



Minutes of the 21st Meeting of the Authority

Venue : **NASC Complex, Delhi**
Time : **11:00 AM**
Date : **31st October 2014 (Friday)**

Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority
Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India,
S-2, A-Block, NASC Complex, DPS Marg, Opp. Todapur, New Delhi – 110
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21st Meeting of the PPV&FR Authority

Meeting Type	Authority Meeting	Date and Time	31 October 2014 at 11:00 Hrs.
Subject	21 st Meeting of the PPV&FR Authority		
Venue	Board Room, IGH, NASC Complex, New Delhi		

Attendance	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The following members attended the meeting :</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. R.R. Hanchinal, Chairperson, PPV&FR Authority, New Delhi 2. Shri R.K. Singh, Joint Secretary (Seeds) 3. Sh. Inder Kumar, Joint Secretary (Law) 4. Dr. K.S. Charak, Scientist 'G' Adviser, DBT 5. Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Commissioner (horticulture) 6. Dr. K.C. Bansal, Director, NBPGR 7. Dr. Usha Barwale, Managing Director, Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Limited, Jalna, Maharashtra (Teleconferencing) 8. Sh. Mayaram Nettam, Programme Officer, (Retired), AIR and Doordarshan 9. Mrs. Neelam Tyagi, Secretary, Laxmi Jan Kalyan Sewa Sansthan 10. Dr. R. C. Agrawal, Registrar-General, PPV&FR Authority, New Delhi, (Member Secretary) <p style="text-align: center;">Leave of absence was granted to following member</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Sudhir Kr. Goel, IAS, Add. Chief Secretary 2. Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Additional Secretary 3. Dr. S.K. Datta, Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences), ICAR 4. Dr. B.S. Dhillon, VC, PAU, Ludhiana 5. Dr. J.S. Sandhu, Commissioner (Agril.), Govt. of India
Introduction	At the outset, Dr. R. C. Agrawal, Member Secretary and Registrar-General, PPV& FR Authority welcomed all the members. The Chairperson also welcomed the members and briefed the members about the latest initiatives of the Authority.
Declaration of Conflict of Interest by Members	All the members submitted duly filled forms for the declaration of conflict of interest. There was no conflict of interest by any

	member.
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Agenda Item	Subject	Discussion/Suggestion												
1	Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting (20 th Authority Meeting) held on 17 th April 2014	The minutes of the 20 th Authority Meeting held on 17 th April 2014 were adopted unanimously.												
2	Action taken report	It was informed that the Authority has taken necessary action on all recommendations of the last meeting held on 17 th April 2014. Members noted the Action Taken Report and adopted the same.												
3	Progress of Plant Varieties Registry	Chairperson presented the progress of the registry. Members appreciated the progress related to clearance of pendency, awareness programmes, and specially the progress in the registration of farmers' varieties. Members asked for a special drive for the registration of Farmers' varieties of J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand Region (Rice-Basmati, Rajmash etc).												
4	Extant Variety Recommendation Committee (EVRC)	The progress of the 24 th and 25 th Extant Variety Recommendation Committee (EVRC) Meetings was noted by the Authority members.												
5	DUS test fees for the crops notified vide S.O. 1903 (E) dated 16.4.2014 in the Gazette of India	<p>The following DUS Test fee for newly notified crop species was approved by the Authority-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Notified crops in The Gazette of India vide S.O. 1903 (E) dated 16.4.2014</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">S. no.</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Notified Crops</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Amount of DUS test fee to be charged from applicant in respect of new varieties (Per entry /per crops)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1.</td> <td>Pomegranate</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Rs. 50,000/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2.</td> <td>Orchid</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Rs. 50,000/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3.</td> <td>Orchid (moth orchid)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Rs. 50,000/-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S. no.	Notified Crops	Amount of DUS test fee to be charged from applicant in respect of new varieties (Per entry /per crops)	1.	Pomegranate	Rs. 50,000/-	2.	Orchid	Rs. 50,000/-	3.	Orchid (moth orchid)	Rs. 50,000/-
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		4. Bitter gourd	} cucurbits	Rs. 50,000/-
		5. Bottle gourd		Rs. 50,000/-
		6. Cucumber		Rs. 50,000/-
		7. Pumpkin		Rs. 50,000/-
		8. Barley		Rs. 40,000/ -
		9. Coriander		Rs. 50,000/-
		10. Fenugreek		Rs. 50,000/-
		11. Almond		Rs. 50,000/-
		12. Apple		Rs. 50,000/-
		13. Pear		Rs. 50,000/-
		14. Apricot		Rs. 50,000/-
		15. Cherry		Rs. 50,000/-
		16. Walnut		Rs. 50,000/-
		17. Grapes		Rs. 50,000/ -
		18. Indian Jujube (Ber)		Rs. 50,000/ -
		19. Casuarina		Rs. 50,000/-
		20. Eucalypts		Rs. 50,000/-
6	General guidelines for on-site DUS testing	Guidelines for on-site DUS testing published in the Volume 8 No.7 of Plant Varieties Journal of India were approved.		
7	Plant Genome Saviour Community Award, Farmers' Reward & Recognition 2013	The progress regarding the Plant Genome Saviour Community Award, Farmers' Reward & Recognition 2013.		
8	Annual Report of the Authority for the Year 2013-14	The Draft Annual Report for the year 2013-14 was adopted by the Authority.		
9	Proposal for adoption of Annual Accounts of the Authority for the year 2013-14	<p>The Annual Accounts of the Authority for the year 2013-14 as contained in the agenda item were discussed in detail. Member Secretary informed that the Annual Accounts duly approved by the Chairperson were sent to C&AG on 30th June 2014 for conducting the audit. The accounts of the Authority were audited by the team deputed by C&AG w.e.f. 12.8.2014 to 22.8.2014. Para-wise replies of Draft Separate Audit Report received on 8.9.2014 were sent on 22.9.2014. The matter was discussed with concerned officers in C&AG and it was informed that final audit report was ready but due to unavoidable circumstances the same could not be got signed from competent authority and issued. The report is likely to be received early in the next week.</p> <p>After discussion on various points, the Annual Accounts were adopted by the Authority. Since audit report is awaited, it</p>		

