

Report of the Secretary presented at the 51st Annual General Body Meeting of the Indian Phytopathological Society held at Ganna Kisan Sansathan, Lucknow, February 17-19, 1999.

Mr. President, Members of the Indian Phytopathological Society, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasant duty to welcome you to the 51st Annual General Body Meeting of the Society at Lucknow. I have great pleasure to present before you the Annual Report for the year 1998.

The Society is grieved to inform you that four of our renowned plant pathologists and members of the Society, viz Drs. E.E. Saari (USA), D. Suryanarayana (Hyderabad), K.G. Ranaganathaiah (Bangalore), and N.K. Sharma (Solan) left for their heavenly abode. We express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and pray Almighty that their souls may rest in peace.

I am happy to inform you that during this year two Mid-Term E.C. Meetings of the Society were held at IARI, New Delhi on May 23 and October 22, 1998 and third one on 16th February 1999 at Lucknow. The E.C. members discussed various issues, like the improvement of the journal, finances and other activities of the Society.

The Society has purchased a new Pentium - II computer with laser printer in the month of January 1999.

The total membership of the Society as on 31st December 1998 stands 1345 including 112 new annual members. During 1998 the number of subscribers has been increased from 200 to 246.

Prof. Anupam Varma delivered the 51st Presidential Address on "**Plant Pathology in the 21st Century**" which was chaired by Dr. H.K. Saxena former President of IPS from Kanpur.

During the Annual Meeting four Lecture Awards were presented by eminent plant pathologists of the country. The Society is extremely grateful to Dr. P.K. Koshy for delivering Mundkur Memorial Lecture, Dr. R.P. Thakur for Jeersannidhi Award Lecture, Dr. V.K. Gupta for Prof. S.N. Dasgupta Memorial Lecture and Dr. U.P. Singh for Prof. M.S. Pavgi Lecture Award.

All the seven Zonal Chapters of the Society remained very active and organized symposia during the Zonal Meetings on important aspects of plant diseases. I congratulate Zonal Presidents and Councillors for their sincere efforts.

Society received 200 manuscripts for publication in Indian Phytopathology Vol. 51 (1998). The Society published 4th issue of Vol. 50 (1997) and 3 issues of Vol. 51 of 1998. The 4th issue of 1998 is already in press and will be out shortly. In addition to timely publications, the standard of the journal has improved. The credit goes to our Chief Editor Dr. D.K. Mitra and Editor Dr. R.K. Jain for their science efforts. I also congratulate members for their contribution to the journal.

The National Symposium on "*Seed Health Care and Phytosanitation for Sustainable Agriculture*" was organised during this Meeting and very good information has been generated on the subject. Sixteen speakers presented their papers.

During the Meeting 70 scientists and students presented their significant research findings through posters. A committee evaluated the posters and recommended that the poster paper entitled "Congreguence of *Bacillus thuringiensis* with various insecticides and fungicides" presented by Drs. M.M. Ansari and A.N. Sharma from Indore was selected for the award of Giridhari Lal Medal for the best poster Paper. Papers namely, "Management of Helminthosporium leaf blight of wheat in Nepal" by B.N. Mahto (Nepal) and "Sero-logical diagnosis of peanut clump virus - Indian sugarcane isolate by G.P. Rao and G.P. Singh of Shahajanpur have been recommended for Commendation Certificates. Our heartiest congratulations to the contributors.

Five young scientists nominated by Zonal Chapters participated in Prof. M.J. Narasimhan Academic Merit Award contest. The Judging Committee has recommended the paper presented by Mr. G. Radhakrishnan of IARI, New Delhi on "Cloning of genome of rice tungro bacilliform virus for preparation of diagnostic probes" for this Award. Our Congratulation to him. The papers presented by Miss Soma Das, New Delhi; Dr. K.K. Biswas, Hyderabad, Dr. Lal Singh, Shimla and Mr. Shwet Kamal of Solan have been recommended for Commendation certificates.

