

## **ISAB NEWS**



Dr. Anand Kumar Singh

### **Society welcomes the new Vice-Chancellor**

Dr. Anand Kumar Singh, Vice Chancellor, C.S. Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur was born in Varanasi on January 1, 1962. He graduated from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi in 1982-83. He obtained M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi in 1985 and 1989, respectively. Did post-doctorate work during 1989-91 at Saga National University, Japan and during 2007-2008 at university of California, U.S.A. He has been visiting scientist in Japan.

Dr. Singh worked as Senior Scientist at Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR), Varanasi and as Head, Division of Horticultural Technology, IARI, New Delhi. Dr. Singh worked as Head, Division of Fruits & Horticultural Technology, IARI, New Delhi for more than 8 years. Earlier he worked as Deputy Director General, Horticultural Science & Crop Science in ICAR, New Delhi, served as Managing Director, National Horticulture Board, Govt. of India; as Chairman, Coconut Development Board, Kochi, Govt. of India during 2016-17 and Executive Director, National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Mission, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's welfare, Government of India, New Delhi. Dr. Singh worked as Head, Division of Vegetable Oil Development Board. He worked as Director General of National Horticulture Board from February 2015 to March, 2017. Worked additionally as Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences) in ICAR, New Delhi from July, 2017 to January, 2020 and worked as Deputy Director General (Horticulture) in ICAR from April, 2017 to June 15, 2023. He joined as Vice Chancellor, C.S. Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur on June 16, 2023.

Dr. Anand Kumar Singh represented India as Commissioner General for World Expo, Turkey. He had several Awards and Honors which included Mombusho Award, Japan during 1989-91; Saga National University Japan, Gold Medal by Indian Society of Horticulture Science and Gold Medal by Delhi Agriculture Horticulture Society. He was recognized as International Registrar Magnifera, Commission for Nomenclature and Cultivar Registration, ISHS, U.K.

Dr. Anand Kumar Singh was awarded D.Sc. (Honoris causa) by the Western Sydney University Australia. He was awarded Fellowships of NAAS, New Delhi, Horticulture Society of India, Hill Horticulture Development Society, Uttarakhand, National Academy of Biological Sciences and International Society of Nano-Sciences and Indian Society of Vegetable Science. He has been President of Delhi Agriculture Horticulture Society. Vice President of the Indian Society of Vegetable Science to date and Vice President of the Indian Society of Allumis.

Dr. Singh published 137 research papers, 28 book chapters, 12 books (two by Springer) and six Technical Bulletins.

Dr. Singh happens to be the Patron of the Indian Society of Agricultural Biochemists. The Society honoured him with Life Time Achievement Award In the inaugural function of the National Conference on Current Trends in Biological Sciences for sustainable Agriculture, Environment and Health under Climate Change & XV convention of the Indian Society of Agricultural Biochemists held at Lucknow University on Nov 23, 2023 jointly organized by the Society and Dept. of Botany, University of Lucknow, Lucknow.

## **The Society Organizes Conference**

The Indian society of Agricultural Biochemists, Department of Agricultural Biochemistry, C.S. azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur and Department of Botany University of Lucknow, Lucknow organized a National Conference on Current Trends in Biological Sciences for Sustainable Agriculture, Environment and Health under climatic change & XV Convention of the Indian Society of Agricultural Biochemists at Lucknow University from November 23 to 25, 2023. The Conference was inaugurated by Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Chairman, Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board, New Delhi on November 23, 2023.



Left to right Dr. Gauri Saxena, Dr. Munna Singh, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Dr. Alok Kumar Rai, Dr. Anand Kumar Singh, Dr. R S Dubey, Dr. S L Mehta & Dr. G P Srivastava.  
Release of souvenir in the inaugural function November 23, 2023



Left to right Dr. A N Mishra, Dr. Basant Ram, Dr. Munna Singh, Dr. G P Srivastava, Dr. J P Srivastava, Dr. R S Sangwan, Dr. P S Kendurkar, Dr. Mohammad Sathik. In the plenary session, November 25, 2023, Presentation of Poster Award Certificate by Prof. R S Sangwan.

