

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



www.nsai.co.in

ABOUT NSAI

National Seed Association of India (NSAI), as the apex body representing the industry of the world's fifth largest seed economy, continued its leadership role by engaging with the national and state governments for pursuing its main agenda of working towards providing an enabling and favourable policy environment for the growth of the industry. The continued patronage of its members encouraged NSAI to work harder for ensuring an inclusive growth for all stakeholders. The enhanced effectiveness was visible in the various engagements with the policy makers, who not only appreciated the role of NSAI, but also respected the views / opinions expressed in various meetings. NSAI continues to be invited to nominate its representatives to various decision making bodies, as well as, as resource persons / speakers at leading scientific meetings related to agriculture development. Indian Seed Congress, the flagship event of NSAI, is now a much awaited event in the seed industry calendar, due to the rich scientific content of the Conference and the business generation in the B2B sessions. The visibility for NSAI has grown over the years and the request for our logo to be displayed at various agri- exhibitions and conferences is increasing.

OUR VISION

The vision of NSAI is to create "A dynamic, innovative, internationally competitive, research based industry producing high performance, high quality seeds and planting materials which benefit farmers and significantly contribute to the sustainable growth of Indian Agriculture". The Association is also working towards the responsible use of biotechnology for modernizing Indian agriculture and enhancing the livelihood of Indian farmers. Increasing the general awareness about crop biotechnology amongst the many stakeholders, technology upgradation and engaging in a continuous dialogue with regulators for the establishment of a transparent, fair and equitable regulatory system, are some of the other activities of NSAI.

OUR MISSION

The mission of NSAI is to encourage investment in the state of the art R & D to bring to the Indian farmer superior genetics and technologies, which are high performance and adopted to a wide range of agro-climatic zones. It actively contributes to seed industry policy development, with the concerned government, to ensure that the policies and regulation create an enabling environment, including public acceptance, so that the industry is globally competitive.





OBJECTIVE

- To create a policy environment for the seed industry
- To create better interaction & provide business opportunities among our stakeholders
- To hold meetings and interactions between the public & private sector to discuss common issues
- To facilitate Public Private Partnership.

WHAT WE DO?

- Scientific Seminars & Interactive Meetings across the globe
- Communication & Knowledge Dissemination through Seed Magazine, News mailers, Seed Handbook and other publications
- Policy Advocacy by engaging with Government and scientific entities in enabling the favourable policy environment and furthering the stakeholder's interest
- Brain Storming Sessions/ Roundtables/Conferences & Seminars
- Works towards globalizing the seed industry, harmonization of regulatory environment, promoting export of seed and investment in seed industry
- Promoting international collaborations with stakeholders and industries
- Knowledge and skill enhancement of Human resources through:
 - ☑ Capacity building & training
 - ☑ Internship
 - ☑ Exposure to the industry visits & on job training
 - ☑ Training & Capacity building of agri-entrepreneurship
 - ☑ Training & Capacity building of Government Officials
 - ☑ Study Tours
- Collaborative trainings with various institutes, organizations & universities

OFFICE BEARERS



President
M. Prabhakar Rao
(Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd.)



Vice President
Sameer Mulay
(Ajeet Seeds Pvt. Ltd.)



General Secretary
Pranjivan P Zaveri
(Farm Tech Biogiene Pvt. Ltd.)



Treasurer
Pawan Kumar Kansal
(Khinor Seeds Fields India Pvt. Ltd.)

GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS



G.V. Bhaskar Rao
(Kaveri Seed Co. Ltd.)



N.P. Patel
(Western Agri Seeds Ltd.)



Janak Peshrana
(Seeds India)



K. Niranjan Kumar
(GARC Seeds Pvt. Ltd.)



Arun Kumar Agarwalla
(West Bengal Hybrid
Seeds & Biotech Pvt. Ltd.)



Ashwani Garg
(Super Seeds Pvt.)



Kamal O. Zunuzwala
(Safal Seeds & Biotech Ltd.)



K.S. Narayanaswamy
(Karnataka Maize
Development Association)



Manish Patel
(Integrated Coating
and Seed Technology
India Pvt. Ltd.)

NSAI SECRETARIAT



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Director Technical



Nilendri Biswal
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Message from Desk of the President

Dear Members,

It gives me immense pleasure to present before you NSAI Annual Report 2018. The Annual report bears testimony to our enhanced efforts to reach out to various stakeholders. Over the last one year with your unrelenting support and encouragement we have tried to create consensus among all our members for ensuring the greater good of Indian Seed Industry.

