Proceedings of the General Body Meeting of the Indian Society of Weed Science held at MPUAT, Udaipur on 1st March, 2017

General Body Meeting of the Indian Society of Weed Science (ISWS) was held on 1st March, 2017 at 6.30 PM in the Auditorium of MPUAT, Udaipur. In this meeting, 94 life members of the ISWS were present (list attached). Following members of Executive Committee were present and conducted the proceedings:

- 1. Dr. N.T. Yaduraju, President
- 2. Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Vice President
- 3. Dr. Ramesh Kumar Singh, Vice President (Co-opt)
- 4. Dr. A.R. Sharma, Secretary
- 5. Dr. P.S. Bodake, Joint Secretary
- 6. Dr. M.S. Bhullar, Joint Secretary (Co-opt)
- 7. Dr. Shobha Sondhia, Treasurer
- 8. Dr. Sushil Kumar, Chief Editor, IJWS



At the outset, Dr. A.R. Sharma, Secretary, ISWS welcomed the members to the general body meeting and apprised about the agenda items to be taken up in this meeting. He then invited Dr. N.T. Yaduraju, President, ISWS to preside over the meeting and take up the agenda items.

Dr. N.T. Yaduraju, President ISWS, expressed his gratitude to all the members for providing support to the Executive Committee for taking out the



Society out of difficult times over the last 4 years. He specifically mentioned the successful organization of the 25th APWSS Conference at Hyderabad in 2015, which is a matter of great pride for all of us. Dr. Yaduraju congratulated the newly-elected EC members and hoped that the new EC will take the Society to the greater heights. He urged the newly-elected EC members to work with full zeal and enthusiasm for the progress of the Society.

Dr. A.R. Sharma, Secretary, ISWS presented a report on the activities of the Society during 2015-2016. He mentioned the following points in his report:

- 1. The ISWS organized a mega event, the 25th APWSS Conference from 13-15 October, 2015 at PJTSAU, Hyderabad. This Conference was the biggest of all in the history, with nearly 800 scientists including about 150 from abroad.
- 2. Several publications were brought out during the APWSS conference, which included: Weed Science in the Asian-Pacific region, Weed Science for Sustainable Agriculture, Environment and Biodiversity, Weed Science Societies of Asian-Pacific Region, Souvenir, special issues of IJWS and Indian Farming.
- 3. The Society generated a total revenue of ₹ 121.65 lakhs, of which ₹ 65.14 lakhs was spent during the APWSS Conference, thus saving an amount of ₹ 56.51 lakhs for the ISWS.
- 4. A sum of ₹ 4.99 lakhs will be donated to the APWSS as 10% of the registration fee the ISWS becoming the first Society to follow this norm.
- 5. Donations were received from Dr. A.N. Rao (₹ 1.0 lakh), Dr. TV Muniyappa (₹ 1.0 lakh), Dr. Megh Singh (1.0 lakh), Dr. Mahesh K. Upadhyaya (₹ 1.0 lakh), Dr. B.S. Chauhan (₹ 35,000). Besides all the present members of EC, scientists of DWR Jabalpur, and also a few other ISWS members contributed their one day salary towards the ISWS Student Travel Grant Fund.
- 6. Dr. B.S. Chauhan has now proposed a donation of ₹ 1.0 lakh for the Best Paper Award published in the IJWS. A similar offer from Dr. L.S. Brar is in the offing.
- 7. Five students were sponsored for participation in the APWSS Conference, and 10 students have now been sponsored during this Conference.
- 8. It has also been decided to sponsor the participation of two ISWS members in the International Conferences abroad in due course (maximum amount ₹ 25,000 each).
- 9. ICAR grant towards ISWS was restored getting now ₹ 0.75 lakh annual grant towards publishing of the journal.
- 10. Cash awards of ₹ 10,000 to the ISWS Young Scientist Award and Rs. 5000 to the ISWS Best Ph.D. Thesis Award were approved and provided during the biennium 2014-15.

- 11. The ISWS co-organized with ABLE-AG a brain storming session on Herbicide Tolerant Crops in Indian Agriculture Prospects and Way Forward at NASC, New Delhi in August 2016. This was attended by Dr. N.T. Yaduraju, Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Dr. M.S. Bhullar, Dr. Bhumesh Kumar and Dr. A.R. Sharma, besides many other stakeholders from different departments and NGOs.
- 12. A book on 'Weed Science and Management' was brought out in collaboration with ISA the first such joint publication between ISA and ISWS for the PG students majoring in Agronomy / Weed Science.
- 13. ISWS awards were decided strictly based on merit and the scores provided by the members of the Judging Committee. Current EC members were not considered for the Society awards unlike in the past.
- 14. Members' particulars including Email / mobile number were updated for nearly 100% of the members. This was a herculean task which was completed with the cooperation of all.
- 15. ISWS probably became the first Society to conduct e-voting during 2015-16. Elections were conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner.
- 16. Society website was improved, made more dynamic with several new user-friendly features, and now updated on a regular basis.
- 17. Society registration was renewed at Bengaluru all pending payments cleared. The credit for this goes to Dr. TVR Prasad and Dr. TV Muniyappa.
- 18. Councilors' hands were strengthened by providing a grant of ₹ 10,000 per annum events with students / guest lectures were organized under the banner of ISWS.
- 19. New members enrolled: 2015 Life (24), Annual (140); 2016 Life (55), Annual (92). Institutional members were 42 and 39 in 2015 and 2016, respectively. Total membership stood at 985, which however needs improvement.
- 20. ISWS moved towards paperless secretariat and cashless transactions.

