

**Proceedings of the Eighth meeting of the PPV&FR Authority held on  
29<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 in Committee Room No. III, NAAS,  
NASC Complex, New Delhi-110 012**

The Eighth meeting of the PPV&FR Authority under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. Nagarajan, Chairperson of the Authority was held on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 in the Committee Room-III, NAAS, NASC Complex, New Delhi-110 012.

**Following members were present in the meeting:-**

- 1) Dr. S. Nagarajan, Chairperson, PPV&FR Authority, Government of India, NASC Complex, New Delhi
- 2) Dr. S. Natesh, Adviser Grade – I, Government of India, Dept. of Biotechnology, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi – 110 003
- 3) Shri Satish Chandra, Joint Secretary & GC, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India, New Delhi
- 4) Dr. S. K. Sharma, Director, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi -110 012
- 5) Dr. F.B. Patil, Director (Research), Kirtiman Agro Genetics Ltd. , Plot no.19, Govind Nagar ,RTO, Station Road, Aurangabad-431 005

**Member Secretary**

1. Dr. A.K. Malhotra, Registrar General, PPV&FR Authority, New Delhi.

**Non members from the Authority**

1. Shri R. K. Trivedi, Registrar (FC), PPV&FR Authority, New Delhi
2. Dr. Manoj Srivastava, Registrar (Horti), PPV&FRA
3. Shri Rajeev Talwar, SAO, PPV&FRA

**The members who could not attend the meeting:-**

1. Dr. N.B. Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi-110 114
2. Dr. Swapan Kumar Dutta, Deputy Director General (Crop Science) Division of Crop Science, ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, NewDelhi110114.
3. Ms.Upma Chawdhry , Joint Secretary (Seeds), Department of Agriculture & Cooperation Ministry of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – 110114
4. Sh. S.K Pattanayak, Horticultural Commissioner ,Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – 110114
5. Joint Secretary (looking after biosafety), Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi – 110003
6. Shri Manvendra Kachole, Head, Dept. of Biotechnology, Shetkari Sangathan Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Vidyapeeth, Aurangabad (Maharashtra)
7. Smt. Rachel Chatterjee, IAS, Principal Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, D Block, 1st Floor, Hyderabad- 500 022
8. Dr. S.N. Puri, Vice Chancellor, Central Agriculture University, Imphal Manipur- 795004
9. Sh. Roshan Lal, IAS, Finance Commissioner & Principal Secretary, Agriculture Department, New Haryana Secretariat Building, Room-430, 4th floor, sector-17, Chandigarh- 160017
10. Shri Satpal Sangwan JDA (DC), Agriculture Department of Haryana, Chandigarh- 160017- Representated the Finance Commissioner and Principal Secretary Agriculture, Government of Haryana

At the outset, the Chairperson enquired from the Registrar (FC), about the requirement of quorum for conducting the meeting of the Authority. Registrar (FC) informed that as per Section- 3 (4) of the PPV& FR Act, 2001, the Authority consists of the Chairperson and 15 Members and

as per sub rule 7 of rule 16 of the PPV& FR Rules 2003, the quorum for the meeting of the Authority shall be five. As, the number of Members required for the quorum were present in the meeting the Chairperson directed Registrar General to conduct the meeting, Thereafter, the agenda items were presented by the Registrar General. It was also noted that this is a statutory body, many ex. officio members have never attended the meeting so far or rarely attend and thereby create difficulty in mustering quorum.

**Agenda No. 1 Welcome to the New Members of the Authority**

The Chairperson welcomed the appointment of three new Members i.e. Principal Secretary, Agriculture, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Finance Commissioner & Principal Secretary, Agriculture, Government of Haryana and Vice Chancellor Central Agriculture University, Imphal, Manipur who have recently been notified as Members of the Authority. However, it was observed that none of them could make it possible to attend the meeting. The Chairperson wanted to know as to whether the communication regarding their nomination had been sent to all the concerned at their correct addresses and that their consent had been received. Members were of the opinion that after the Government of India having taken a decision to nominate officials from the State Government as Members their consent was not necessary. It was agreed that a communication in this regard may again be sent to them. When informed that a representative of Finance Commissioner & Principal Secretary, Agriculture, Government of Haryana was present in the meeting the Chairperson observed that there is no provision for a representative of the member to attend the Authority meeting. He also desired that information about the Members, who have not been regularly attending the meetings, may be compiled and put up in the next Authority Meeting for information of the Authority/Government.

The Members welcomed Dr. A.K. Malhotra IFS, as the new Registrar General of the Authority and also placed on record their appreciation for the services rendered by Shri Prem Narain, IAS the earlier Registrar General who had been relieved from the Authority in the month of June, 2009 after completion of his deputation tenure in the Government of India.

**Agenda item No. 2 Confirmation of the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Authority**

The proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Authority held on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 were circulated vide Authority's letter No.PPV& FRA/Reg/1-08/08/1020 Dated: 04<sup>th</sup> May, 2009. No comments what so ever have been received from any member. As such the same were confirmed and adopted by the Authority.