Dr. Gauri Saxena, Professor, Department of Botany welcomed the Chief Guest Dignitaries and the delegates. Dr. G P Srivastava, Hony. General Secretary of the society presented the report and also announced the award of the Society Life Time Achievement award were present to Dr. Anand Kumar Singh, Vice chancellor C S Azad University of Agriculture and Technology Kanpur, Dr. R.S Dubey, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, Gujarat and Dr. PV Sane, Former Director, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow. Achievement awards were presented to Dr. Munna Singh, Professor, Department of Botany, Lucknow University and Dr P K Tandon, EX- Professor, Department of Botany, Lucknow University. The third award was announced to Dr. Dhan Prakash, Amity University who was not present. Honorary Fellowship Award of the Society were given to Dr. KR Koundal, Ex- Director, National Biotechnology Centre and Jt. Director/Research, IARI, New Delhi Dr. Koundal was not present and Dr SK Saha Professor, Emeritus, Kalinga Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar was honoured with the Hon. Fellowship Three Excellence Awards were given to co-organising Secretaries, Dr. Gauri Saxena and Dr.

Shalini Srivastava, Professors of Botony Department Lucknow University and one to the Treasurer Dr. M I Ansari, Professor, Department of Botony, Lucknow University.

Thereafter, Dr. S L Mehta, President, Indian Society of Agricultural Biochemists and former Vice-chancellor, M P U A & T, Udaipur delivered presidential address. He emphasized about the uses of agricultural biochemistry on overall development of Agriculture. Next Dr. Anand Kumar Singh, Vice Chancellor, C S A U & T, Kanpur who expressed his views on industrial application of enzymes and Omics in agriculture. Prof. R S Dubey, Vice-Chancellor, Central University, Gujrat, Gandhinagar, Gujrat addressed the audience, Prof. Alok Kumar Rai, Vice-chancellor, Lucknow University and President of the inaugural function addressed the audience. Lastly Prof. Munna Singh, Head, Department of Botany, Lucknow University and Ex- VC and organizing Secretary proposed vote of thanks to Chief Guest, delegates and guests to the conference.

After the inaugural function, keynote address was delivered by Prof. Absar Ahmed on Nano-biotechnology-bridging the gap between biology and nanoscience for sustainable agriculture which was chaired by Padamshree Prof. Pramod Tandon, NEHU, Shillong. After lunch eleven invited lectures on different topics under the theme area, environment in relation to sustainable agriculture and water conservation were delivered. The lectures were delivered by Emeritus scientist Professor Rajendra Kumar, and other Professors, Prof. H B Singh, Professor V K Banerwal, Professor Manoj Prasad, Professor CL Verma, Prof. S K Saha, Professor P S Deshmukh, Professor NK Dube, Professor A K Gaur, Professor R S Dubey, Professor Veer Singh. The session was chaired by Prof. R S Dubey, V C , Central University, Gujarat and co-chaired by Prof. Rajendra Kumar, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi. Before Dinner cultural programme was held in Maliviya Hall.

On November 24, 2023. Session started at 9:00 a.m. and 12 invited lectures were delivered under the theme area; stress adaptation and crop improvement. The lecture were delivered by emeritus scientist Professor A N Mishra and other Professors, Professor R P Singh, Professor R S Sangwan, Prof. Vibhu Sane, Professor Ram Chandra, Professor S K Guru, Professor R D Tripathi, Professor Dinesh Yadav and Professor Neelam Yadav. The session on invited lectures continued after lunch and five important lectures were delivered by emeritus scientist namely Professor Vasudeva Singh, Mysore and other Professors, Professor Shubhi Malhotra of Lucknow University, Professor Ramvant Gupta, Dr. Kishan Verma, and Dr. Pooja K Saklani. The session was Chaired by Professor BK Barnwal, ICAR-IARI New Delhi and co-chaired by Dr. Dinesh Yadav DDU, Gorakhpur

