

Proceedings of the ESI Annual General Body Meeting convened on 15.10.2022 on the sidelines of the ESI Annual Event (14.10.2022) held at IARI, New Delhi

The meeting was conducted in online mode on 15.10.2022 at 10.30 AM. The meeting started at 10 AM and in view of the reason that the required quorum was not there, the meeting was reconvened at 10.30 AM. The Executive Committee members and around 59 ESI members attended.

Following ex and new members of Executive Committee (EC)* were present during the AGBM

1. Dr. SN. Puri- President, ESI
2. Dr. BV. Patil -Vice President, ESI
3. Dr. VV Ramamurthy- Chief Editor, ESI
4. Dr. JP. Singh- General Secretary, ESI
5. Dr. Sachin S. Suroshe- Councillor, ESI
6. Dr. Subhash Chander- Joint Secretary, ESI and

The newly elected office bearers (effective 1st January, 2023) viz.,

7. Dr. PK. Chhuneja- Zonal President, ESI North Zone Council,
8. Dr. HK. Singh- Zonal President, ESI East Council,
9. Dr. RA Balikai-Zonal President, ESI South Zone 1 Council,
10. Dr. Udikeri- Zonal Councillor, ESI South Zone 1 Council
11. Dr. Poonam Jasrotia- Zonal Councillor, ESI North Zone Council
12. Dr. VK Bhamare- Zonal Councillor, ESI West cum Central Zone Council

*(The new Executive Committee will assume charge of the Society with the effect from 1st January, 2023)

- Dr. SN Puri, President ESI chaired the meeting and addressed the members regarding the achievements of ESI executive. He highlighted and appreciated the efforts of executive members in introducing different awards (ESI Young scientist, ESI Senior Scientist, ESI Best PhD thesis) for entomologists. He emphasized on financial position of society and informed members that the financial position is healthy. Also, appreciated efforts of the Chief Editor and team led by Dr VV Ramamurthy for improving the journal, the Indian Journal of Entomology significantly and, making it regular and open access. He suggested to start ESI Lifetime Achievement awards at the earliest and as soon as new Executive Committee takes charge. He emphasised that the new Executive Committee should strengthen involvement of

students from SAUs and other colleges in ESI activities by introducing “Student Congress” which may provide platform for students to present their work and interact with fellow entomologists at national level.

The following significant points emerged in the meeting, in addition to the revised bye-laws of the ESI, as approved in the meeting.

- Dr. Sachin S. Surosh mentioned the names of the deceased ESI members and staff in the last four years. All the members paid homage and expressed condolences. The meeting started with main agenda of the discussion on revised byelaws of ESI. Dr Sachin presented the revised byelaws to the ESI members for constructive suggestions and approval. The revised byelaws were unanimously approved with the following suggestions.

1. Dr. Poonam Jasrotia, suggested separate category for national and overseas membership. The suggestion was considered in the background of existing guidelines that there will be separate Indian and Foreign members. In her suggestion it was pointed out that other societies have separate Advisory Board members, and similar advisory board can also be introduced in ESI. This proposal will be placed before the EC in its next meeting and decision will be taken. Her suggestion that we can introduce Editorial Board members section-wise was also discussed. It was pointed out that this was in existence up to 2020, but to follow and adhere to the relevant Scopus criteria these were dispensed with, and presently we have National and International Editorial team, as required to satisfy these criteria.

2. Dr. Poonam also mentioned about the duties and responsibilities of Zonal Councils. Dr Poonam was requested to develop these guidelines for considerations by the EC in its next meeting.

3. Dr. Sushil Saxena suggested incorporating the word forestry, in the aims and objectives. It was pointed out that horticulture and forestry are going to be included. Dr. Sushil Saxena also suggested to introduce the awards in the name of eminent entomologist. This was discussed and it was pointed out that this is possible if someone wants to sponsor the award. However, the new EC will take a decision to implement the sponsoring of awards.

4. Dr. Balika mentioned about the rule on the renewal of FESI and emphasized that the due date for such renewal should be clear. Also suggested to send a reminder to Life Members for renewal of their membership before the due date. It was pointed out when a member completed 10 years, then he/she should renew the membership with additional fee of Rs. 5000/= from the due date. Society office will send correspondence to the members in this regard based on the available society records.

5. Dr. Mani Chellappan suggested to add wild life, forensics, nutrition and food Security to the scope of society. Also mentioned about the student concession for annual membership. It was agreed that these will be taken up by the new EC. The student membership also will be reduced based on the decision of the EC. To start with for the students the fee will be reduced to Rs. 500 per year and ex post facto approval of new EC will be taken. Dr Mani Chellappan along with other members mentioned that Zonal Councils need to be increased based on number of members and activities. To address this, it was decided to add to the Zonal Councils, more Chapters adhering to the modified guidelines of the ESI.

6. Dr. Ram Singh mentioned that to raise the funds for ESI, we should produce souvenirs, pens, etc and try to organize workshop in each zone for school children. Also, bring the Journal under Springer or any other publishers. In this connection the following details were discussed. The ESI is planning to popularise Entomology through different innovative ideas including students. As a first step "Students Congress" is going to be organized. The ESI is catering more to local entomologists who have only limited resources without compromising quality and to counter the problems that will arise by going to such big publishers. It was resolved that ESI will do its best to maintain minimum publishing charges for the present.

7. Dr. Udikeri mentioned that Journal should be published by ESI only and raised concern about Article Processing Charges (APC) rather than member fee. It was pointed out that in line with the practice followed by standard journals all over the world, IJE has decided to change to APC but at the same time integrated with ESI membership, so that member get some benefits. This is also necessitated with the current practices followed by Journals making the publication cost transparent. Hence, from January 2022 onwards the Journal is following APC. These will be reconsidered with more feedback from members in future.

8. Dr. JP Singh highlighted the contribution of late Drs. KM Singh and RN Singh to the society and suggested to update the history of society properly, in particular in the video developed recently. The ESI YouTube video will be upgraded as per Dr. JP Singh's suggestion. The ESI requested members to contribute in getting photographs of eminent entomologists missing in our ESI website, especially those of former Presidents.

9. Dr. SD Mohapatra, suggested to provide list of Fellows in the website. Also suggested for competitive Fellowship or Elected Fellow. The ESI agreed to both the suggestions and necessary action will be taken before revising the website in 2023.

10. Dr. Joseph Rajkumar suggested to choose best paper of the year based on citations from the papers published in the Indian Journal of Entomology. Also mentioned that biodata of eminent entomologists must be made available. It was decided that the EC will discuss this

matter and take a decision. Each Zonal Presidents will be given responsibility to develop a database and brief contribution of eminent entomologists from the relevant zone, and these will be in place by 2023.

11. Dr. Harishchandra Naik R, suggested to introduce “ESI Best Teacher Award” to encourage entomology teaching. Dr. TM Manjunath suggested “ESI Industry Award” to bridge the gap between industry and ESI. Both these suggestions were appreciated and the EC will discuss this matter and take a decision.

12. Dr.Kalaisekar suggested to improve social media approach (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn etc.) by sharing every article published in the ESI journals. It was pointed out thatthe society has already created social media pages and sharing day to day activities. A special media cell will be created for this purpose and as per the decisions taken by EC, action will be taken.

13. Dr. Poonam suggested Society yearbook with information about all Society members that can be made as softcopy/hard copy. The Society will consider this suggestions and a committee can be constituted for this purpose.By end of 2023, efforts will be made to provide an updated yearbook.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to Drs. Shashank, Timmanna, Sagar, Rajna and others for the excellent logistics and conduct of the meeting.