**Agenda item No. 3 Action Taken Report (ATR) on the proceedings of the last Authority meeting**

The Action Taken Report on the proceedings of the Seventh meeting of the Authority held on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 was noted and approved by the Members.

**Agenda item No. 4 Appointment of new officers/officials in the Authority**

The Members noted the appointment of Dr. Manoj Srivastava and Dr. P.K. Singh as Registrar, Shri Rabi Raman Pradhan as a Legal Advisor and Shri Amir Ulla Siddiqi as a Computer Assistant in the Authority.

**Agenda item No. 5 Progress of Registry**

The updated position of the applications received, examined and conducting of DUS test of candidate varieties in the Plant Variety Registry was noted by the Members.

It was informed by the Registrar that so far 1379 applications for registration in 18 notified crop species have been received, out of which, 360 applications were for new category, 1001 for extant category & 18 for farmers' category. So far 119 candidate varieties have been sent for DUS testing. Out of 404 applications of extant varieties which were considered by EVRC, 320 applications were recommended for registration. The applicants of recommended varieties have been asked to submit specified quantity of seed and prescribed fees. The

passport data of 285 recommended applications have also been published in the Plant Variety Journal of India for calling objections.

It was informed that on completion the mandatory period of 90 days after publication in PVJI, when no objections were received and the applicant having deposited fees and the seed sample, Certificates of Registration for 117 extant varieties notified under the seed Act 1966 were issued. The Members expressed satisfaction with the progress of Plant Varieties Registration.

It was further informed that with a view to expedite and facilitate the registration work a computerized Plant Variety Information System (PVIS) has been developed in the Authority. The system had become functional and applications were being uploaded on the system. The Members appreciated the progress of computerization work in the Authority. They also suggested that Authority might develop comprehensive database of all the registered and reference varieties along with their characteristics. This database could be given to the users on payment basis. It was also decided that the Authority's old website and e.mail address on gmail account may be discontinued and while doing so, it must also be ensured that, the Authority's previous web address may not be misused by anybody.

**Agenda Item no.6 DUS test guidelines finalized for new crops**

The Members noted that the Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation on recommendation of the Authority had notified three more crop species namely Sugarcane, Ginger and Turmeric to become eligible for registration under PPV& FR Act, 2001. The DUS guidelines for these three crops have also been published in Plant Variety Journal of India. The DUS test guidelines for Cardamom, Pepper and oil seed crops namely : i) Indian Mustard ii) Gobhi Sarson, iii) Groundnut, iv) Castor, v) Linseed, vi) Sesame, vii) Sunflower, viii) Safflower and ix) Soyabean x) Rapeseed and xi) Karan Rai have also been finalized and are being published in Plant

Variety Journal of India. The DUS test guidelines for some more crops like Mango, Rose, Tomato, Brinjal, Okra, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Potato, Onion and Garlic are at advanced stages of finalization and would also be soon ready for publication.

It was also informed that the Department of Agriculture & Co-operation took action even before the establishment of PPV& FR Authority and funded ICAR for developing DUS test guidelines of 35 crops. When the Authority came in to existence, the first step it took was to finalize DUS test guidelines of identified important crops with the help of various Task Forces. Almost all crops identified in first phase have been completed for notification. Now under 11<sup>th</sup> Plan action has been taken to cover new crops for developing their DUS characteristics. The priority of the crops in second phase is determined based on their economic importance, uses and agro biodiversity point of view. The Members approved the commencing of the phase two for developing DUS test guidelines for the identified new crops.

**Agenda Item no. 7 Issue of various Gazette Notifications relating to PPV& FR Act, Rules and Regulations**

The Members noted that the Gazette Notifications (copies of which were annexed with the agenda notes) in respect of annual fees, DUS criteria for registration of common knowledge variety and farmers' variety, fixing of fees for registration of new varieties and Variety of Common Knowledge issued by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. On seeing the notification under section 29(2) for Sugarcane, Ginger and Turmeric the Authority expressed its appreciation for timely issuing of these Gazette Notifications by the DoAC.

**Agenda item no. 8 EFC proposal of Authority approved for XIth Plan Period**

The Members noted that the Expenditure Finance Committee memo of the Authority for an amount of Rs. 120 Crore for 11<sup>th</sup> plan period had been approved in the EFC meeting held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Agriculture) on 21-07-2009. The important activities

approved in the EFC memo are regarding the construction of PPV & FR Authority campus, maintenance of reference varieties, development of DUS test guidelines for new crops, establishment of Gene Bank facilities and support to referral laboratories etc.

With a view to expeditiously start the construction work of PPV & FR Authority campus and to monitor the progress of various activities of 11<sup>th</sup> Plan proposal, the Members accorded approved for the constitution of a committee under the Chairmanship of the Registrar General. In this committee, registrar, senior account officer and others may be included. The Chairperson was authorized to approve the composition and the terms of reference for the Committee.