On November 24, 2023, the concurrent poster session was held the chairperson being Professor Gauri Saxena, Dept. of Botany, Lucknow University and co-chairperson being Professor SN Pandey Botany Department Lucknow University. All posters were displayed and five posters were awarded as first, second, third, fourth and fifth prizes given to Ms. Babythoithoi Sairem (P-18), Mr. Ramanand Yadav (P-90), Ms. Mallesh Gupta (P-80), Ms. Himani (P-74) and Ms. Nikita Verma (P-41), respectively. Besides poster session, a session of student elocution contest on Role of Biochemistry in Agriculture, Past, present and future. was held. Two students each from Agricultural Biochemistry Department CS A University Kanpur and from Biochemistry Department of Lucknow University participated. First, second, third and one consolation prize was awarded to Mr. Madastu Saikrishna, Ms. Nashra Khwaja, Ms. Sadaf Mukhtar and Ms. Ankita Chahote, respectively. All these awards were announced and conferred during the valedictory session on Nov 25, 2023 Chaired by Prof. J. P. Srivastava, Former Prof. & Head, Plant Physiology, BHU in presence of Prof. R. S. Sangwan, Ex Director AcSIR, NOIDA, Prof. A. N. Mishra, Former Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Vasudev Singh, Mysore, Dr. M. B. Mohamed Sathik, RRII, Kerala, Prof. G. P. Srivastava, Hony. Secretary-ISAB, Prof. P. K. Tandon and Prof. P. S. Kendurkar - both Vice President, ISAB including Prof. Munna Singh, Prof. Gauri Saxena, Prof. Shalini Srivastava, Prof. M. I. Ansari, Prof. A. C. Shukla and several other faculty members/participants of Botany Department, University of Lucknow.

On November 24, 2023, The General Body meeting was held at 06:00PM. In the absence of President, the meeting was chaired by Prof. P S Kendurkar, The Vice president of ISAB. The proceedings of the General Body meeting is given below.

In the absence of President, the Senior most Vice President, Dr. P.S. Kendurkar was requested to chair the meeting.

1. The Vice President & Chairman welcomed other Vice Presidents, special invitee Prof. Munna Singh, Organizing Secretary of the National Conference and other members of ISAB present.
2. The minutes of the last General Body meeting held on February 26, 2019 at MPKV, Rahuri, Maharashtra were read by Hony. General Secretary which were confirmed.
3. Fellowships (F.I.S.A.B.) were awarded to members who were present  
Following members were awarded-

- 1) Dr. Diwakar Singh ,Associate Professor (Biochemistry), A N D U A T, Kumarganj, Ayodhya.
- 2) Dr. Manju Bala, Principal Scientist (Biochemistry) ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana- 141 004
- 3) Dr.M.B.MohammedSathik, Principal Scientist (Botany) Officer Incharge- Botany Division, Rubber Research Institute of India, Kottayam-686 009, Kerala
- 4) Ms.Jayasree Gopala Krishna, Scientist –D (Physiology) Crop Physiology Division Rubber Research Institute of India, Kottayam-686 009, Kerala
- 5) Dr. Seema Bhatnagar, Professor &Asstt. Director Centre For Biotechnology & Biochemical Engineering, Amity University, Noida-201 303, U.P.
- 6) Dr. Pankaj Kishor Mishra, Professor, Department of Paramedical Sciences Subharti Medical College Swami Vivekanand Subharti University Meerut- 250 005 U.P., India
- 7) Dr. Samir Sharma, Professor Deptt. of Biochemistry, Lucknow University Lucknow- 226 007
- 8) Dr. Rajni Singh, Additional Director, Amity Institute of Microbial Technology Amity University, Noida-201 303 U.P.
- 9) Dr. Sunayana Rathi, Assistant Professor, Deptt. Of Biochemistry &Agril. Chemistry Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat-785 013 Assam
- 10) Dr. Akash Vikram, Dept. of Botany, University of Lucknow, Lucknow-226 007

