

Report of the Secretary Presented at 47th Annual General Body Meeting of Indian Phytopathological Society at N.D.U.A.T., Kumarganj, Faizabad January 20, 1995

Welcome to the 47th Annual General Body meeting of the Society. The response for this meeting has indeed been very satisfying as apart from 5 Award Lectures, 35 papers were received for National Symposium on 'Detection of Plant Pathogens and their Management', out of which 17 were presented during this meeting. In addition, 77 papers were received for Poster Session and 7 for Narasimhan Academic Award Contest. If we calculate total number of authors of various papers, we find that in all 210 members of the Society have contributed for this meeting.

The Society is grateful to Dr. M.M. Payak and Dr. C.D. Mayee for delivering 1994 and 1993 Mundkur Memorial Lectures, Dr. V. Agnihothrudu for Prof. M.S. Pavgi lecture and Dr. S. Nagarajan for Jeersanidhi Lecture. The topics were well chosen and would be valuable reference source when printed in *Indian Phytopathology*. Dr. P.L. Patil could not deliver Prof. S.N. Dasgupta Memorial Lecture due to some unavoidable circumstances.

During 1994, 83 new members joined the Society while 67 did not renew their membership. We also lost three valuable members due to sad demise of Dr. B.L. Chona, Dr. G.K. Gupta and Dr. M.P. Moghe. The total membership of the Society is now 1554.

Indian Phytopathology kept Chief Editor and Editor extremely busy this year. Due to their efforts Nos. 3 & 4 of Vol. 46, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of Vol. 47 and special supplement containing abstracts of papers presented in 1990 and 1991 National and Zonal meetings were printed in 1994. With no. 4 of Vol. 47 ready for the press, the journal is now update. The cost of printing is going up and the reliability of the printer to do a proper and timely job is going down. This calls for an evaluation of the problems and their solutions. At present it is costing about 90/- per page for composition of papers. This means that we are paying about Rs.54,000/- per year for material composition alone. If this work can be done on Society's computer by employing a full time typist even at Rs.3000/- per month, we would not only be saving atleast Rs.20,000/- per year but would also be ensuring mistakeless document. The copy of printed ABSTRACTS, with you, was composed on our computer. You would see that it does not contain any mistakes. We saved Rs.5,000/- in printing of this 60 page document. In addition, chances of timely printing of journal will be significantly improved. For this, initially we will have to upgrade our computer from present 286 with 120 MB Hard Disk and 1.2 MB RAM to 486 with 256 MB Hard Disk with 16 MB RAM. This would cost about Rs.36,000/-. I solicit your approval for

upgradation of our computer. (It was felt that a new high-tech computer may be purchased for the purpose if funds are available; otherwise the old one may be upgraded as proposed).

We are grateful to ICAR for the grant of Rs.40,000/- for the publication of 1993 Vol. of Indian Phytopathology. This year we have a small saving of Rs. 29,000/- in our expenditure-receipt balance sheet. This amount would have been about (one lakh but for payment of Rs.70,000/- towards printing of special supplement. As on 31.12.1994 we had Rs.2,44,166.88 in SB A/C and cash in hand and Rs.3,36,000/- in long term bank and NSC fixed deposits. You must have examined the computerised detailed accounts of the Society, which Treasurer has kept on the table in this hall. Now, we are in a position to update accounts every month and can give information of our financial position at any time during the year. The membership list is also being continuously updated on computer and Zone/City wise list of total, life or annual members can be taken out at short notice.

The Zones are demanding increase in Society's contribution as Rs.1500/-, being given to each Zone at present, is not sufficient for meeting expenditure even on postage, etc. The EC have recommended to increase this contribution to Rs.2500/- (Approved).

The other recommendations of EC, for your consideration and approval, are :

1. Ex-gratia payment of Rs.300/- to each of IPS staff at HQ. (Approved).

2. FPSI to Drs. R.K. Arora, S.C. Bhardwaj, S.S. Chauhan, S. Kumar, M.M. Naik, Suresh Pande, J.G. Patel, Navneet, Prem Kumar, R.C. Sharma, Akhilesh Singh, S.K. Singh, A. Shreeramulu, P.C. Trivedi, V.R.K. Verma and Ms. Neeta Sharma. (Approved).

