

**Proceedings of the Meeting of Executive Council (EC) of Indian Society of Agronomy held on September 30, 2011 at 3:00 PM, in Division of Agronomy, Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi**

The following were present in the meeting

1. Dr Arvind Kumar, DDG (Edu.), ICAR & President of ISA
2. Dr A.K. Vyas, Head, Agronomy
3. Dr D.S. Rana, Secretary, ISA
4. Dr Ashok Kumar, Treasurer, ISA
5. Dr Shanti Kumar Sharma, Councillor, Rajasthan
6. Dr Sanjay S. Wanjari, Councillor, M.S.
7. Dr S.S. Tomar, Councillor, M.P.
8. Dr R.K. Singh, Councillor, U.P.
9. Dr R.K. Pannu, Councillor, Haryana
10. Dr Y.V. Singh, Councillor, Delhi

At the outset, Dr D.S. Rana, Secretary, ISA extended hearty welcome to Dr Arvind Kumar President, ISA and Councillors of ISA from different states and thereafter requested Dr Arvind Kumar for conducting the proceedings of the meeting. Dr Arvind Kumar also extended welcome to all the members and appreciated efforts of EC members and Editorial Board for smooth running of the Society affairs. He especially appreciated Dr D.S. Rana, Secretary, ISA efforts for clearing the backlog of Journal and publishing the papers within six months of their receipt. He desired that Dr Y.V. Singh Councilor Delhi and Dr Ashok Kumar, Treasurer of the Society to share work with Dr D.S. Rana. Thereafter, Dr Arvind Kumar took the first Agenda item i.e. confirmation of minutes of last meeting of Executive Council of ISA. While, confirming the minutes of last meeting of EC, Dr Arvind Kumar also reviewed the action taken on the decision of last meeting. He expressed concern that publication committee constituted to bring new publication has not started functioning. He asked Dr Ashok Kumar, member Secretary to convene a meeting of the committee and draw a plan to bring new publication on the occasion of 3<sup>rd</sup> International Agronomy Congress. He also suggested to bring a book on resource management in major field crops. He stated that we should refer the paper to two referees, of which, one should be member of Editorial Board and second referee should be other than member of Editorial Board and ask them to review the paper within a period of one month. He desired to send both soft and hard copy of the paper to the reviewer. In case, no reply is received within one month, we should remind them to expedite the action on their part and simultaneously send to another referee also regarding directory of life members, Chairman desired to publish it by the end of 2011. The directory may be arranged specialization wise alphabetically. Chairman also reviewed the status of publication of Indian Agronomy News and requested the Editor of the Newsletter Dr A.K. Vyas, Head (Agronomy) to bring hard copy of Agronomy Newsletter at the earliest. Newsletter frequency is quarterly; however, it can be six monthly covering two issues in the event of non-availability of sufficient material. It was decided to include message in Indian Agronomy News

from Indian Society of Agronomy to the readers especially young budding agronomists. Message should cover emerging issue, guidelines, researchable issue etc. for the benefit of young budding agronomists. It should include book review, technology developed, and success story, professional achievements of life member's, superannuation and Obituary.

In order to enhance the visibility of the Society, Chapter should organize debate for UG/PG students. Chairman desired to give a face lift to the Society Office and make arrangement of tea on self-services basis in the office.

Agenda item regarding enhancing membership fee of ISA/IJA was discussed at length. Members expressed the view that students opting for annual membership should get some concession. After discussion the following membership fee was decided for the institution and individual member, which will be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2012.

<b>MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2012</b>					
<b>Category</b>	<b>Libraries and Institutions (Annual)</b>			<b>Individual membership</b>	
	<b>Print only</b>	<b>Online only</b>	<b>Print+ Online</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Life</b>
Indian (in ₹/member)	2000	2000	3000	500 (For student 300)	5000
Foreign (US \$ or its equivalent)	280	220	400	70 (For student 50)	750

Revised membership fee structure should get wide publicity, so that individual member can take advantage by becoming member in 2011.

EC approved the recommendations of the committee for International Travel Grant, which envisages payment of Travel Grant to Dr M.S. Pal, Professor of Agronomy, Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, GBPUA&T, Pantnagar-263 145, US Nagar, Uttarakhand and Dr Mrs. G. Suja, Senior Scientist (Agronomy), Division of Crop Production, CTCRI, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram-695 017, Kerala. It was decided that Society should take undertaking from the recipient of grant that grant received by him from various sources is not exceeding the expenditure incurred on travel along with detail of expenditure incurred, grant received from various sources and brief report and the same should be routed through the Head of Department/Institution. It was also decided that an individual who have received International Travel Grant from the Society can again apply for grant after 5 years, but preference will be given to those who are applying for the grant for the first time. This revision is subject to approval by General Body.

Audit report for the year 2010-2011 was discussed and members observed that the expenditure has been made rationally during 2010-2011 and they expressed satisfaction on the financial position of the Society. While reviewing the cost of publication of journal in the audit

report, Chairman desired to take quotations from different publishers to explore the possibility of reducing the cost of publication of journal. It was observed that ISA should strengthen its social activities and in that context it should give farewell to life members of the Society, who superannuate from active service. After discussion, it was decided to organize the farewell function during the ensuing 3<sup>rd</sup> International Agronomy Congress in 2012 and superannuating person may be felicitated with Citation, Shawl and Memento.

