

**Proceedings of the meeting of Executive Council of Indian Society of Agronomy held on September 25, 2017 at 11.00 AM in the Committee Hall, 1st Floor, Room No. 115, KAB-II, ICAR, Pusa, New Delhi - 110 012**

The following were present:

1. Dr A.K. Vyas, President and ADG (HRM), ICAR, New Delhi **- In Chair**
2. Dr T.C. Jain, Editor-in-Chief of IJA and Ex-Senior Agriculturist, World Bank Gurgaon, Haryana
3. Dr V.K. Singh, Vice President and Head (Agronomy), IARI, New Delhi
4. Dr Prashant S. Bodake, Joint Secretary and Professor (Agronomy), MPKV, Rahuri, Ahemadnagar, M.S.
5. Dr M.S. Yadav, Councillor - Jharkhand and Chairman, Department of Agronomy, BAU, Kanke , Ranchi, Jharkhand
6. Dr Dilip Singh, Councillor - Rajasthan, Professor (Agronomy), MPUAT, Udaipur, Rajasthan
7. Dr Satish Kumar, Councillor - Haryana, Professor and Associate Dean, CCS HAU, Hisar, Haryana
8. Dr Thakar Singh, Councillor - Punjab, Senior Agronomist & Head, Department of Agronomy, PAU, Ludhiana, Punjab
9. Dr K. Avil Kumar, Councillor – Telangana, Principal Scientist (Agronomy), WTC, COA, PJTSAU, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana
10. Dr Shankar Lal Jat, Councillor - Delhi and Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, Pusa Campus, New Delhi
11. Dr Soumitra Das, Councillor – Industries, Director - India, Zinc Nutrient Initiative, International Zinc Association, New Delhi
12. Dr Y.S. Shivay, Secretary and Professor/Principal Scientist, (Agronomy), IARI, New Delhi

**Special Invitees**

13. Dr D.S. Rana, Co-Editor-in-Chief of IJA and ICAR-Emeritus Scientist, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
14. Dr Shiva Dhar, Principal Scientist, Division of Agronomy, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
15. Dr Rajiv Kumar Singh, Senior Scientist, Division of Agronomy, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
16. Sh. Satish Singh, CA, Representative of S.M. Varma & CO. Chartered Accountants for Indian Society of Agronomy

Dr Ashok Kumar, Treasurer, ISA; Dr Kalyan Singh and Dr Anchal Dass as special invitee could not attend the meeting.

At the outset, Secretary and President, Indian Society of Agronomy extended warm welcome to the Executive Council Members as well as special invitees in the scheduled meeting of ISA.

The item-wise agenda of the meeting was taken up and appropriate decisions were taken after thorough discussion.

1. **Confirmation of proceedings of last EC meeting held on 17-05-2017:** Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed after seeking the approval from the EC members.
2. **Filing of Income Tax Returns and availability of funds in presence of CA of the ISA:** Sh Satish Singh, CA was requested to apprise the House about the present status of filing of IT Returns with the Income Tax Deptt. along with dues pending. He explained that the case has been opened by ITO by issuing the notice u/s 148 for last 6 years (i.e. from FY 2009-10) and asked the Society to file the IT returns from FY 2009-10 to 2015-16. Since, the Society was not registered u/s 12AA, therefore for the compliance of IT notice, the Society has to pay tax due for last 6 years which is approx. 25.30 Lakh (inclusive of interest of Rs. 7.50 Lakh). He disclosed that the matter was informed to the Society from time to time but no action was taken. He also informed the House that this matter has also been discussed with Commissioner IT, in presence of Society officials, who empathetically advised to deposit the statutory dues to the IT Deptt. by filing all

returns pending at the earliest and clear all issues with the Deptt. so as to avoid any other complications including penalty in future. EC members asked repeatedly to Sh Satish Singh that if there is any other reasonable way to settle the IT issue while saving the money of the Society but every time Sh Satish Singh clarified that at present only option left is to file the pending IT returns and deposit all the past dues to the IT Deptt.

In view of detailed discussion with CA of the Society, urgency and gravity of the matter and to avoid any future complications and losses to the Society, the House unanimously decided to file the pending IT returns for the period of 2009-10 to 2015-16 which will cost to the Society about Rs. 25.30 lakh payable to Income Tax Department. It was also unanimously decided that the pending dues of Income tax must be cleared by **15 October 2017**. The EC members empowered to the Core Executive Council (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) to take necessary decision to arrange the required fund out of Fixed Deposits available with the Society to deposit the tax liability pending for previous 6 years. Besides, the Society shall make sincere attempt to get the interest exemption/waiver from the IT Deptt. If required, the ratification of the decision shall be obtained from the General Body of the Society which shall meet next year in October-November, 2018.