3. Increase in FPSI fee from Rs.100/- to Rs.150/-. (Approved).

4. Award of Mundkur Memorial Lecture to Dr. Dinesh Kumar; S.N.Dasgupta Memorial lecture to Dr. D. Lalitha Kumari; M.S.Pavgi Lecture to Dr. R.A. Singh and Jeersanidhi Lecture to Dr. M. Wajid Khan. (Approved).

5. Admission of 83 new members as per the list. (Approved).

We have always felt the need to find ways and means to increase our financial resources. Efforts to persuade Patrons for additional donations did not bear any fruit. If we can stop Indian distributors of Indian Phytopathology to pay Indian rates to IPS for copies being sent by them to foreign libraries on foreign rates, Society can get atleast additional Rs. 1 lakh per year. I am sure that the new Executive will make efforts in this direction.

The following papers have been adjudged as best papers in Vols. 45 and 46 of Indian Phytopathology. "Functional relationship of Phomopsis leaf blight of eggplant with environmental factors and a linear model for predicting the disease", by S.J. Islam and Sitansu Pan. Vol. 45(2), 199-202, (1992). "Spatial dispersion statistics and sequential sampling plant for leaf spot disease caused by *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* in French Bean" by G.V.K. Chhetry, R.R. Misra and G.D.Sharma. Vol.46(1) : 64-68, (1993). Heartiest congratulations to authors.

I am glad to announce that paper of Drs. Sushma Chandel and H.P. Srivastava on "Influence of vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhiza on growth and drought tolerance in sorghum" has been recommended for IPS medal for best poster paper. In addition, those of B.P. Singh *et. al.* ("Scheduling of oxadixyl-based fungicide against late blight by *Phytophthora infestans*"), Sunita Lal and R. P. Singh ("Some histopathological observations on the mode of infection by red rot pathogen in susceptible and resistant sugarcane cultivars"), R. P. Awasthi, N. I. Nashaat and S. J. Kolte

("Interaction between *Peronospora parasitica* and *Albugo candida* in relation to development of stagheads in *Brassica juncea*") have been recommended for commendation certificates. Congratulations to contributors.

This year only two papers, out of 7 received, were presented for Prof. M.J. Narasimhan Academic Award Contest. The Judges have decided to award the medal to Dr. Suseelendra Desai for his work on "Biological control of *Sclerotium rolfsii* using *Trichoderma spp.* - A new dimension". However, since the second presentation on "Identification of four potyviruses occurring in northern India by N-Terminal serology, peptide profiling and cDNA probes" was also of high standard, it has been decided to award a commendation certificate to the author, Dr. A. Ishwara Bhat. Congratulations to participants.

This year the contest was only for President-Elect, Jt. Secy. and Treasurer. In addition, the EC had to nominate President and Councillor of Eastern and Western Zones, in the absence of valid nominations. Based on results given by vote counting Committee, EC nominations and unopposed elections, the 1995 EC will be :

President - V. P. Agnihotri, President-Elect - A. N. Mukhopadhyay, Secretary - D. V. Singh, Jt. Secretary - K. D. Srivastava, Treasurer - D.K. Aggarwal, Zonal President and Councillor - Y.S. Ahlawat and Neeta Bahl (Delhi), S.K. Nayar and S.C. Bhardwaj (Northern), Rajendra Singh and P.P. Upadhyay (Mid-Eastern), B. Mishra and U. Gupta (Eastern), R.D. Singh and S.L. Jhamaria (Central), D.M. Sawant and M.B. Bachchava (Western) and S. Balakrishnan and S. Gokulapalan (Southern).

The secretaryship of a Society of elite scientists is not an easy job. I hope that I was able to come up to your expectations during my two consecutive tenures from 1989. Six years is a long period and your tolerance of my unintentional lapses was a source of strength for my deeper involvement in Society's affairs. I am sure that the in-coming Secretary, Dr. D.V. Singh, will take the Society to higher heights. I take this opportunity to thank one and all of you and the staff at HQ for kind cooperation, understanding and bearance in making my job easier.

DINESH KUMAR
Secretary