

## Report of the Secretary presented at the 55<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting of the Indian Phytopathological Society held at Osmania University, Hyderabad January 16-18, 2003

Mr. President, Members of Indian Phytopathological Society, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my proud privilege to welcome you all in this 55<sup>th</sup> Annual General Body Meeting of the Society at Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad. It gives me great pleasure to present before you the report of various activities of the Society held during 2002.

On the outset I would like to inform this august house that nine Life Members of our Society passed away to their heavenly abode during this year namely Drs. Amar Singh (IARI, New Delhi), R.D. Khulbe (Nainital), K.D. Paharia (Lucknow), Prof. A. Mahadevan (Chennai), Paritosh Nandi (Kolkata), Arun Chitriv (Nagpur), Sunil Desai (Dharwad), M.N. Singh (Shimla) and H.C. Govindu (Bangalore). The members of the Society express their sincere condolences and profound grief to the bereaved families and pray to almighty that their souls may rest in peace.

At present the total number of members of the Society as on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002 stands at 1600 including 200 newly enrolled members and 200 subscribers.

The 55<sup>th</sup> Presidential Address on "*Biodiversity, taxonomy, ecology, conservation and biotechnology of arbuscular micorrhizal fungi*" was delivered by Prof. C. Manoharachary, President-IPS and the lecture was chaired by Prof. K.G. Mukherjee. The Society is extremely grateful to Dr. A.K. Roy for delivering Jeersanidhi Lecture Award.

Mundkur Memorial Lecture to be presented by Dr. V. Raghunathan (Faridabad) could not be delivered.

All the seven Zonal Chapters of the Society remained very active and organized symposia in their respective Zonal Meetings on important

aspects of plant diseases. I congratulate Zonal Presidents and Councillors for their sincere efforts and activities.

Society published 138 manuscripts in *Indian Phytopathology* Vol. 55 (2002). The font of the journal has been changed to **Arial type w.e.f. Vol. 55 (2002)**, which has been appreciated by majority of the members. The credit goes to our Chief Editor, Prof. P. Bahadur and Editor, Dr. RK. Jain for their painstaking efforts.

In this National Symposium on "*Plant Pathogens Diversity in Relation to Plant Health*" 273 papers have been received for presentation. Many invited speakers also presented their views on the theme of symposium. Out of which 121 poster papers were presented.

The Society has been able to generate an "*Endowment Fund*" of Rs. 48,000.00 received as contribution from Dr. G.S. Shekhawat, Former Director, CPRI, Shimla and our Ex President of the Society. The interest accrued out of this fund will be utilized solely for the purpose of enhancement of Mundkur Memorial Award Lecture money.

The Poster Evaluation Committee recommended the poster paper presented by Dr. S.A.M.H. Naqvi on "Production of Phytophthora free nursery stocks –mandatory to avert decline and death of citrus plants in India" for Prof. K.P.V. Menon Best Poster Paper Award.

Twelve young scientists nominated by Zonal Chapters participated in Prof. M.J. Narasimhan Merit Academic Award Contest this time. The Judging Committee has recommended the paper presented by N. Kulkarni, P. Lavakumar, V. Muniyappa and D.V.R. Reddy entitled "Studies on pigeonpea sterility mosaic disease : transmission virus vector relationships and

identification of resistant sources" from UAS, GKVK, Bangalore for this Award. Our heartiest congratulations to him.

Several recommendations made by the Executive Council Meeting have been approved by the General Body.

### Journal

- Enhancement of Student Annual Membership fee at par with regular members @ Rs. 350.00 w.e.f. January 2003.
- Enhancement of Life Membership fee from 2500.00 to 3500.00 w.e.f. January 2003.
- Enhancement of subscriber fee from Rs. 1200 to Rs. 1500.00 w.e.f. January 2003.
- Provision for office space at NASC Complex:- It was decided that Secretary and President should discuss the matter with Director, IARI, New Delhi.
- The GB recommended that the backlog of papers pending with the journal should be reduced to 6 months instead of 2 years and a research paper received should be published within 6 months.

Detailed discussions were held on the agenda items of the E.C. Meeting and following decisions were taken.

1. a) The venue of 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Indian Phytopathological Society will be at IARI, New Delhi/CCRI, Nagpur.
- b) For Zonal Chapters for which valid nominations for election to the office of Zonal President and Zonal Councillor were not received, E.C. recommended the following members to be elected. **Delhi Zone:** President :Ashok Gaur and Councillor : Dr. S.C. Dubey ; **Southern Zone :** President : Srikant Kulkarni, Councillor :A.S.Byadgi (Dharwad); **Western Zone:** President: S.P. Raut and Councillor :P.B. Kadamb (Dapoli).
- c) The GB agreed to provide partial financial support restricted to Rs. 30000.00 each by Indian Phytopathological Society to attend ICPP Conference as per terms and conditions of the GB meeting held at Lucknow in 1997 to the following persons

(i) Dr. D.V. Singh, IARI, New Delhi and (ii) Dr. Rama S. Singh, PAU, Ludhiana.