It was discussed and decided that there shall be maximum definite amount in FD which shall not be touched and its quarterly interest shall be transferred to S B A/c for effective functioning of the Society and Chapters as being done in case of one FD amounting Rs 5.00 Lakh which is paying very meagre amount quarterly and at times the Society face money constraints for routine expenditures. The Core Executive Council shall take appropriate action in this regard.

It was also discussed and decided to get the 80 G and 35 AB certificates as per Income Tax Act, 1961 from the Income Tax Department by the **end of November, 2017** so that the Society and funding agency may get maximum benefits in Income Tax returns in future and no further losses are incurred by the Society.

(Action: Secretary/Treasurer/CA, ISA)

### **3. Action Taken Report on the decision taken on the last EC meeting i.e 17-05-2017 by Secretary, ISA/Chairman or Convener of the various Committees:**

**i. Publication of IJA and Developing fully functional online submission and tracking system of research papers:** Dr V K Singh, Convener of the Committee apprised the House about discussion with the Committee members as well as feedback received from few other Professional Societies. He stated the feedback regarding outsourcing publication of the Journal to International Agencies was that initially some cost has to be incurred from the Society which starts paying back in 3-4 years and after 5 years there is significant earning to the Society also. There is no change in the NAAS rating and impact factor in the first year but subsequently it improves significantly as there is much enhancement in the circulation of the Journal globally which is not possible if it is published by the Society as usual. Besides, there would be great saving to the Society in printing and dispatching the Journals. After thorough discussion, it was decided that the Committee shall complete this task and submit the final recommendation along with selection of appropriate Agency latest by **31<sup>st</sup> October, 2017**.

(Action: Dr V K Singh)

**ii. Publishing Indian Society of Agronomy Newsletter:** Since, Dr Anchal Dass, Executive Editor could not attend the meeting, President, ISA apprised the House that 1 & 2 issue of ISA Newsletter has been published and circulated to all the ISA members and placed on the ISA website. All the members were requested to contribute the information for 3rd issue of Newsletter by **30<sup>th</sup> September, 2017** and publication of the Newsletter shall be done by **20<sup>th</sup> October, 2017**. It was also decided to print 400 hard copies. Dr Rajvir Kumar Singh informed the House that the process of obtaining the RNI No. is in progress. He was requested to accomplish the task at the earliest.

(Action: Dr Anchal Dass/Dr Rajvir Kumar Singh/Secretary, ISA)

iii. **Publication of Agronomy Text Books for UG students:** Dr Shiva Dhar, Convener apprised the House that letters have been sent to all the Vice Chancellors and HODs of Agronomy of SAUs in this regards. Dr T.C. Jain, Editor-in-Chief and Chairman of the Committee advised Dr Shiva Dhar to send reminder mail to all the stakeholders in this regard for desired information. It was decided to complete the task of identifying the No. of Books and their Titles, Topics and Authors by **30 November, 2017**.

(Action: Dr Shiva Dhar)

iv. **Developing Agronomic Success Stories:** Dr D S Rana, Convener informed the House that the letter along with proforma has been sent by the Dr Panjab Singh, Chairman of the Committee to all the Vice Chancellors and Heads, Department of Agronomy in all the SAUs, CAUs as well as ICAR-Institutes. It was requested to expedite the matter and a reminder may be sent. It was decided to complete the task of identifying the No. of Success stories and their Title and Authors by **31 October, 2017**.

(Action: Dr D S Rana)

v. **Effective revision of list of life members of the Society:** The Convener of the Committee, Dr Rajiv Kumar Singh apprised the House about the progress made so far. Further, he informed the House that the Committee has updated the details of about 697 Life members but they are finding difficulties in getting the Email addresses, Phone numbers etc. It was also suggested that a list of all the members can be put on the ISA website for generating the desired database. It was emphasized to collect the correct postal and email address and phone no. of all the Life members, as this is the minimum required information to be updated. It was decided to complete the task by **30 November, 2017**.

(Action: Dr Rajvir Kumar Singh)

vi. **More positions for Agronomy Discipline:** Since, Dr Kalyan Singh, Convener of the Committee could not attend the meeting as he was not well, therefore, President, ISA informed the House that Dr Ambika Singh, Chairman and Dr Kalyan Singh along with members of the Committee are trying to develop a document outlining the employment opportunities for Agronomists, particularly young Agronomists in various Public and Private sector organisations including various Govt. Schemes. A brief document prepared by Dr Kalyan Singh was handed over to Dr T C Jain by the President as requested by Dr Kalyan Singh for inputs of Dr Jain. The task may be completed by **30 November, 2017**.

