

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

No: SPBB/Proceedings/2026/2/24

Dated: 27.02.2026

Minutes of the Annual General Body Meeting of the Society for Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology (SPBB) held on 27th February 2026 during the ‘National Conference on ‘Advances in Biochemistry & Biotechnology for Nutritional Security in the Era of Climate Change’ organized at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU), Bihar

The meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of Prof. T. R. Sharma, President, SPBB.

The meeting was initially scheduled at 05:00 PM, however, it had to be postponed to 06:00 PM due to lack of quorum. A total of 28 members attended this meeting (*list enclosed as Annexure 1*).

At the outset, Dr. R.C. Bhattacharya extended a warm welcome to the esteemed officials and members of the Executive Council (EC), SPBB present in the meeting and requested president, SPBB for his opening remarks.

Prof. T. R. Sharma, President, SPBB welcomed the house and briefly introduced the following agenda items taken up for the discussion:

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL BODY MEETING:

The President, SPBB called for the comments, if any, from the members of SPBB on the minutes of the last GB meeting of the SPBB held on March 06, 2025 at SKUAST, Jammu. Since no comments were received, the minutes were approved and confirmed by the house.

II. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORTS:

2.1 Chief Editor's Report:

Dr. R. Srinivasan, Chief Editor, JPBB made a brief presentation of the report and apprised the members about the current status and progress of the Journal of Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology (JPBB)- a quarterly peer-reviewed scientific journal published by Springer Nature India Pvt. Ltd. on behalf of the Society for Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology. The salient points emanating from his presentations are reproduced below:

- 2.1.1 **Volume of manuscripts received and their processing:** At present, approximately 700-750 manuscripts are being received, out of which 65-70 finally get published.
- 2.1.2 **Impact Factor of the Journal and royalty received:** The current Impact factor of JPBB (for the year 2024) is 1.5 and royalty received from Springer Nature India Pvt. Ltd. for the calendar year 2024 was Rs. 10,51,106/-.
- 2.1.3 **New Initiative(s):** A special Issue of the JPBB on the topic, “*Impact of Climate Change on Nutrient Stress in Crops: Challenges for Sustainable Agriculture*” is under process and will be released shortly.
- 2.1.4 **Problem encountered regarding reviewing of manuscripts:** In his report, Dr. Srinivasan informed the house that delayed or non-submission of the reports by some of the reviewers is a major impediment for timely processing of the manuscripts received. Such



inordinate delays at the reviewers' end keep the authors in the doldrums and discourage them to submit their work in future. The president, SPBB expressed his deep concern over this serious issue, which needs to be addressed urgently before it dents the reputation and rating of the journal.

2.2 Treasurer's Report:

Dr. Archana Singh, Treasurer of SPBB, presented the financial report of the society for the FY 2024-25 before the house to apprise the members about its current financial health.

- 2.2.1 In her presentation, she provided a detailed account of the statement of receipts and expenditures, balance sheet, and the Audited Annual Accounts (FY 2024-25).
- 2.2.2 The treasurer duly acknowledged the unwavering support and guidance received from the chartered accountant - M/s Atul Puri and Company, New Delhi on various financial matters.
- 2.2.3 She also thanked Dr. R. Srinivasan, Chief Editor (JPBB) & Dr. Mamta Kapila, Executive Publisher, Springer Nature India Pvt. Ltd. for their utmost management of the JPBB leading to generation of handsome royalty mainly responsible for the sound financial health of the society.
- 2.2.4 The report was found to be satisfactory and endorsed by the house without any major clarifications and therefore adopted in its current form.

