

Report of the Secretary presented at the 53rd Annual General Body Meeting of the Indian Phytopathological Society held at CAS in Botany, University of Madras, Guindy Campus, Chennai, January 22-24, 2001

Mr. President, Members of the Indian Phytopathological Society, ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you all to the 53rd Annual General Body Meeting of the Society at the beautiful Guindy Campus of Madras University. Now I will present before you the report of various activities of the Society during 2000.

The Society is grieved to inform you that two of our renowned Plant Pathologists Dr. D.N. Srivastava, Honorary Fellow and Former President of the Society and Dr. Sunil Kumar left for their heavenly abode. We express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and pray to God that their soul may rest in peace.

I wish to inform you that during the period a Mid-term EC Meeting of the Society was held at IARI, New Delhi on August 11, 2000. The EC members discussed various issues related to improvement of Indian Phytopathology, finances and other activities of the Society. The total membership of the Society as on 31st December, 2000 stands 1415 including 73 new members. The number of subscribers during 2000 was 248. During the period under report, the Society received 231 manuscripts for publication in *Indian Phytopathology*. The Society published all the four issues within the Calendar year and now our journal will find a place in Current content. The credit of timely publication and improving the quality goes to our Chief Editor Dr. D.K. Mitra and Editor Dr. R.K. Jain and to my colleagues Dr. K.D. Srivastava, who manage the finances of the Society effectively. I am happy to inform the house that now our Society has entered the electronic media and activities of the Society and contents of the *Indian Phytopathology* are available on its website www.ipsdis.com. We also brought out the Proceedings of the Golden Jubilee Conference. The Society has also published a folder of its activities.

Dr. B.L. Jalali delivered his 53rd Presidential Address on "Mycorrhiza and Plant Health : Need for Paradigm Shift" chaired by Dr. D. Lalithakumari. In this meeting two Award Lectures were delivered by eminent Plant Pathologists of the country. The Society

is grateful to Dr. S.S. Chahal for delivering Mundkur Memorial Lecture and Dr. H.N. Verma for Prof. S.N. Dasgupta Award Lecture. I am indeed happy to inform the members that six Zonal Chapters of the Society also organized symposia and discussions on current aspects of regional importance. We congratulate Zonal Presidents and Councillors for their sincere efforts.

Prof. M.J. Narasimhan Academic Merit Award contest was organized and six scientists nominated by Zonal Chapters participated. The judging committee has recommended the paper presented by Dr. Kalyan Kumar Mondal of IARI, New Delhi on "Secondary metabolites of cotton rhizobacteria and their role in management of bacterial blight of cotton" for the Award. The papers presented by Anirban Roy, Mandvi Singh, Shashi Sharma, K. Kalpana and V. Ramamoorthy were recommended for Commendation Certificates.

The Society organized National Symposium on "Eco-friendly Approaches for Plant Disease Management" on 22-24 January 2001. During the symposium 22 valuable papers were presented. I am sure that the deliberations of the symposium would help in plant disease management. The poster session was also organised and 299 papers were received for presentation. The poster paper entitled "Studies on blending biopreservative with carnuba wax emulsion coated on tomato by V. Puttalingamma, C. Nanjappa and K.S. Manjat (Mysore) was selected for the Award of Indian Phytopathological Society Medal. The papers of Anita Cherian and associates (KAU, Kannura, Thrissur) and M. Mamtha and associates (Hyderabad) have been recommended for Commendation Certificate.

The Meeting of the Executive Council of the Society was held at CAS in Botany, Chennai on 21st January 2001. The following important decisions taken during EC Meeting have been approved by the Governing Body of the Society.

Editorial

- (a) In order to make editorial board more functional, the members could be classified under various fields

of specialisation. Among the members identified in different groups, one could be identified as Associate Editor.