It was decided that the Society may request DG, ICAR to suitably enhance the Cadre strength of Agronomists in ICAR and a delegation of renowned and elderly Agronomists may also meet DG, ICAR; MOS and MOA, Gol to impress upon the direct role of Agronomy and Agronomists in Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022.

(Action: Dr Kalyan Singh/President, ISA)

#### **4. Discussion and approval of recommendations of the Committees like *Activation and autonomy to local chapters of ISA; Improving NAAS rating of IJA; Raising financial status of the Society:***

i. **Raising financial status of the Society:** The recommendations submitted by the Committee for raising financial status of the Society under the Chairmanship of Dr V.K. Singh were discussed and approved as:

- a. Reduce the expenditure of the Society including online publication of the Journal and Newsletter.
- b. Generate funds by publishing the advertisement of private company's products like fertilizers, pesticides, weedicides and seeds; publications of research highlights/products of companies emerged from contract research, etc in the ISA Newsletter.

- c. Society shall get registered under Section 80 G and 35 AB so that the Society and funding agency may get the maximum benefits in the Income Tax.
- d. After getting the registration with IT Deptt., the Society should explore the funding agencies like Business Houses, Commercial Houses, Financial Institutions/Banks, which have CSR funds in their organisation for the upliftment of Science, Society and also to protect the environment.
- e. Society may organise the Technology Shows to generate funds.
- f. Success stories of progressive farmers may be included in the Newsletter on payment basis.

The House appreciated the efforts of Dr V K Singh, Chairman of the Committee along with all other members including Special Invitees.

**(Action: Secretary/Treasurer, ISA)**

- ii. **Activation and autonomy to local chapters of ISA:** The recommendations of the Committee constituted for this purpose under the Chairmanship of Professor M.S. Yadava were thoroughly discussed and it was unanimously decided that it is very necessary to activate and provide more autonomy to the local ISA chapters in different states for better visibility of the Indian Society of Agronomy across the country. Based on the recommendations following points were discussed and approved for constitution of the ISA local chapters.

#### **A. Chapter's Constitution**

1. Declaration of a Local Chapter by the ISA Headquarter - one state should have at least one local ISA chapter (as Indian Society of Agronomy – Name of Place Chapter)
2. Requirement of membership - At least 20 Life/Annual members
3. Office bearers (*Executive committee for 2 years i.e. a tenure of the Chapter*)
  - a) President - one; Preferably, Head of the Department
  - b) Vice President - one ; From Open to members of the Chapter
  - c) Secretary - one; From Local chapter's Headquarters
  - d) Joint secretary - one; From Outside chapter's Headquarter (*Preferably From Regional Research stations, colleges, KVKs, any other Institute, NGO etc*)
  - e) Treasurer - one; From Chapter's Headquarter
  - f) EC Members - 2-4; Preferably 1-2 from local Chapter's Headquarters and 1-2 from outside Headquarters

**B. Autonomy:** Local Chapters should be autonomous for dealing with membership, activity, expenditure and generation of resources/funds but with the information to ISA HQs for these activities. However, it was also decided that autonomy of local ISA chapters should not contradict to the constitution and guidelines of ISA.

#### **C. Activities of Local Chapter**

1. Organize at least one Quiz; one Debate on the relevant burning topic in Agriculture; one Essay in Local language/ Hindi / English at under graduate level; organize a presentation on a common topic of agronomy for PG (M. Sc (Ag). +PhD) students. Give 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes with certificates.
2. Motivate all PG students to become member of the Society.
3. Topper student in M.Sc. Agronomy ( each batch) should be awarded with a merit Certificate and cash prize. He/She must take ISA membership within 6 months from start of the 1<sup>st</sup> session.
4. Organize group meetings/ brainstorming sessions/workshops/ seminars on issue of significance at least once in 6 months.
5. Organise and coordinate coaching /counselling to UG & PG students espacialy in agronomy.

6. Secretary of local chapter must provide information to Indian Society of Agronomy Newsletter regularly about various activities and events.
7. Revise annually list of life members of the chapter with all relevant details and should be sent to the ISA HQ. Also prepare separate list of annual members.
8. Office bearers from ISA HQ may visit a local chapter and interact with the members once in tenure.
9. One or two awards may be given to the members for their outstanding contribution at local chapter's level.
10. One day farmers' interactive meeting with scientists may be organised once in a year.
11. Local chapters shall be connected through ISA website.