Several recommendations were made in the Executive Council Meetings which were put for kind consideration of G.B.

1. The following important decisions taken during E.C. Meetings have been approved and implemented by G.B.

Journal

- a. The format of the journal be changed to the A4 size starting from Volume 51.
- b. The journal for the subscribers/ libraries be printed on art paper and for members on good quality bond paper.

Finances

- c. Due to the tight financial position, the Society should not host any dinner in its Meetings.
- d. Out of the savings of the Golden Jubilee Conference, Rs. 5 lacs should be put in long terms fixed deposit as "Golden Jubilee Conference Corpus fund". Interest of this Fund can be utilised exclusive for the participation of the President of the Society or any other member of the Executive Council in the International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP), and providing partial support for the participation of other members of the Society whose papers are accepted for presentation at the ICPPs, and have bursary award from the other sources.
- e. The Society should enroll agriculture/ science related companies as patrons on a payment of Rs. 20,000 per year, and allow publication of advertisement of such patron in various issues of the journal printed during the year.

Zonal Chapters

- f. Each Zonal Chapter should maintain an activity register, and open an account in the name of the Indian Phytopathological Society 'X' zone. This account should be operated jointly by the Zonal President and Councillor.
- g. The abstracts of the papers actually presented and approved by the Zonal President should be printed in the journal subject to receipt of Rs. 50/- per abstract from the Zonal Chapter as the cost of printing.
- h. The "M. J. Narasimhan Academic Award Contest" will be held in the two stages. First in the concerned Zonal Chapter and then in the Annual Meeting. Each Zonal Chapter will recommend upto two names for the award, who will be provided a bursary of Rs. 250/- a Commendation Certificate and will be allowed to participate in the final contest. The age limit for the contestants would be 35 years.

The awardees will submit full length papers for which there will be no restriction of the age of the co-authors.

- i. The Zonal Chapters can have Endowment Lecture Award after the Society receives a minimum amount of Rs. I Lakh for the institution of the award and it is accepted by the E.C. The Awards should be only in the name of eminent plant pathologists.
2. Detailed discussions were held on the agenda items of the E.C. Meeting and following decisions were taken which were put for the approval of the G.B. and approved.
 - a. Application of 112 scientists for admission as IPS members were approved.
 - b. The Fee for FPSI was raised to Rs. 1000/.
 - c. The endowment Award Lectures (Prof. S. N. Dasgupta Lecture, Prof M.S. Pavgi Lecture and Jeersannidhi Lecture) should be organised once in 3 years by rotations to make them financially viable. The Mundkur Memorial Lecture, however, will remain an annual feature.
 - d. For Zonal Chapters, for which valid nominations for election to the office of Zonal President and Councillor were not received, E.C. recommended the following members to be elected. **Eastern Zone:** President: Dr. S. Gangopadhyay, Cuttack; Councillor : Dr. P. Naik, Cuttack; **Western Zone:** President: Dr. S.J. Gaikwad, Nagpur; Councillor: Dr. A.N. Buldeo; Nagpur; **Southern Zone:** President : Dr. P.K.Koshy, Kayangulam; Councillor: Dr. R. Chandramohan, Kayangulam.
 - e. The team of Zonal President and Zonal Councillor of any particular Zonal Chapter preferably should be from the same Institution.
 - f. Zonal Meeting should be attended by one of the office bearers from the Headquarter for which funds will be provided by the Zonal Chapters.
 - g. Each Zonal Chapter should specialise in an area of plant pathology of relevance to the country for which they should develop policy recommendations.
 - h. The change in the name of best poster presentation award was reconsidered and it was felt that all awards should be either in the name of the Society or some renowned scientist. Therefore, its original name i.e. IPS Medal be retained, and for paying tribute to Late Shri. Girdhari Lal, some other suitable activity be considered.

j. The venue of the 52nd Annual Meeting will be Karnal as requested by President Elect.