		was decided that a copy of audit report along with para-wise management replies be circulated to all the Authority members for their approval. It was also decided that printed copies of audited Annual Accounts for the year 2013-14 both in Hindi and English version be sent to Ministry for placing the same before Parliament in the ensuing winter session.										
10	DUS Test Guidelines of four crop species	<p>Following four crop species guidelines were approved by the Authority.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of crop species</th> <th>Published in PVJ</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Canna (<i>Canna</i> L.)</td> <td>June 2014</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gladiolus (<i>Gladiolus</i> L.)</td> <td>July 2014</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muskmelon (<i>Cucumis melo</i> L.)</td> <td>July 2014</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Watermelon (<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> (Thunb.) Mansf.)</td> <td>July 2014</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of crop species	Published in PVJ	Canna (<i>Canna</i> L.)	June 2014	Gladiolus (<i>Gladiolus</i> L.)	July 2014	Muskmelon (<i>Cucumis melo</i> L.)	July 2014	Watermelon (<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> (Thunb.) Mansf.)	July 2014
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11	Additional Agenda- Consideration of the representation of Dr. Tejbir Singh, Registrar, PPV&FRA apropos adverse remarks and grading in his Annual Performance Assessment Report (APAR) for the year 2013-14.	<p>The Authority went through the various aspects of the representation dated 30.9.2014 of Dr. Tejbir Singh, Registrar addressed to the Chairperson, PPV&FRA against adverse remark and grading in his Annual Performance Assessment Report (APAR) for the year 2013-14 vis-à-vis APAR of the Officer for the year 2013-14. The Authority also listened to and perused very carefully the views of the Reporting Officer/Reviewing Officer in the matter adduced in the Note submitted before the Authority along with supporting document/(s). After taking into consideration the entire gamut of the issues involved in the case it emerges that there is no sufficient ground for expunction of the adverse entry and improvement in the grading and hence the Authority decided to reject the representation of Dr. Tejbir Singh, Registrar for expunction of the adverse entry and awarding him better grading or improving the grading with a direction that the decision so arrived at may be conveyed to the petitioner (Dr. Tejbir Singh).</p>										
	Any other point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Authority should also focus on the crop species where applications for registration are yet to be filed - Nodal persons may be identified in various zones or states 										

		<p>who can co-ordinate on behalf of Authority about farmers' Rights, registration of farmers varieties, awareness about the awards/rewards and other activities of the Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enrich the Gene Fund, donations from various stakeholders like seed industry, national and international organizations. The Authority should make concerted efforts for the tax exemption for donations to Gene Fund. Private Seed Companies can also be requested for donations under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as works under CSR cannot be counted as business expenditure but certain social welfare spending activities could be considered for tax benefits. - As proposed by representatives of the global plant breeding sector for an international system of cooperation in processing of applications for plant breeders' rights for filing and processing and not granting plant breeders' rights, the PPV&FR Authority may also brainstorm for adoption of such proposal so that the process for receiving, processing and examining PBR applications creates a single, broad, common test-bed for evaluation of new ideas and implementation of improvements without the need to coordinate across many individual systems operating in parallel. - The facilitators from NARS and NGOs may be suitably rewarded (with recognition certificate, citation and cash of Rs. 10,000) for facilitating filing at least 100 applications at a time in different crops and for staff of Authority for more than 500 applications at a time. This is to encourage the facilitators for their efforts and also to motivate others to come forward for such activities. - Authority may undertake a separate activity to study the impact of the awareness programs and other measures to further take up awareness about the PPVFR Act to the related stakeholders. Authority may also take up studies to study the impact of the PPVFR Act. - A visit may be planned by the Authority for some of its Members to see the India's Seed Hubs like Hyderabad, Aurangabad etc. so that they can interact with the Seed Industry about their views on PPVFR Act.
<p>The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair</p>		