4. Revision of membership fee for different categories were discussed. Following revised membership rates were approved.

Membership	Indian (INR)		Foreign (US \$)	
	Present	Revised	Present	Revised
Ordinary, Annual	600	1000	50	70
Life member	5000	6000	350	375
Institutional	30000	40000	3500	4000
For P.G. Students (Annual, Postdoc)	300, 400	500 (For all PG students)	35	40
Admission Fee	-	100	10	10

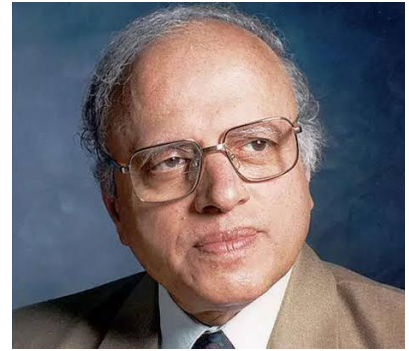
5. Proposed revision of subscription rates for the Journal w.e.f. January 01, 2023 and continue the same in 2024 was considered. The proposed rates were approved as under:

	Print		Print + Online		Online	
	Present	Revised	Present	Revised	Present	Revised
Indian Rupee (INR)	2750	3000	3300	3700	2750	3000
Foreign (US \$)	425	465	650	730	375	430

6. The proposal of raising the processing charge of non-member from Rs. 500/- per paper was considered. After much deliberations, raising of processing charge of non-member from Rs. 500/- per paper to Rs. 2000/- per paper was approved.
7. The next venue for the National/ International conference was discussed. There were two proposals
1. Amity university, Noida proposed by Dr. Seema Bhatnagar.
  2. Navsari Agriculture university, Navsari proposed by Dr. Nilima Karmakar.
- They were requested to consult authorities of their respective universities; Decision will be taken after their consent.
8. The account of the Society for the year 2022-2023 was approved.
9. Under any other item it was proposed to explore the possibility of making the Journal as open access Journal.
10. Hony. General Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to all and the chair. The meeting ended thereafter.

On November 25, 2023 session on oral presentation was held on the theme area environment in relation to sustainable agriculture and crop improvement: stress adaptation and crop improvement. Twenty scientist presented their work orally thereafter valedictory session was held which was chaired by Dr. P S Kendukar, Vice President and co-chaired by Dr. G P Srivastava, Hony. General Secretary, ISAB and Professor Munna Singh, Organizing Secretary. Recommendation were presented and vote of thanks was given to President, ISAB, VCsC S A U A & T, Kanpur and Lucknow University and staff of Botany Department and ISAB staff of CSA U & T, Kanpur for making the conference a great success.





**Dr. MS Swaminathan**

## **OBITUARY**

### **Dr. MS Swaminathan passes away at 98**

Dr. Manukombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, an Agricultural scientist, agronomist, plant geneticist, administrator and excellent humanitarian was born on August 7, 1925 at Kumbakonamthanjavur, Tamil Nadu. He graduated from University of Kerala, had Associationship in Genetics at IARI, New Delhi; has been UNESCO Fellow in genetics, Wageningen University, Netherland; did Ph.D from University of Cambridge, England; Post-doctorate from University of Wisconsin, USA. He worked as Director IARI and DG, ICAR, New Delhi.

Dr. Swaminathan has been called the main architect of Green Revolution in India for his leadership and role in introducing and further developing high yielding varieties of wheat and rice. His collaborative and scientific effort with Norman Borlog, spearheading a mass movement with farmers and other scientists backed by public policies saved India and Pakistan from famine like condition. In 1960s. He has been Director, National Rice Research Institute, Philippines. The environmental program recognized him as “The father of economic ecology”.

He served Government of India as a member Rajya Sabha from 2007 to 2013.

