

Proceeding of GBM of Indian Association of Soil and Water Conservationists held on 25th July, 2020 at ICAR-IISWC, Dehradun.

The General Body Meeting of Indian Association of Soil and Water Conservationists was held on 25th July 2020, at ICAR-IISWC, Dehradun through the zoom web platform. The meeting started with the welcome of the participating members by Dr. Debashis Mandal, Secretary IASWC, Dehradun. Dr. P. R. Ojasvi, the president, IASWC welcomed all the new office bearers of the executive body and congratulated the returning officer and team for the successful and unbiased conduct of the biennial term election 2020-2021 of IASWC. He further congratulated all the contesting members for taking part in the election process and strengthening the democratic structure of the IASWC. He congratulated and thanked Dr R.S. Yadav and his team for organizing National Conference on Resource Conservation for Soil Security and Jalshakti: Farmers Perspective in Bundelkhand (RCSSJ-2020) February 03-05, 2020 at Datia. He also congratulated all the organizing teams and committee members for nicely conducting an international webinar on "Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality" from 22nd to 24th July 2020. He acknowledged and profusely praised the efforts of the Chief Editor Dr. P. Dogra for his meticulous efforts in improving the quality of publications and standard of the journal.

Dr. Mandal appraised the gathering about recent achievements including the successful publication of the SWC bulletin with good quality articles. He presented the audited statement, achievements for the year 2019-2020 and proposed activities to be taken in 2020-2021 along with the tentative expenditure. The major achievements include successful completion of one national conference, one international webinar, processing, and presentation of annual awards, conducting 5 executive committee meetings, and timely publication of journals and the bulletin on "Soil and Water Conservation". The proposal for organizing the next conference of IASWC during 2021 was also discussed along with the tentative expenditure. He stressed about the strengthening the Regional Chapters and complemented Dr. S. Manivannan and Dr. M. Madhu for planning and initiating activities of the Southern Chapter and Eastern Chapter respectively. Following the presentation by the secretary, following points were discussed and decisions were made.

1. Refinement of IASWC Bye-Laws: The difficulty faced during the recently held election of IASWC because of the nomination of a single person for multiple positions in association, selection of Chief Editor by means of the election instead of academic credentials and the evaluation of the association on by the ICAR on the basis of the academic credentials (H-index and i10 index) of the key office-bearers warrants urgent modification in the present Bye laws of the IASWC to stay relevant in the prevailing competitive environment. It was decided to circulate the modified bye laws to all members.
2. In view of the limited citations of the journal and also very limited revenue generation, it was decided in the GBM to attempt for open access.
3. There was a discussion held in regard to the evaluation criteria for IASWC Awards, modifications were suggested to include more score for the performance and academic

credential and avoid casually distributing awards or awards in exchange of money as being practiced in several associations. A committee in the chairmanship of Dr. O. P. S. Khola, Vice president, IASWC is already working on it.

4. A decision to introduce a new award for new scientist of age 35 years was made.
5. It was decided to form an advisory committee for planning an International Conferences to commemorate by 2023/2024 Golden Jubilee (50th Year of IISWC).
6. There were suggestions for the presentation of the budget in the GBM in other formats, different from the audited statement, and was decided to modify according to the model copies to be provided by Dr. M. Madhu and Dr. O. P. S. Khola, the former secretaries of the IASWC.
7. There was a discussion on the publication charges of the journal which was very intelligently computed above 300 rupees per copy. Actual computation reveals the cost per copy as 71.78 rupees excluding 18% GST. In this regards, it was suggested to take service of Dr. Charan Singh, Principal Scientist (Forestry) and Dr. S. S. Shrimali Senior Scientist (SWCE) ICAR-IISWC Dehradun who volunteered to find a mechanism to reduce the present cost of journal, while maintaining the same quality.
8. Dr. Muruganandam Principal Scientist (Fisheries) ICAR-IISWC, Dehradun made a number of suggestions to modify the almost each and every step of present working of the associations and it was decided to look into and accommodate in the revised by laws if it stands the scrutiny in the light of the society act and bye laws of the academic association of high standard; different from the housing welfare societies and private marketing associations.
9. There was also a suggestion to introduce separate award for the teaching staffs based on high academic credential and achievements or to give considerable weight to experience of teaching for the existing awards.
10. There was a suggestion to open the association award for all disciplines and probably on a rotation basis without looking into the achievements and academic credentials. In this regards it was reiterated that the award is already open to all the disciplines provided the achievements and performance are evidenced in the field of Soil erosion, soil and water conservation, and related fields. The same criteria are also considered for the membership of the association.
11. The secretary also appealed to contribute good quality articles for forthcoming SWC Bulletin and for the IJSC.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks.



**Secretary, IASWC
Dehradun**