

SOCIETY FOR PLANT BIOCHEMISTRY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY
DIVISION OF BIOCHEMISTRY, ICAR-IARI, NEW DELHI

No: SPBB/Proceedings/2019/2/3

Date: 23rd December, 2019

Proceedings of the Annual General Body Meeting of the Society for Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology (SPBB) held on 08th November, 2019 at ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad

The Annual General Body Meeting of the Society for Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology (SPBB) was held at ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad on 08.11.2019 during the National Conference on 'Integrative Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology'. The meeting was initially scheduled at 06:45 PM, however it had to be postponed to 08:30 PM due to lack of quorum. Total 19 members (list enclosed) attended this meeting. Joint Secretary-Dr. P.K. Mandal, EC-Members-Dr A.M. Kayastha, Dr Anil Kumar, Dr Archana Singh, Dr. G.K. Garg, Dr G.S. Suresha, Dr Jasdeep Padaria, Dr. K. R. Koundal, Dr Paramjeet Khurana, Dr R.C. Bhattacharya, Dr R.C. Borah & Dr. Rakesh Singh could not make it to the meeting due to some unavoidable reasons. Dr Shelly Praveen, Secretary, SPBB coordinated the meeting by welcoming Chairperson, Dr S.L. Mehta (President, SPBB), Drs S.R. Bhat & Archana Sachdev (Vice-Presidents), Dr R. Srinivasan (Chief Editor, JPBB) and Dr Aruna Tyagi (Treasurer, SPBB).

At the outset, the Chairman, Dr. S.L. Mehta welcomed all the members and requested Dr. Shelly Praveen to present Secretary's report. Dr. Praveen placed on record deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to all the previous and present executive members of the Society for their unstinted support in strengthening the Society. Dr Praveen updated the house regarding different activities planned/executed during the year 2019 under the umbrella of the SPBB.

1. Workshops

- a) One-day workshop on 'Proteomics and metabolomics: application in agriculture for enhancing productivity and processability' was organised at Division of Biochemistry, ICAR-IARI, Pusa Campus, New Delhi on 19.08.2019
- b) Gene Editing for Enhancing Plant Productivity and Stress Tolerance is scheduled during 10-12 November, 2019 at ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad. She further informed the house that more than 100 applications were received for this workshop and because of the limited space and resources only 52 could be accommodated for the workshop.

- c) Workshop on Transgenic crops: Technology and Application (for students of Class XI-XIIth) has been scheduled at ICAR-NIPB, New Delhi during January 30-31, 2020.

2. National Conference

The National Conference on 'Integrative Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology' is underway (08-09 November, 2019) and going by the response so far, there is no doubt that it is going to be a huge success. Dr Shelly Praveen apprised the members about the new initiatives taken during the conference

- **The SPBB-Springer Excellence award (2019):** During the conference two awards were constituted for recognizing the contributions of stalwarts in the field of 'Education' and in 'Science Adoption and Popularisation' respectively. The society had the honour of conferring these two awards to Dr S.L. Mehta, Former Vice Chancellor, MPUAT, Udaipur & President, SPBB and to Dr Suresh Agrawal, Chairman, Bejo Sheetal India Pvt. Ltd. respectively during the inaugural session of the conference.
- **SPBB-Springer young investigator award:** This award was constituted in collaboration with Springer India Pvt. Ltd. for appreciating and rewarding the good research work done by the young scientists/Scholars in the field of plant biology in order to keep them motivated and encouraging them further to attain newer heights. Five young scientists/scholars will be selected for and awarded with the SPBB-Springer Young Investigator award by an expert committee constituted for the same.

3. **Dr N.B. Das Memorial Lecture:** Dr Praveen informed the house that an unanimous decision was taken last year to organize the Dr N.B. Das Memorial Lecture every year during the Annual Conference. This year, as witnessed by the members and participants of this conference, a mesmerising and thought-provoking lecture was delivered by honourable Dr G. Padmanaban, President, The National Academy of Sciences, India on the topic 'Application of Modern Technologies in Agriculture' during the inaugural session of this conference on 08-11-2019 to ignite the young minds and inspiring them to pursue their career in research with fortified passion.