2.3 Secretary's Report:

Dr. Anil Dahuja, Secretary, SPBB presented the Secretary's report for the period 06.03.2025 to 26.02.2026. The major highlights of the report are as follows:

- 2.3.1 **Organization of SPBB National Conference 2025:** SPBB successfully organised the National Conference on 'Emerging Innovations in Biochemistry and Biotechnology for Holistic Development of Agriculture' during 06-07th March, 2025 at SKUAST, Jammu.
- 2.3.2 **Organization of Dr. N.B. Das Memorial Lecture-2025:** The Dr. N.B. Das Memorial Lecture-2025 was delivered by Prof. S. L. Mehta (*Immediate Past President, SPBB*) on 06.03.2025 at SKUAST, Jammu.
- 2.3.3 **SPBB Annual activities organized (2025):** During the period mentioned above four workshops were organised under the umbrella of SPBB. The details are given below:

S. No.	Title of the workshop	Organized at	Organized on
1.	Skill Development in Molecular Biology techniques	Gautam Buddha University, Noida	April 21-25, 2025
2.	Functional Foods and Post-Harvest Physiology	RPCAU, Samastipur, Bihar	June 19-21, 2025
3.	Role of Artificial Intelligence in Advancing Food Science and Nutritional Biochemistry	Division of Biochemistry, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi	November 28, 2025
4.	Isolation and Characterization of Edible Oils and Importance of Blending	Division of Biochemistry, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi	December 18, 2025



- 2.3.4 **SPBB-Springer Young Scientist Award-2025:** Five SPBB-Springer Young Scientist/scholars were selected by the expert committee and awarded during the National Conference - 2025 at SKUAST, Jammu.
- 2.3.5 **Current Membership status:**
- Life Members : 1092
 - Institutional Members : 05
 - Annual Members (2025/2026): 04 (2025) and 04 (till date for 2026)
- 2.3.6 **Pending SPBB activities:** Dr. Dahuja informed the house that some approved activities for the year 2025 are yet to be conducted. However, the proposers of these activities have assured to organise these at the earliest possible.
- 2.3.7 **Inviting Fresh Proposals for the Year 2026:** It was informed to the house that proposals for organization of scientific events under SPBB banner for the year 2026 have been invited from various Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and notification in this regard has also been posted on the society's website for wider publicity and broader participation.

III. FELICITATION CEREMONY:

- 3.1 It has been a rich tradition of SPBB to honour and felicitate the Organising Secretaries/Convener(s) of the previous year's National/International conference held under the banner of SPBB. Continuing with this tradition, the Hon'ble President, SPBB on behalf of the Society, honoured Dr. R.C. Bhattacharya, Dr. Aruna Tyagi, and Dr. G.K. Rai by presenting a memento and a shawl for the successful organisation of the conference in the years 2023 and 2025 respectively.

IV DELIBERATIONS HELD AND DECISIONS TAKEN:

The felicitation ceremony was followed by extensive discussion on the progress made during FY 2024-25 and the way forward. The following unanimous decisions were taken:

- 4.1 **Renewal of the Chartered Accountant's tenure:** - Based on the satisfaction expressed by the Treasurer, SPBB in her report and quality of the audited financial reports presented, all the members proposed the renewal of the tenure of M/s Atul Puri and Company, New Delhi for maintaining the continuity and efficiency. The proposal was readily agreed upon and approved by President, SPBB.
(Action: Treasurer/Secretary)
- 4.2 **Revamping of the Editorial Board, JPBB:** After listening to the problems encountered by the Chief Editor, SPBB regarding reviewing of the manuscripts, the members were of the opinion that there is an urgent need to induct young Editors/Reviewers in place of unresponsive editors. Furthermore, considering the volume of manuscripts received in JPBB every year, it was felt that appointment of a Co-Chief Editor to support and strengthen the Chief Editor, JPBB would help to enhance the overall efficiency. The president, SPBB readily agreed to and approved the proposal.
(Action: Chief Editor)
- 4.3 **Restructuring SPBB's Annual activities and Enhancement of Seed money:** Considering the concerns expressed by the organizers of the various SPBB annual activities regarding financial constraints experienced by them, the members were of the opinion that number of zonal activities in a year can be limited to three (*one of which*



must be student-centric) but the seed money sanctioned for these events by the Society can be increased from the extant Rs. 0.5 lakh to Rs. 1.00 lakh per activity. Further, it was emphasized that the proposal invitation should remain open on the website throughout the year and a decision may be made every 4-6 months. (**Action: Secretary**)