While, discussing the issue of ISA Chapters activities and financial support, Dr Arvind Kumar, President of the Society expressed concern on non-existence of Delhi Chapter of Indian Society of Agronomy. EC members requested Head, Division of Agronomy, IARI to make the Delhi Chapter of ISA effective. It was also decided that proposal of Division of Agronomy to organize a brain storming session may be financed by the Society through Delhi Chapter as per norms of financial support to the ISA Chapters. EC approves the proposal of Srinagar Chapter of Indian Society of Agronomy.

For strengthening the financial position and activities of the Chapter, it was decided that Chapter may be permitted to retain 10% of the membership fee (Life members only) of individual member as it was following earlier, when the enrolment of membership is routed through the Chapter. The issue regarding giving lumpsum grant to active Chapter for financing their activities from the interest accrued on the fixed deposit of lumpsum grant, was discussed at length. EC agree in principle, to give ₹50,000/- to each active chapter, which may be kept as fixed deposit by the Chapter and interest accrued on it used by the Chapter to finance its activities. The terms and conditions on this account will be placed before the General Body of the Society for approval.

Members felt that Indian Society of Agronomy should have annual seminar/symposium rather than biennial. EC members discussed this issue at length and it was decided to hold meeting of all the chapters at Durgapura, Jaipur under the banner of Indian Society of Agronomy and Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner from 23–25 February, 2012. Venue, boarding and lodging will requested to be provided by RAU. After discussion on the theme “Regional Issues and Resource Management Technology for Enhancing Productivity” was finalized. It was also decided to keep the poster session to encourage the scientific presentations. It was decided to keep registration fee ₹1,000 per participant. Lead presentation will be done by the selected Scientists from each region. For this activity, funds are to be generated from different sources. Organization of the event will be done by the RAU. At ISA, headquarter, Dr Ashok Kumar, Principal Scientist and Treasurer of the Society will Co-ordinate the activities of the seminar at Durgapura, Rajasthan, as Dr D.S. Rana is engaged in the activities of 3<sup>rd</sup> International Agronomy Congress. It was decided to bring out a publication in a book form on the basis of the regional presentation in the seminar.

Issue regarding filing of ISA tax return was discussed and after lot of discussion and it was decided to solve the issue by using personal contact of the ISA members, so that expected

expenditure on professional fee may be avoided. Chairman assured the members to solve it by making use of personal influence/contact of the members of the Society.

Issue regarding sponsors for the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Agronomy Congress was discussed in detail and it was decided to contact various institutions on behalf of President of Indian Society of Agronomy for sponsorship. We should try to get sponsorship of all the Institute of CGIAR, Fertilizer and Pesticides Companies, leading academy in the Country, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Water Resources, DST, DBT, CSIR and other concerned institute.

It was also decided to explore the possibility of associating local professional Societies. Issue regarding relaxation of limit to provide TA/DA to EC members only for participation in two EC meeting in a calendar year, was discussed on the request of Dr R.K. Pannu, Councilor, Haryana State. The issue was taken up at length, and it was observed that there is very thin attendance in the EC meeting. There is also need of more participation in EC meeting for healthy discussion to develop rational consensus and also in view of fourth coming 3<sup>rd</sup> International Agronomy Congress. After discussion, it was decided to relax this condition at least up to the Organization of 3<sup>rd</sup> International Agronomy Congress and for further relaxation the matter may be put up to General Body of the Society.

Draft of first Circular of 3<sup>rd</sup> International Agronomy Congress was discussed. It was decided to reduce sub-themes from 15 to 6-8 by clubbing theme. Circular finalized by the EC is appended at annexure I. Issue regarding finalization of Committee of 3<sup>rd</sup> International Agronomy Congress, was discussed at length and it was decided to include the name of Secretary DOAC, Dr Mangala Rai, Dr P.L. Guatam and Dr H.S. Gupta in Board of Governors. In the International Organizing Committee, name of Dr G.B. Singh and Dr I.P. Abrol may be included. In the National Organizing Committee, members may be included from the nearby areas to ensure their active participation and list may be restricted to 25 members.

EC members discussed the issue regarding venue of the Congress. It was decided that the Pusa Campus may be kept Venue of the Congress and arrangement may be made for booking of IARI, NPL and NAAS Auditorium. It was observed that participants of inaugural function of the Congress cannot be accommodated in the auditorium at Pusa Campus, so efforts may be made to book Vigyan Bhawan for the inaugural function of the congress. For Chief Guest of Inaugural function of the Congress efforts may be made to get time slot from Prime Minister or President of India at the earliest possible. In case of non-availability of Vigyan Bhawan, Ashoka Hotel or suitable Hotel may be booked for this purpose.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to Chair.



(D.S. Rana)  
Secretary, ISA



(Arvind Kumar)  
President, ISA