

Proceedings of the General Body meeting of SAWR held on August 22, 2014 at JNKVV, Jabalpur, MP

The General Body meeting of the Society for Advancement of Wheat Research was convened on August 22, 2014 from 10-11 hours in the Auditorium, College of Agriculture, JNKVV, Jabalpur as per the agenda listed below;

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Welcome and Secretary's Report | RK Sharma |
| 2. Treasurer's Report | Sindhu Sareen |
| 3. Editor's Report | Gyanendra Singh |
| 4. Announcement & Certificates of SAWR Fellows-2014 | Indu Sharma |
| 5. Release of SAWR Year Book-2014 | VS Tomar, VC, JNKVV |
| 6. Presentation of Professor Mahatim Singh Memorial Award-2014 | GP Singh |
| 7. Proposal for Change of Name Society and Journal | RK Sharma |
| 8. Proposal for Revision of Membership Fee | Sindhu Sareen |
| 9. Open House Discussion | RK Sharma |
| 10. Presidential Address | Indu Sharma |
| 11. Vote of Thanks | RK Gupta |

After welcoming the delegates to the General Body meeting, Dr RK Sharma, General Secretary, SAWR presented the report. He informed the house that the society was registered on 22nd May 2007 and initiated publishing the Journal of Wheat Research, but after publishing two volumes it became dormant. The executive committee was reconstituted during 2012 and it started publishing the JWR. Initially there was difficulty in getting the articles as the JWR was not NAAS rated and the executive also faced financial crunch. Due to the cooperation from SAWR members, in general, and the executive, in particular, the society was able to publish seven issues (including backlog volume) in two and a half years enabling the JWR to secure a NAAS rating of 3.11. Congratulations to all concerned. He further informed the house that at the time of reconstitution of the executive there were only 84 life members. Due to concerted efforts by all, we have at present 158 life members, 14 annual members and 8 student members. During the past two and a half years, the society was able to enrol 71 annual and 31 student members. He thanked Dr GP Singh, Principal Scientist, IARI, New Delhi for sponsoring the institution of young scientist award, "Prof Mahatim Singh Memorial Award" in the fond memory of his beloved late father Prof. Mahatim Singh. Dr Sharma further informed that the Executive of the SAWR unanimously decided to honour the founder life members by awarding them the society Fellowship. He also informed that the society needs to be re-registered under the new society registration rules in Haryana and the required application has already been submitted on 28th March, 2014.

The Treasurers' Report was presented by Dr (Mrs) Sindhu Sareen. She informed that during 2012, when the present executive took over, the society had only Rs 12,814/- in its account. During 2012-13, Rs 96,615/- were generated mainly through membership and interest on saving account and there was no expenditure since the printing cost was met from other sources and the balance amount available was Rs 1,09,429/- by the end of 2012-13. During 2013-14, the total receipts were Rs 2,75,474/-, out of which an amount of Rs 1,49,596/- was from membership fee, Rs 1,15,000/- from advertisement fee and Rs 10,878 from interest and other miscellaneous sources. The expenditure during the year was Rs 78,839, mainly on publication of two issues of JWR and some other petty items. The balance available in as on 31.03.2014 was Rs 3,06,064/-.

The Editors' Report was presented by Dr Gyanendra Singh. It was highlighted that the last seven issues of JWR (3-1 to 6-1) have been published and in addition, a new initiative was implemented by publishing SAWR Year Book 2014. This publication includes information about awards, fellows, members and the audit report of the society. He informed the members that journal has undergone continuous changes and the efforts by the central executive have been appreciated and are visible. The editorial team has also been strengthened by adding few more overseas members. Also, the advisory board has been constituted and details are available in the latest issue. The process for online submission, reviewing and acceptance or otherwise has also been implemented and online

team is looking after this aspect. He emphasized upon submission of quality articles for the coming issues of JWR and the central executive is commitment to further improve the quality of the journal.

This was followed by honouring the founder life members of the society by conferring on them the SAWR Fellow for the year 2014 by Dr (Mrs) Indu Sharma, President, SAWR.

Dr VS Tomar, Vice Chancellor, JNKVV, Jabalpur, MP released the SAWR Year Book-2014 and congratulated the SAWR family for reviving the society and securing the NAAS rating for the Journal of Wheat Research.

The next item on the agenda was presentation of Prof. Mahatim Singh Memorial Award. The first recipient of the "Prof Mahatim Singh Memorial Award" was Dr Rajender Singh Chhokar who was honoured by Dr GP Singh, son of Prof Mahatim Singh, who also sponsored the award in the memory of his late father.

Since, the majority of the members were of the opinion that the name of the society and the journal needs a relook, since, it covers researches on both wheat and barley crops. After discussions, it was unanimously decided to change the name of society from "Society for Advancement of Wheat Research (SAWR)" to "Society for Advancement of Wheat and Barley Research (SAWBAR)" and the name of journal from "Journal of Wheat Research (JWR)" to Wheat and Barley Research (WBR)"

It was also felt by all that due to steep hike in prices there is a need to revise the membership rates as well. After thorough deliberations, it was decided to do away with the admission fee and the following flat membership fees were decided, which will be effective from 1st January, 2015

Revised Membership Fee Decided

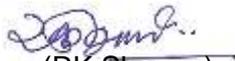
Membership	Indian	SAARC Countries	Others
Annual	800	US\$ 50	US\$ 100
Life	5000	US\$ 200	US\$ 400
Student	500		

During the open house discussion, members put forth the suggestions like making the journal online, trying for the international impact factor and to have zonal level chapters for greater effect of the society.

Dr (Mrs) Indu Sharma while delivering the Presidential address called upon all the SAWR members to proactively contribute to make the society still stronger by contributing quality articles as well as motivating fellow scientists to enrol as members of the society as well as exploring the possibilities of arranging the finances from various sources including foreign membership.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks by Dr RK Gupta, Vice President of the society. He expressed thanks to Dr VS Tomar to preside over the meeting, Dr Indu Sharma, President, SAWR, Dr JS Sandhu, Agriculture Commissioner, GOI and Dr RP Dua, ADG (FFC) for gracing the occasion and the society members and office bearers for the good work done over the past more than two years.

The proceedings are issued with the approval of the President, SAWR.


(RK Sharma)
General Secretary