V. REMARKS:

Dr. S. L. Mehta, Immediate Past president, SPBB & **Dr. P. Ananda Kumar**, Vice president, SPBB, in their invited remarks, highly appreciated the functioning of the society under the leadership and guidance of Prof. T. R. Sharma, President, SPBB and expressed immense satisfaction over the range and quality of the annual activities being organized under the SPBB banner. They suggested to give special emphasis on the organization of the student-centric workshop(s).

Prof. T. R. Sharma, President, SPBB congratulated Dr. R. Srinivasan, Dr. Archana Singh, and Dr. Anil Dahuja for their sincere and dedicated efforts in the service of SPBB. He also acknowledged the devotion and commitment of Mr. Jitendra Prateek, Assistant Manager, SPBB towards the SPBB and managing the secretarial work of the Society excellently.

Meeting concluded with vote of thanks and this proceedings has the approval of President, SPBB.


27.02.2026

(Anil Dahuja)
Secretary, SPBB



Sr. No.	Name of the member	Address	Contact Number	Signature
1.	Dr. S.L. Mehla	71 Gokul Nagar Udlaipur	9450919188	
2.	Dr. R.C. Bhattacharya	ICAR-NIPB, New Delhi -		
3.	Dr. T.R. Sharma	ICAR-NIPB, New Delhi	9818886087	
4.	Dr. P. Ananda Kumar	ICAR-IRR, Hyderabad	8143662455	
5.	Prof. Alchitosh K. Tyagi	University of Delhi, South Campus	9871277558	
6.	Prof. K. R. Koundal	For more details NIPB New Delhi	9868379566	
7.	Dr. Amarendra Chandra	Dean CBSH RPCAU, Pusa	8009141285	
8.	Dr. Subodh Kumar Sinha	Pr. Scientist, ICAR-NIPB, New Delhi	9990112641	
9.	Dr. Ashish Ranjan	Scientist II, NIPB, New Delhi	9717363272	
10.	Prof. Rupesh Deshmukh	Central University of Haryana	9650792638	
11.	Dr. Santosh K. Gupta	ICAR-IIMR Hyderabad	9312294317	
12.	Prof. (C.M.) Nawaz Ahmad Khan	Prof & Head Dept of MB 2B ANBUAT, Lucknow Ayodhya (U.P.)-224229	9721131349 & 9415716264	
13.	Dr. G.K. Rai	SKUAST-Jaipur	9419145785	
14.	DR ALON DAS	IIPR, KANPUR 208024	9451446964	
15.	Dr. SHARMISTHA BARTHAKUR	ICAR-NIPB	9871353867	
16.	DR. ARCHANA SINGH	#402, Biochemistry Div. ICAR-IARI	9810424146	
17.	Prof. B. C. TRIPATHY	Dept. of Biochemistry, Sharda University, Varanasi	9818104924	
18.	Dr. Jyestharani Pradhan	Asst. Prof. (Plant Physiology), CBSH,	9200709286	
19.	Dr. AMIT KUMAR RAI	RPCAU	8130718912	
20.	Dr. ANIL DAHWA	Division of Biochemistry, ICAR-IARI	9818379701	
21.	Dr. Ajay Kumar Mahato	Lab of Genome Informatics	9868303571	
22.	Dr. Veda Lakshmi	BRIC-CDFD, Hyderabad	9910310688	
23.	Dr. Jyoti Bala Singh	IARI	9527184211	
24.	Dr. Arane Tyagi	IARI	9013130408	
25.	Dr. Anurag Tyagi	CAU (I)	9436336009	
26.	Dr. Kuldeep Kumar	ICAR-NIPB	9911394057	
27.	Dr. Deepanshu Jaiswal	ICAR-NISSI, Moh	7065079257	
28.	SRINIVASAN	NIPB	9968268116	