**2. Society Awards :** E.C. recommended the nomination of the following scientists for various Lecture Awards :

- a. **Mundkhur Memorial Lecture Award (2003)** will be delivered by Prof. H. Shekara Shetty, Mysore
  - b. **Dr. K.C. Mehta and Manoranjan Mitra Memorial Lecture Award (2003) :** Dr. Basant Ram, Pantnagar has been requested to write a review article of his choice based on his research findings.
  - c. **Fellow of Indian Phytopathological Society (FPSI) :** 3 members of the Society namely Drs. V. Ambethgar, Assistant Professor, RRS, TNAU, Vriddhachalam, Cuddalore (TN), Vinod Kumar Maheshwari, IARI, Regional Station, Karnal and Dr. (Mrs.) Monica Basu, Botany Department, University of Allahabad, Allahabad have been declared elected for this award.
  - d. **Prof. M.J. Narasimhan Medal Award :** A committee of 4 Judges evaluated the papers published in Vol. 54 (2001) for Prof. M.J. Narasimhan Medal Award. Research paper entitled "**Taxonomic Studies on Smut Fungi from North Eastern India**" published in Indian Phytopathology Vol. 54 (2): 219-225 (2001) by Dr. M.K. Bag and D.K. Agarwal has been adjudged as Best Research Paper. The second best paper entitled "Monitoring for Metalaxyl resistance in populations of *Phytophthora infestans* and their characteristics in Punjab" by T.S. Thind, Lakhvir Singh, C. Mohan and Joginder Paul Vol. 54 (1) : 91-97 (2001) has been recommended for Commendation Certificate.
- 3. IPS Travel Sponsorship (2002) :** The GB approved the name of the following four candidates to provide free travel sponsorship to young scientist to attend the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held at Hyderabad:
- i. Mr. P. Srinivas, IARI, New Delhi
  - ii. Mr. M. Periyasammy, IARI, New Delhi
  - iii. Mrs. T.R. Borah, AAU, Jorhat
  - iv. Miss Neeraj Bala, PAU, Ludhiana

#### 4. Election for President-Elect and Constitution of new Executive Council (2003) :

- (a) This year, the contest was held for President-Elect. Based on results given by Vote Counting Committee Dr. S.M. Paul Khurana, CPRI, Shimla has been declared elected for the year 2003.
- (b) The constitution of the E.C. for 2003 will be as follows:

**President** - Dr. D.V. Singh, **President-Elect** - Dr. S.M. Paul Khurana, **Secretary**- Dr. D.K. Agarwal, **Joint Secretary** -Dr. V.C. Sinha, **Treasurer**-Dr. K.D. Srivastava, **Chief Editor**-Prof. P. Bahadur, **Editor**-Dr. R.K. Jain, **Foreign Member**- Prof. J.P. Tewari

#### Zonal Presidents and Councillors –

Dr. Ashok Gaur and  
S.C. Dubey (Delhi Chapter);

Dr. R.C. Sharma and  
J.N. Sharma (Northern Chapter)

Dr. S.N. Srivastava and  
Ramji Lal (Mid-Eastern Chapter);

Dr. Satya Kinkar Raj and  
S.K. Pan (Eastern Chapter)

Dr. P.C. Trivedi and  
Kailash Agarwal (Central Chapter)

Dr. Srikant Kulkarni and  
A.S. Byadgi (Southern Chapter);

Dr. R.V. Gandhe and  
Dr. N.N. Patil (Western Chapter).

5. On behalf of the Society, I thankfully acknowledge the receipt of enhanced Financial Assistance of Rs. 90,000/- (Rupees Ninety thousand) for publication of the journal by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi instead of Rs. 60,000.00 and Rs. 30,000.00 (Rupees Thirty thousand) from DST, New Delhi.
6. I also express my sincere gratitude to Prof. C. Manoharachary, President of the Society for his guidance, advice, encouragement and support in day-to-day functioning of the Society. Thanks are also due to Prof. J. Anathaswamy, Vice-Chancellor, Osmania University, Hyderabad for conceding to host this symposium at Hyderabad. I am also thankful to Chairmen and members of different sessions for conducting the proceedings nicely. I thank very profusely Drs. G. Bagyanarayan and B. Bhadraiah, Department of Botany, Osmania University, Hyderabad and other members of various Organizing Committees for their wholehearted support in hosting the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and National Symposium at Hyderabad. My thanks are also due to Prof. K. Janardan Reddy, Head Department of Botany, Osmania University, Hyderabad and to all the staff members 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 for making this Meeting a grand success. Last but not the least I am thankful to staff at the Headquarters of IPS.

(D.K. Agarwal)  
Secretary