Dr Swaminathan had following prestigious awards to his credit:

1. Padam Shri in 1967
2. Raman Magasasay award in 2007
3. Padam Bhushan in 1972
4. World Food prize year Highest award in the field of agriculture in 1987
5. Padam vibhushanin 1989

Beside these prestigious awards several scientific societies honoured him with Fellowship and Life Time Achievement Award. The Indian Society of Agricultural Biochemists, Kanpur also honoured him with Life Time achievement award in 2006.

Besides several universities of India and abroad honoured him with D.Sc. (Honoris causa) including CS Azad University of Agriculture and Technology Kanpur in 1986.

The scientific fraternity in general, and members of the Indian society of Agricultural Biochemists in particular mourn the sad demise of Prof. M S Swaminathan on September 28, 2023 at Chennai, Tamilnadu and Pay their homage to this great man.



Dr. Pitam Singh

## **OBITUARY**

Dr. Pitam Singh retired Professor, Department of Agricultural Biochemistry left for his heavenly abode on 28 December 2023 at New Delhi.

Dr. Singh was born at Meerut on March 30, 1946. He has been associated with quality work in vegetables and continued to work in the area in the Department of Agricultural Biochemistry till his retirement in the year 2007. Dr. Singh was associated with the Indian Society of Agricultural Biochemists since its inception in 1985. He was a founder Lifemember of the Indian Society of Agricultural Biochemists. The faculty member of the Department of Agricultural Biochemistry and members of Indian Society of Agricultural Biochemists mourn the sad demise of Dr. Pitam Singh and pay their homage to him.

**Recommendations of the National Conference on Current Trends in Biological Sciences for Sustainable Agriculture, Environment and Health under climate change held at Lucknow University from November 23 to 25, 2023.**

A National Conference on Current Trends in Biological Sciences for Sustainable Agriculture, Environment and Health under Climate Change and XV convention of the Indian Society of Agricultural Biochemists, Kanpur was jointly organized by the society and Department of Botany, University of Lucknow at Lucknow from November 23 to 25, 2023. The conference comprised of key note address, invited lectures, oral and poster presentations. Invited lectures, oral and poster presentations were made mainly under two theme areas namely

- i. Environment in relation to sustainable agriculture and water conservation.
- ii. Stress adaptation and crop improvement.

Following recommendations were made out of the interactions of Scientists on the theme areas mentioned above.

1. Microbes should be used to produce nano-particles at large scale for the wide range of application in agriculture including precision farming, crop protection and soilhealth management.
2. Microbe based technology should be developed for the production of pesticides and fertilizers.
3. Atmospheric nitrogen fixation should be harnessed under climate change for sustainable productivity in pulses.
4. Studies should be conducted to design thermo-tolerant crops for climate resilient agriculture.
5. Technology of Fish Pond Based Integrated Farming System may be adopted for horizontal expansion of agricultural land.
6. Drone Technology should be used in agriculture and management of natural resources and environment should be undertaken.
7. Novel plant based green pesticides should be developed for the management of agricultural pests.
8. Strategies may be developed to improve stress tolerance in plants by environmental pollutants.
9. Sustainable agriculture practices under climate change based on ecological vitality may be adopted.

10. Practices of recycling and reuses of pollutants for agriculture productivity under adverse changing climate conditions may be adopted.
11. Secondary Agriculture Bioprocessing Technology may be adopted to develop high value low volume by-products from under-utilized or unutilized agri-biomass for raising farmers income.
12. Genome editing approach may be adopted for developing crop plant with improved traits.
13. Phyto-extraction potential of natural weeds and grasses on the polluted sites may be studied as a tool of phytoremediation.
14. Molecular diagnosis of crop plants may be conducted for developing quality traits in plant and also for developing quality products.
15. Intensive studies on the quality millets need be conducted for their popularization and global food security.
16. Agri-Horticulture wastes maybe utilised to produce nutraceuticals for prevention and management of diseases.
17. Studies to improve biological carbon sequestration/ photosynthetic abilities of crop plants under climate change.
18. Linkage of Agro-Industries functioning with cleaner and green environment/ ecosystem needs be developed.