, due to which, we could secure a reasonably good ranking from NAAS (3.94). He requested the authors to contribute good quality papers to further improve the NAAS rating. He also requested the scientists to cite the papers published in IJWS in their forthcoming research publications.

Dr. A.R. Sharma, Secretary placed the following agenda before GB based on the feedback from the ISWS members:

1. Closing of bank account at Hisar and transfer of money

It was apprised that the bank account of the Society at Hisar has still not been closed in spite of request made to Dr. Samunder Singh. However, Dr. Singh has informed that he would make another request to Bank Manager to close the account and transfer the money to the existing account at Jabalpur. It was suggested to again approach Dr. Samunder Singh to pursue the matter more vigorously with the Bank Manager, SBI, Hisar for the transfer of money.

2. Removal of names from Life Members list who are not responding

Dr. A.R. Sharma, Secretary, ISWS informed the house that some letters / journals are repeatedly being returned from the addresses of members available in the database. In past, attempts were made to update the addresses but still a good number of members could not be traced. It was proposed to delete the names of such members from the mailing list so that time and money of Society could be saved. It was felt that it is the duty of the concerned member to provide latest address to society in case of his/her transfer/retirement etc. The house decided that letters/journals on such addresses should be stopped till the Society received request from such members with their updated address.

3. Free online availability of IJWS on website

It was suggested that IJWS should be made available for free access to users to enhance the visibility of the Society. It was informed that steps have already been taken in this matter and journals from 2008 have already been uploaded on the website for the benefit of the users. The title of all the papers have been uploaded on the website since the inception of the journal in 1969.

4. Provision for online submission of articles

Many members suggested to create provision for online submission of the papers for publication in IJWS. Dr. Sushilkumar, Chief Editor informed that submission of research papers in hard copy has

been stopped. Now papers are being received through email only. It was informed that efforts will be made in due course to create software for complete online submission of research articles.

5. Election for co-opted post of Vice president and Joint Secretary

There were suggestions that co-opted posts of Joint Secretary and Vice President should be filled through the due election process as for other positions rather than by the elected members of EC. Lively discussion was held on this issue. Some members were of the opinion that this provides opportunity to EC to select the members from the non-represented regions of the country. It was decided to continue with the present system for the time being.

6. Proposals from members for donations to the Society for instituting ISWS awards

Dr. A.N. Rao submitted a proposal to institute the Best Ph.D. thesis Award in the name of his father. The proposal was accepted in principle. Details will be worked out by the Executive Committee later. Dr. A.N. Rao handed over cheque of Rs 1.0 lakh in the meeting. The gesture was appreciated by the members present.

Dr. T.V. Muniyappa, Former President, ISWS also put forth a proposal to sponsor Young Scientist Award. The proposal was accepted by the house. Dr. Muniyappa announced a donation of Rs 1.0 lakh for this purpose.

Dr. Sushilkumar informed that Dr. Mahesh K. Upadhyaya, life member of the Society based in Canada also contributed a sum of Rs 50,000/- in 2012 to sponsor a lecture on non-chemical weed control. This proposal was also approved by the house.

It was proposed by Dr. Megh Singh that a fund should be raised to facilitate the participation of students and young scientists in the ISWS conferences. He promised a contribution of Rs. 1.0 lakh, and mentioned that many other scientists based in other countries are also willing to make contributions for this fund. A member of the Society among the audience announced to contribute his one day salary for this fund.

7. Creation of position of Associate Editor to expedite editing process

It was decided to create a position of Associate Editor in the Editorial Board to expedite processing / editing of articles and further improve the quality of the journal. Dr. N.T. Yaduraju urged the members to come forward to take such responsibility. Dr. A.N. Rao volunteered for the same. His name was approved by the house.

8. Holding of 25th APWSS conference

Dr. N.T. Yaduraju, President of ISWS and President of APWSS informed that 25th APWSS Conference will be held in India during October, 2015. He mentioned that this Conference will be held in India after a long gap. The proposal to organize this Conference by the ISWS was appreciated by the members. Dr. Yaduraju suggested the venue at Hyderabad; however, there were also opinions to organize the Conference at NASC, New Delhi. The Executive Committee was authorized to take necessary action to hold the conference in the most befitting manner with maximum participation of the members from India as well as abroad.

At the end, Dr. A.R. Sharma, Secretary, ISWS proposed formal vote of thanks.

(N.T. Yaduraju)
President

(A.R. Sharma)
(Secretary)