3. E.C. recommended the nomination of the following scientists for various Lecture Awards for 1999: (i) Mundkhar Memorial Lecture - Dr. K.H. Anahosur, Dharwad; Jeersannidhi Lecture Award - Dr. (Mrs.) Bineeta Sen, New Delhi; (in) Prof. S.N. Das Gupta Memorial Lecture - Dr. H.N. Verma, Lucknow; (iv) Prof. M.S. Pavgi Award Lecture - Dr. Satyavir, Hisar

4. Society Awards

- a. Eight members of IPS namely Drs. K.P. Singh, H.N. Singh, Rakesh Pandey, M. Anandraj, N.M. Lokhande, A.N. Rajasab, B. Dasgupta and S.A.M.H. Naqvi were approved for admission as Fellow of the Indian Phytopathological Society.
- b. The research papers published in Indian Phytopathology Vol. 50 of 1997 were critically evaluated by a Committee of 5 judges and the paper entitled "*Differentiation of Potato virus Y strain by N-terminal serology and HPLC peptide profiling*" by Drs. A. Ishwar Bhat, Anupam Varma, R.K. Jain and S.M. Paul Khurana was recommended as best paper for Prof M.J. Narashiman Medal Award-1998.
5. The Head, Division of Plant Pathology, IARI, New Delhi should be a Ex-officio member of the E.C.
6. This year, the contest was held for President Elect and Northern Chapter, Based on results given by Vote Counting Committee, unopposed election and nomination by E.C., the 1999 E.C. will be as follows:

President - Dr. S. Nagarajan; President Elect - Dr. B.L. Jalali; Secretary - Dr Dharam Vir Singh; Joint Secretary - Dr. R.C. Sharma; Treasurer - Dr. K.D. Srivastava; Chief Editor - Dr. D.K. Mitra; Editor - Dr. R.K. Jain; Ex-officio: Head, Division of Plant Pathology, IARI, New Delhi; Zonal Presidents and Councillors - Dr V.G. Malathi and Dr. A. Ishwar Bhat (Delhi Chapter), Dr. O.P. Sharma and Dr. A.S. Kapoor (Northern Chapter), Dr. J.K. Johri

and Dr. H.B. Singh (Mid-Eastern Chapter), Dr. S. Gangopadhyay and Dr. P. Naik (Eastern Chapter), Dr Satish Lodha and Dr. B.S. Rathore (Central Chapter), Dr P.K. Koshy and Dr. R. Chandra Mohan (Southern Chapter), Dr.S.J. Gaikwad and A.N. Buldeo (Western Chapter).

7. On behalf of the Society, I thankfully acknowledge the financial assistance of Rs. 60000/- by Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Rs. 50,000/- from National Academy of Agricultural Sciences.
8. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Anupam Varma, our worthy President for his guidance, advice, encouragement and support in day to day functioning of the Society. I am also thankful to Chairman and members of different sessions for conducting the proceedings nicely. I thank very profusely Dr. H.N. Sahai, Director, Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow and Dr. R.P. Singh, Head (Plant Pathology), IISR, Dr. Rakesh Pandey, CIMAP and also Chairmen and other members of various Organizing Committee for their whole-hearted support in hosting the 51 Annual Meeting and National Symposium at Lucknow. Our special thanks are due to Dr Sushil Kumar, Director CIMAP and NBRI, Dr. S.S. Negi, Director, Mango Institute and the staff of their Institutes for rendering their valuable help in various ways for making the Meeting a grand success. It is my prime duty to thank all the members of E.C. for their cooperation, advice, support and suggestions in various matters. Finally, I thank all the members for being with us and making this Meeting a grand success and in the last but not least to staff of Headquarter especially to Shri. R.L.P. Singh, Lalit Saini, Rajendra Prasad and Upendra for their help.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

(D.V. Singh)
Secretary