**D. Financial Support:**

1. Each Local Chapter shall make efforts to generate funds at their level through sponsorships, advertisement, memberships, donation, etc.
2. The House thoroughly discussed and turned down the previous decision to provide a fund of Rs. 50,000/- to Local Chapter as Seed money as it could not be implemented till now due to poor financial feasibility and other factors. It was decided that each active Local Chapter shall get Rs. 10,000/- p. a. for Chapter activities and shall submit Utilisation Certificate (UC) to ISA HQs at the end of the Financial Year with brief progress report of activities undertaken. The unspent amount shall be deducted from grant of the next year.
3. It was also decided that 25% share of membership amount generated by the Local Chapter through additional membership may be remitted to the Local Chapters at the end of the Financial Year for carrying out various activities to support them financially.
4. In addition to this it was decided that ISA local chapters should also generate funds by annual contribution from the members in the respective chapters to strengthen their activities.
5. Each Local Chapter shall have Saving Bank account in the name of the Local Chapter. Since it will be difficult for each Chapter to get PAN for opening of the Bank Account, Sh Satish Singh, CA advised that there shall be consolidated Society Account management with the parent ISA and ISA HQs shall share PAN with the Local Chapter for opening of the Bank Account.

The House appreciated the efforts of Dr M S Yadav, Chairman of the Committee along with all other members.

**(Action: Secretary/Treasurer, ISA)**

iii. **Improving NAAS rating of IJA:** The recommendations submitted by the Committee for Improving NAAS rating of IJA under the Chairmanship of Dr Arvind Kumar were discussed and approved as:

- a. Send the contents of IJA to the present correct address of Thomas and Reuter for indexing of the Journal at the earliest.
- b. Make the research articles open access from the IJA for their wider circulation and citation with appropriate riders.
- c. Reducing the no. of research papers published in each issue of the Journal but total no. papers shall be increased per year by increasing the no. of issues per year.
- d. Promote the publication of quality papers.
- e. Review articles can be asked from the renowned agronomists/natural resource managers from different countries for publication in the IJA.
- f. One-two foreign research articles can be given priority for publication in each issue of the Journal.
- g. Review articles can be sought from the newly nominated editors/active members of ISA.
- h. Hire a professional resource person who will be responsible and accountable for quality research publication.

- g. It was thoroughly discussed and decided for outsourcing the publication of the Journal with Springer/Willey/Taylor and Francis/Science Direct/Elsevier, etc.

The House appreciated the efforts of Dr Arvind Kumar, Chairman of the Committee along with all other members.

(Action: Secretary/Treasurer, ISA; Editor-in-Chief/Co-Editor-in-Chief, IJA)

5. **Discussion and approval of initiation of Local Chapter of ISA:** Secretary, ISA informed the House that Local Chapters of Udaipur, Jammu, Hyderabad, Navsari are active and new proposals from Hisar, Ranchi, Indore, Jobner have been received. It was decided to approve those Local Chapters which have completed the norms. Dr Thakar Singh, Councillor Panjab informed the House that he will complete the formalities soon and send the proposal.

President, ISA informed that he has been addressing the Agronomists wherever he has been visiting as done in Jobner, Hisar, Varanasi and requested them to initiate the Local Chapter as per norms. He requested all the EC members to do so to activate the Local Chapters wherever they visit. All the members agreed to the importance of Local Chapters to enhance the activities and visibility of the Society.

(Action: Secretary/Treasurer, ISA)

6. **Restructuring/redesigning and maintenance of ISA Website:** The President, ISA informed the House that in order to make the Society Website impressive, user friendly, dynamic and non-tempered, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr V K Singh and Convenership of Dr Y S Shivay. The Secretary, ISA apprised the House that we need to hire a new resource person for restructuring/redesigning and maintenance of ISA Website at the earliest possible as the present contract is ending on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. The EC members unanimously decided to hire a good web designer for redesigning and maintenance of Indian Society of Agronomy Website for better visibility. Dr S L Jat may also help in this task.

(Action: Dr V K Singh/Secretary, ISA)

7. **Discussion on theme, venue and date of National Symposium, November 2018:** After lot of deliberation and discussion, it was unanimously decided to organize Biennial National Symposium on the theme of “*Doubling Farmers’ Income Through Agronomic Interventions Under Changing Scenario*” at MPUAT, Udaipur, Rajasthan from 24–26 October, 2017 (Suggested dates are tentative). Dr Dilip Singh, Councillor - Rajasthan was requested to confirm the dates after having discussion with the Local Chapter members and the Vice Chancellor.