Besides, Dr Praveen informed the members about the Inauguration of SPBB's new office at Division of Biochemistry, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi by Honourable Dr. S.L. Mehta, President of the SPBB on 29 July 2019. She also briefed about Dr R. Srinivasan taking charge as Chief Editor of the JPBB w.e.f. 01 July 2019 and immediately organizing a meeting with Dr. Mamta Kapila from Springer Nature Indian Pvt. Ltd to understand the steps to be undertaken for enhancing the Impact Factor of the JPBB as well as to boost revenue arising out of it.

Dr. Praveen also brought it to the notice of the house that the SPBB has applied for the GST registration, in compliance with the prescribed guidelines GOI, for making the accounting process more transparent, smooth and efficient. She then updated the current status of membership in SPBB, which is as given below:

- Life Members : 854
- Institutional Members : 05
- Annual Members (2019): 05

After the presentation of Secretary's report, the Chairman requested Dr R. Srinivasan, newly appointed Chief Editor, Journal of Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology (JPBB) to brief the members regarding current status and progress of the JPBB. Dr Srinivasan thanked editorial board members and reviewers for their hard work in quickly processing the manuscripts received for consideration for publication in JPBB. He then apprised the members about following points:

- At present, approximately 400-450 manuscripts are being received by us out of which 40-50 finally gets published, after going through critical and comprehensive reviewing process at different levels, in four issues of the journal published per year. Some of the members suggested to increase the number of research papers being published per issue from 13 to 15 while others were in favour of enhancing its frequency to garner more citations, which is an important factor for the calculation of impact factor of a journal. As informed by Dr. Mamta Kapila from Springer Nature Indian Pvt. Ltd in a previous meeting, this step if approved may help to enhance the revenue generation as well.
- The current Impact factor of JPBB (for the year 2018) is 1.038 and royalty received from Springer Nature India Pvt. Ltd. during the calendar year 2018-2019 was Rs. 611325/- (six lakhs eleven thousand three hundred and twenty-five only).
- Prospects of coming out with a special Issue on the topic of 'Advances on Arabidopsis' in the year 2020. Dr Srinivasan sought permission of the Chairperson for asking the consent of Dr Jitendra P. Khurana for serving as Guest editor for this special issue. Considering the vast experience and recognition of Dr Jitendra P. Khurana in this field, the chairman readily agreed for the same.
- Looking at the problem of non-responsiveness of certain editors, 12 new members have been inducted in the of Editorial board while two members (Dr. V.S. Malik, USA & Dr. R.P. Sharma, New Delhi) have withdrawn their name from the editorial board.

In the end, he requested all the member to submit their good quality research papers in JPBB to further enhance its reputation and visibility. The chairperson suggested to issue letter of appreciation to all the reviewers and develop a mechanism to reward the best performing reviewers to encourage them further. Further he requested to explore the possibility of giving

free online access of JPBB to some of the potential universities to expand reach and depth of the SPBB.

After this, Chairman requested Dr. Aruna Tyagi, Treasurer, SPBB to brief and update the financial health of the society to the members. Dr Aruna Tyagi informed the house about the current financial status as per the audited annual accounts of the SPBB. She thanked all the past Executive Committees of the Society for transferring her a strong and sound financial foundation to further build upon.

The chairperson then appreciated the efforts of Dr Pradeep K. Jain and Dr. Anil Dahuja, Organising Secretaries, for the previous National Symposium held on 19.11.2018 at ICAR-IARI, New Delhi. Both of them were honoured by the chairperson along with Dr S.R. Voleti, Dr S.M. Balachandran and Dr S.K. Mangrauthia, the organizing secretaries for the ongoing National Conference at ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad.

In the end, the chairperson sought the willingness of the potential partners for co-hosting the next year's National conference with SPBB. The BITS-Pilani, KK Birla Goa campus and BIT Mesra, Ranchi showed their keenness for the same. The chairman suggested them to submit their proposals in prescribed format through proper channel for the consideration of EC in its next meeting. The chairperson also emphasized on the fact that there is an urgent need to Strengthen Basic Sciences in different universities and to promote entrepreneurship

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and to the house by Dr Shelly Praveen, Secretary, SPBB.

Comments, if any, on the proceeding, may please be sent to undersigned within seven days from the date of receipt of the proceedings.



(SHELLY PRAVEEN)

Secretary, SPBB