

Proceedings of the ISS Executive Council Meeting

The executive council meeting of Indian Society for Spices (ISS) was held on 18th January 2012, 4.00 PM at ATIC Hall, Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode. The meeting was presided over by the President of the society, Dr. M. Anandaraj.

The following members were present in the meeting

1. Dr. M. Anandaraj, President, ISS
2. Dr. S.J. Ankegowda, Vice President, ISS
3. Dr. S. Devasahayam, Chief Editor, JOSAC
4. Dr. M. Tamil Selvan, Member, Executive Council, ISS
5. Dr. Santhosh J. Eapen, Member, Executive Council, ISS
6. Dr. Homey Cheriyan, Member, Executive Council, ISS
7. Dr. V. Srinivasan, Secretary, ISS
8. Dr. D. Prasath, Joint Secretary, ISS
9. Dr. E. Jayashree, Treasurer, ISS
10. Dr. K.V. Saji, Invitee

The meeting began with a welcome by the president. He thanked the old executive for their constant support and welcomed the new executive members for the first meeting of the newly elected Executive Council.

The meeting took up the following agenda items for discussion,

1. Nominating Vice President (one) & Executive members (five)

- The executive council nominated the following persons for the post of Vice president and Members, Executive Council.

Vice President (Nominated) - Dr. M.R. Sudharshan, Director (Res.), ICRI, Myladumpara

Members, Executive Council (Nominated):

- Dr. K.V. Saji, IISR, Kozhikode
- Dr. Gopal Lal, NRCSS, Ajmer
- Dr. E.V. Nybe, College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara, Thrissur
- Mr. M.G. Hoysala, Sri Siddalingeshwara Estate, Coorg
- Mr. Amirthraj, Tata coffee Ltd., Kodagu

2. Nominating Zonal Councilors (five)

- Executive council nominated five zonal councilors as follows,
 - Eastern Zone – Dr. B.C. Deka, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Nagaland Centre, Medziphema
 - Western Zone – Dr. P.M. Haldankar, College of Agriculture, Dapoli
 - Southern Zone – Dr. Richard Kennedy, TNAU, Devicode, Tamil Nadu

Northern Zone – Dr. Munnu Singh, CIMAP-Research Centre, Bangalore

Central Zone – Dr. C. Sarada, Horticultural Research Station, Guntur

3. Reconstituting Editorial committee of JOSAC

Considering the request from Dr. S. Devasahayam, Chief Editor, JOSAC, reconstituting the editorial committee of JOSAC was discussed. EC praised the efforts of the present editorial committee for improving the status and quality of the journal. The EC identified Dr. R. Dinesh as the chief editor for the journal and suggestions were made to make a compatible editorial team for making the activities of the journal more vibrant.

4. Briefing about SYMSAC-VI

The successful conduct of the SYMSAC-VI was briefed by the Secretary to the EC. The sixth Symposium on Spices and Aromatic Crops (SYMSAC-VI) organized by the Indian Society for Spices (ISS), Kozhikode on 'Exploiting Spices Production Potential of the Deccan Region' was held at University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka, during 8–10 December 2011. About 120 delegates representing various research institutes, colleges and Farmers from Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu were participated. About 70 posters were presented in the poster session and awarded HS Mehta Award & Alapatti Prasadarao Awards for the best posters. Secretary also expressed sincere thanks to the previous executive and officials of UAS, Dharwad for extending full support in making the symposium a success. The EC suggested for speeding up the submission of related bills from UAS, Dharwad and auditing the same at the earliest for further submission to the funding agencies.

5. Other items for discussion

- The issue on sponsoring the forthcoming PLACROSYM was discussed. As the present contribution is fixed at Rs. 40,000/-, it is not possible for the society to sponsor the same. Since ISS is not having any major role in the activities of PLACROSYM, EC has suggested for not to contribute for the same.
- EC has approved sponsoring of Anniversary week of Regional Science Centre, Calicut by the way of contributing Rs. 6000/-, for lunch on the day of event.
- For the request on sponsoring Lt. Amit Singh Foundations – Horti Congress to be held in May 2012, EC suggested for contribution of Rs. 10,000/- as ISS advertisement in the souvenir, as done during previous meetings.
- EC has also approved hiking the emolument for the Secretarial assistant Ms. Deepthi to Rs. 200/- per day and suggested for improving her secretarial and on line journal communication/ maintenance capabilities.
- Regarding the online journal, the necessity to frequently check the accessibility and availability of online articles at journal site was stressed. It was also suggested to engage trained personnel or agency for maintaining the website with constant updating.
- EC has also stressed the need to obtain an international impact factor during forthcoming years by making the issues more regular and vibrant. As the NAAS rating has improved for the journal (3.9), the chief editor was the opinion that the number of

papers coming for publication has increased by many fold. To maintain the tempo he stressed the need for regular monitoring and replying to the queries, related to processing of papers.

- The President thanked Dr. VS. Korikanthimath for the contribution of Rs. 25,000/- to the society to institute an award for the best PhD thesis published on spices. In view of that, EC has constituted following committee to frame guidelines for selecting best PhD thesis from various agencies working on spices research.

Dr. M. Tamil Selvan – Chairman

Dr. S. Devasahayam – Co Chairman

Dr. Santhosh J. Eapen – Member

Dr. D. Prasath – Member Secretary

- It was suggested during the GB meeting held on 8th December 2011 at UAS, Dharwad that, society can honor innovative farmers by awarding them during SYMSAC meetings. EC has discussed the same and suggested for instituting an award by the society for innovative farmers from SYMSAC-VII onwards. It was also suggested to explore the possibility for getting a capital fund from other agencies, otherwise the society itself to sponsor the same. Dr. Santhosh J. Eapen has also suggested a name - “Sugandhasree” for the award. EC has suggested that the committee identified for evolving the guidelines for selecting best Ph.D thesis on spices may evolve the guidelines for nominations/ selections for this award also.
- EC has also suggested for popularizing the activities of ISS among wider audience other than seminars through publication of books on related/ current topics in simple language. Topics like crop specific GAPs may be written in simple languages and popularized among the common audience. Dr. Santhosh J. Eapen has suggested for popularizing the role played by ISS institutional members in the form of advertisement in souvenirs during our seminar publications.
- EC members also suggested for exploring the possibility of online money transactions for society related payments which may help to get international subscribers.

Dr. V. Srinivasan, Secretary proposed the vote of thanks.

(V Srinivasan)
Secretary