(Action: Dr Dilip Singh/Secretary, ISA)

8. **Adoption of Cover page of IJA from 2018:** As per decision of last EC, Cover page of IJA designs were submitted by no. of members/Agronomy students, therefore, a Committee comprising of the following members was constituted to select the best three Cover pages fit to be adopted from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 or get designed afresh, if none is found suitable, for the approval of the EC.

**Chairman** : Dr R.P. Singh  
**Convener** : Dr V.K. Singh  
**Members** : Dr Y S Shivay  
Dr Anil Kumar Choudhary  
Dr Kapila Shekhawat

The Committee shall submit the result/accomplish the task latest by **15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017**

(Action: Dr V K Singh/Secretary, ISA)

9. **Review of guidelines for the ISA Awards to ensure transparency in the Award System:** President, ISA apprised the House that there is lot of dissatisfaction among the ISA members with regards to award system. Therefore, there is utmost need to bring transparency in the award system of the Society. A committee comprising of the following members was constituted to review of present guidelines and the complete award system and also suggest any addition/deletion of awards to further improve the overall Award System for better visibility and transparency in the system and finalize the future guidelines for the ISA Awards. It was suggested to consider a new award “Best Local Chapter Award” to promote the Local Chapters and ISA activities.

**Chairman** : Dr T.C. Jain

**Convener** : Dr D.S. Rana

**Members** : Dr R.K. Rai, Ex- Professor & Head, IARI  
Dr Parveen Rao, VC, PJTSAU, Hyderabad  
Dr G.L. Keshwa, VC, AU, Kota  
Dr S K Pareek, Ex-Pri. Scientist, NBPGR  
Dr Y.S. Shivay, Secretary, ISA  
Dr Satish Kumar, Councillor, Haryana  
Dr A.S. Mishra, Pri. Scientist, Award Cell, ICAR

It was decided that the Committee shall invite the suggestions from the ISA members till **31st October, 2017** and submit the final report latest by **15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017**.

(Action: Dr D.S. Rana)

10. **Revision of new rates for life, annual and libraries subscription of IJA for 2018:** It was informed to the House that in 2017, rates were not revised for Individual Membership but were revised for the Libraries and Institutions. It was thoroughly discussed and unanimously decided to revise for the Individual Membership for 2018 and retain the same for Libraries and Institutions w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 as given below:.

	Existing 2017			Approved New Subscription 2018		
	Annual	Life		Annual	Life	
<b>A. Individual Membership</b>						
Indian (₹)	800 (400*)	8,000		1,000 (500*)	10,000	
Foreign (US \$ or its equivalent) *For student only	100 (75*)	1,000		120 (100*)	1,200	
<b>B. Libraries and Institutions (Annual)</b>						
Indian (₹)						
	Print	Online	Print+Online	Print	Online	Print+Online
Indian (₹)	5,000	5,000	6,500	5,000	5,000	6,500
Foreign (US \$ or its equivalent)	500	450	650	500	450	650

(Action: Secretary/Treasurer, ISA)

11. **Permission for printing of Agronomic Terminology:** The Secretary, ISA apprised the House that there is no stock of Agronomic Terminology and permission may please be granted for re-printing of the Agronomic Terminology. The Executive Council agreed for printing of 1,000 copies of Agronomic Terminology and appropriate Price shall be fixed by the Core EC of ISA after considering the cost of publication and distribution.

(Action: Secretary/Treasurer, ISA)

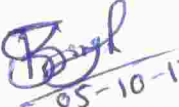
**12. Any other matter with permission of the Chair:**


i. Dr D.S. Rana suggested we should invite some of the invited articles on high value neglected crops like mushroom, saffron, minor millets and tuber crops etc. and it was agreed by the EC members.

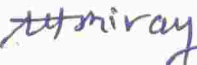
**(Action: Dr D.S. Rana)**

ii. President, ISA informed the House that as per advice of very senior members of the Society, the core EC took the decision to acquire the appropriate space for ISA in the NASC Complex for better visibility of the Society and looking to squeezing space in the Division of Agronomy due to increased no. of Scientists and activities. The necessary request in this regard has been submitted to the ICAR. It was further informed that presently, there is no space in the NASC but there is good possibility in future as Dr Panjab Singh Ji is kind enough to take due care. This initiative was duly agreed and appreciated by the House.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

  
05-10-17  
(Satish Singh)  
Chartered Accountant, ISA

  
5/10/17  
(A.K. Vyas)  
President, ISA

  
5/10/2017  
(Y.S. Shivay)  
Secretary, ISA

**Copy to:**  
All EC members  
ISA Website for all ISA members