(Action: SAO)

**Agenda no. 9. Meetings of the Project Appraisal Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee.**

The Members noted that the Project Appraisal Committee had reviewed the proposal for various ongoing and new projects sanctioned by the Authority. They also noted the progress of the various activities of the Authority which had been reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Committee.

(Action: Registrar II)

**Agenda Item no.10 Visit of delegation from the Authority to USA and Rome**

It was informed that a five member delegation comprising of various officers working in the office of the Authority led by the Chairperson had visited USA from 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2009 to 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2009. The Indian delegation had fruitful interaction with their counter parts in USA.

The Members also noted that Dr. Manoj Srivastava, Registrar II of the Authority had participated as a member of Indian delegation led by Joint Secretary (Seed) in 2nd World Seed Conference held in Rome from 8th-10th September, 2009.

**Agenda item no.11 Quasi Judicial functions of the Authority**

The Members opined that the Quasi Judicial functions of the Authority may not be further delegated and only after initial scrutiny of such cases by the office of the Authority, they may be put up to the Authority for consideration.

**Agenda Item no. 12 Agro Biodiversity Hotspot in India**

The Members noted that the Task Force constituted by the Authority under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.P. Nayar, Former Director, Botanical Survey of India had submitted its report to the Authority. This report has been published in the book form in two volumes and circulated to the Members of the Authority. The Members appreciated and acknowledged the high quality of work done by the Task Force.

**Agenda Item no. 13 Plant Genome Savior Award**

It was noted by the Members that under Section 45 of PPV&FR Act 2009 read with Rule 72 of PPV&FR Rule 2003, farmers/ community of farmers particularly the tribal and rural communities engaged in conservation, improvement and preservation of genetic resources of economic plants and their wild relatives specifically in areas identified as agro biodiversity hotspots will be supported and rewarded from the Gene Fund. With a view to recognize the Agro-Biodiversity conservers and protectors the Authority started the Plant Genome Saviour community recognition in 2007. Thereafter to rationalize the whole process of recognition and award a working group under the Chairmanship of Dr. Manju Sharma, Ex-Secretary, DBT with representative from Ministries of Agriculture, Panchayati Raj, Law & Justice & Civil Society was constituted. The group after finalizing the procedure and guidelines has made the following recommendations.

1. Number and Amount of Awards to be given:

**A maximum of 15 Awards under the two categories to be given every year:**

- a) **Individual farmer: maximum of ten awards of Rs. 1.0 lakh each.**
  - b) **Community based: maximum of five awards of Rs. 10.0 lakh each.**
2. Constitution of Search and Selection Committees
  3. Format of Application Form and Procedures
  4. Suggested Score Card for preliminary screening of the applicants.

The members accepted the recommendation of the working group in general except with an observation that while screening the application and awarding marks as per the recommended score card a minimum cut of marks should be kept essential for selection. Farmer/farming community who score less than the minimum cut of marks shall not be eligible for the award even if it amounts to the awarding of less no. of awards than what has been recommended by the working group i.e. 15 awards in a year. This is required to keep high standards for the Award.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14. ENHANCEMENT OF CONSULTATION/ SITTING CHARGES FOR THE CONSULTANTS/ MEMBERS OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES IN THE AUTHORITY**

The Members accorded approval to the enhancement of sitting charges for the expert of various committees/ Task Force from Rs. 1500/- to Rs. 2000/- from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 1500/- and from Rs. 800/- to Rs. 1200/- per day in different categories, and will be applicable for next five years.

**Agenda No. 15 Medical coverage for employees of the Authority**

On perusal of the information as brought out in the agenda notes the Authority approved the proposal of re-imbusement of medical expenditure within the ceiling limit of one month's basic pay in a financial year to its employees/officers on the basis of self certificate to be given by the employees to the effect that the expenditure has been actually been incurred towards the treatment of self or any member of his/her family as being followed in another Authority i.e. the

National Highways Authority of India under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways. This reimbursement will be done in four equal instalments at the end of each quarter to the extent of one fourth of the basic pay for each quarter. In case an employee incurs an expenditure of more than 25% of his entitlement in a quarter, he/she shall be required to submit the bills/cash memos for the entire amount. Such excess shall be adjusted in the subsequent quarter and the reimbursement in one financial year shall not exceed one month's pay in the normal course. However, in case of serious illness requiring admission in a hospital the employees may get admitted to any Govt. /CGHS empanelled hospital and the actual reimbursement based upon the proper certificates etc. given by the hospital will be made.

**Agenda item no. 16**                      **Creation of New posts.**

It was informed that in the approved EFC for the 11<sup>th</sup> plan period, 21 new posts of various level have been created. In order to frame recruitment rules for these posts, a committee has been setup under the Chairmanship of Registrar General. After finalization of Recruitment Rules and approved by the Chairperson the proposal for creation of various posts will be sent to Department of Expenditure for further action. Progress made in this regard be placed before the Authority in their next meeting.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairperson and Members of the Authority.