- (b) Contents of the journal should be listed in alphabetical order such as Bacteriology, Fungal Pathology, Mycology, Nematology and Virology.
- (c) Short communication should be accompanied by an abstract as well as key words so that it could find the place on society's web-site.
- (d) More information need to be collected and compiled concerning electronic version of the journal so that society could generate resources through the library of the University of Queensland, Australia.

Zonal Chapters

Following members were nominated to the office of Zonal President/Councillor : Central Zone : Dr. R.K. Chaurasia (President) , JNKVV, Jabalpur; Dr. (Mrs.) Om Gupta (Councillor); Eastern Zone : Dr. Gita Sahai (President), Bhagalpur; Dr. R.B. Prasad (Councillor), Bhagalpur.

Financial

- (a) All out efforts should be made not to touch the interest (accrued) from the fixed deposits.
- (b) Fifty percent of the saving should go for the improvement of the journal every year.

Society's Awards

- (a) E.C. approved the admittance of Drs. N.C. Chatterjee, S.K. Shahi, S.S. Madhu Keshwar, K.N. Bhagwati, Mrs Jyoti Saxena, S.K. Pant, Neeraj, S.S. Karwasra, K. L. Ojha, Ashwani Kumar and R.B. Prasad as Fellow of the Society (FPSI).
- (b) Based on the recommendation of the evaluation committee, paper entitled "Morphological and pathogenic diversity among grain sorghum isolate of *Colletotrichum graminicola* in India" by V.P. Rao, R.P. Thakur and Kusum Mathur published in *Indian Phytopathology* Vol. 51(2) : 164-167 (1998) was approved as best research paper for award of Prof. M.J. Narsimhan Best Paper Award. It was also decided that action should be taken to select best papers published in the journal during 1999 and 2000.
- (c) E.C. discussed in depth regarding proposal of "Dr. A. P. Mishra, outstanding Plant Pathologist Award" and it was suggested that award may be named as "Dr. A.P. Mishra Life Time Achievement Award" for a Scientist of above 55 years of age. It will be awarded once in two years.

- (d) E.C. also approved the terms and conditions for the proposal of K.C. Mehta and Manoranjan Mitra Memorial Award in the form of review article to be published in the journal every year.
- (e) The E.C. recommended the nomination of Dr. K.S. Aulakh (Ludhiana), Dr. Y.R. Sarma (Calicut) for Mundkur Memorial Lecture Award to be delivered in the 54th Annual Meeting and Dr. Narayan Rishi (Hissar) for Prof. S.N. Dasgupta Memorial Lecture to be delivered at 56th Annual Meeting.
- (f) The E.C. considered the name of Dr. R.S. Singh (Pantnagar), Former President and Eminent Plant Pathologist for Honorary Fellowship and nominated him as Honorary Fellow of the Society.

Other Recommendations

- (a) It was suggested that item-wise Action Taken Report of Secretary, Chief Editor and Treasurer should be prepared for presentation in E.C. meeting.
- (b) Looking into increase in the number of FPSI, E.C. felt that a Committee should be constituted to go in to the details of rules and regulations. It was also suggested that a minimum of 10 years regular membership of the society and 10 best papers with a citation from the FPSI nominee are desirable.
- (c) Current directory of IPS members should be prepared giving professional details , E-mail address etc. and index at the last.
- (d) E.C. appreciated the efforts of the society to launch a web-site, publishing a folder and release of the proceedings of Golden Jubilee Conference held in 1997.
- (e) Members of the society in the G.B. Meeting raised the point about the distribution of the proceedings of the Golden Jubilee Conference in 1997. It was resolved that a copy of the proceeding will be provided to one of the authors who have contributed paper. Authors could collect the same from IPS office either personally or by post by paying postal charges. However, it will be a priced publication of Rs.1000/- for the non-members and to subscribers of Rs.2000/-.

On behalf of the Society, I thankfully acknowledge the financial assistance of Rs. 60,000 by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

(D.V. Singh)
Secretary