Dr. Sharma thanked Dr. Devraj Arya for conducting election by e-voting and Mr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh for his immense help to update email IDs and mobile numbers of 900+ life members.

Dr. Shobha Sondhia, Treasurer, ISWS read out the receipt and expenditure statement of the society during the last two years. She informed that as per suggestions of Charted Accountant of the Society, 17 old FDs of smaller amounts were converted to a single FD. She informed that now society is having total 8 FDs, for which the statement is shown in the table below:

S. No.	FDR No.	Date of deposit	Amount on FDR	Remark
1	940745110001165	25/08/2015	₹ 5,00,000	Student Travel Grant Fund
2	940745110001154	21/02/2016	₹ 1,10,000	Dr. Mahesh K. Upadhyaya Lecture Award
3	940745110001155	21/02/2016	₹ 1,00,000	Dr. T.V. Muniyappa Young Scientist Award
4	940745110001156	21/02/2016	₹ 1,00,000	Shri Adusumilli Rama Rao Best Ph.D Award
5	940745110001916	11/03/2016	₹ 40,00,000	ISWS FD BOI
6	940745110001917	11/03/2016	₹ 2,15,310	ISWS FD BOI
7	35635884046	15/03/2016	₹ 31,00,000	ISWS FD SBI
8	940745110001945	05/04/2016	₹ 10,00,000	ISWS FD BOI

Dr. Sushil Kumar, Chief Editor of Indian Journal of Weed Science informed the house about appreciable increase in NAAS rating from 3.94 to 5.17 within a span of two years from 2013-14 to 2015-16. He recalled that when he took the charge of Chief Editor in 2012, the NAAS rating was only 2.9. Since early 1980s, only two issues were being brought out in a year by merging 1&2 and 3&4. Since 2012, all the 4 issues in a year with good quality papers taking all care in editing besides adding the abstracting of journal in more abstracting databases were brought out, which helped to increase the NAAS rating. Dr. Sushil Kumar thanked all the members of Editorial Board and referees for critical evaluation of papers. He especially thanked Dr. A.R. Sharma for his continuous guidance, which helped a lot to improve the quality of the Journal. Dr. Sushil Kumar informed the house that software is being prepared so that in future papers could be submitted and reviewed online.

Dr. C. Chinnusamy, Vice President; Dr. Ramesh Kumar Singh, Vice President (Co-opt); Dr. P.S. Bodake, Joint Secretary; and Dr. M.S. Bhullar, Joint Secretary (Co-opt) also shared their views to enhance the visibility and transparency of the society.

After a thorough discussion on various issues related to the functioning of Society, the following points emerged:

- 1. As per the existing bye laws of the Society, there was provision of co-opting of one post each of Vice-President and Joint Secretary in the Executive Committee of the Society by the elected members. It was the opinion of the majority that now these positions should also be filled through election. Therefore, it was decided that these two posts will now be elected though ballot paper from next election onwards. This should also be included in the bye laws of the society.
- It was agreed by the majority that now distribution of hard copies of the journal to the members will be stopped. The soft copies of the journal will be made available to members online on the website of the society.

3. There were suggestions to increase the number of ISWS awards and increase the age limit for Young Scientist Award. Dr. L.S. Brar opined that present structure of different awards is good and increasing the number or softening the guidelines will lower down the value of the awards. It was decided not to change the present award structure.

4. Dr. Gita Kulshrestha and Dr. V.P. Singh and many others appreciated the contributions made by Mr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh for the society. It was suggested that his salary / remuneration should be enhanced suitably.

It was decided to organize an International Conference on the occasion of completion of 50 years of the Society. New EC should take necessary action in this regard.

On the basis of discussions in the GB meeting, the following resolutions were passed:

I. It was resolved that two Co-opted posts, viz Vice President and Joint Secretary will be elected though ballot paper from next election onwards.

II. It was resolved to stop the distribution of hard copies of Journal to members and to provide soft copy online on the website.

III. It was resolved not to change the present structure of Society's awards.

IV. It was resolved to organize a Golden Jubilee International Conference in 2018 upon completion of 50 years of formation of Indian Society of Weed Science.

All members expressed happiness at the outcome of the meeting. A formal vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. A.R. Sharma, Secretary, ISWS.

(Sushilkumar) Secretary, ISWS

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General Body Meeting of March 2017 MPUAT, UDAIPUR (Rajustham)

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