NSAI has emerged as a member's voice in various forums be it public as well as private. We have left no stone unturned to ascertain that no issue of concern for the members has gone unheard. NSAI has consolidated its position as the apex body representing the seed industry in the country. There has been significant contribution made by NSAI in interpreting the Intellectual Property legislation and formulation of new rules in the country accordingly. The proper interpretation and implementation of the IP laws of the country will not only benefit the seed industry but also the millions of farmers and ultimately the consumers. The monopolies that got created over the years in GM traits contrary to the provisions of the IP laws and the Competition Act shall be a thing of the past due to the proactive steps taken by the Association. Also NSAI has been representing the issues of the members at the national and state government level from time to time and trying to improve the ease of doing business with reference to various regulatory enactments like the Seeds Act, Seed (Control) Order, Biodiversity Act, Environment (Protection) Act, Packaging Act etc. The actions of the Association are also helping the members in meeting the requirements related to import and export of seeds.

For the first time, we organized the first International edition of Indian Seed Congress out from the country i.e. at Colombo, Sri Lanka on the theme "Seeds Beyond Boundaries" with the motive to increase our seed export to all over the world and understanding the necessities of the other countries. The Seed Congress was a huge hit with around 300 plus participants. We were able to showcase to the world our unique strengths in the R&D, production, processing and testing. It is a fact that India can meet the demands for seeds even for other countries in the regions of South Asia, South East Asia, Africa and East Europe. In near future, we can expect a significant contribution to the global seed trade by the Indian seed companies even though at present the Indian seed export is miniscule. India has a potential to become the seed provider to the world generating employment in rural areas and bring prosperity to Indian farmers.

As an association we have also concentrated our efforts for bringing out quality publications from time to time in form of Seed Times. NSAI Newsletter has become a regular source of information to all our members. Our website too has played a significant part in our outreach to members. The website displays important Government notifications and representations made by NSAI to Government. Our interaction with Government has earned us regular representations in various forums and meetings.

The Secretariat is continuously working for enhancing visibility of the association, while simultaneously making sustained efforts for brand building, strong source of information exchange and engagement in social initiatives of Seed Donation programs. This has been possible due to the excellent support provided by NSAI's members. I hope that in times to come NSAI members continue to extend their support for ensuring the good work continues.

Best Wishes,

Shri M. Prabhakar Rao

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AGENDA

AGENDA NOTES



AGM AGENDA

**12th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
12TH SEPTEMBER, 2018, 11 AM- 05:00 PM,
THE METROPOLITAN HOTEL, NEW DELHI**

On Spot Registration • 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Inaugural Session • 11:00 AM- 02:00 PM

1. Inaugural Address by President, NSAI
2. Brain Storming Session on "Key Issues Related to IPR in Seed Sector for Accelerating Agricultural Growth in India".

LUNCH

Annual General Meeting • 03:00 PM – 05:00 PM

1. Welcome Address from Secretariat
2. Procurement of Quorum
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of Last AGM (8th September 2017).
4. Presentation of General Secretary's Report
5. Presentation of the Statement of Accounts & Auditor's Report by Treasurer
6. Appointment of Auditor for FY 2018-19
7. Approval of Annual Budget for FY 2018-19
8. Approval of resolution that "Accommodation for GC members for attending GC meetings @ INR 7500 per night."
9. Vote of Thanks by the Vice President NSAI



AGM AGENDA NOTES

**12th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
12TH SEPTEMBER, 2018, 11 AM- 05:00 PM,
THE METROPOLITAN HOTEL, NEW DELHI**

1. Welcome Address from Secretariat

Mr. R K Trivedi, Director (Technical), NSAI shall deliver the speech welcoming our valuable members and thanking Office Bearers & Governing Council.

2. Procurement of Quorum

As per rules and regulations governing the conduct of National Seed Association of India (NSAI), a minimum quorum of 10% of the Ordinary Members is mandatory to start the proceedings of Annual General Meeting of NSAI.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of Last AGM (8th September 2017).

Minutes of 11th Annual General Meeting held on 8th September, 2017 would be taken up for confirmation and approval by General Body unanimously.

4. Presentation of General Secretary's Report

General Secretary, Dr PP Zaveri shall present the Annual Report of NSAI for the year 2017-18, highlighting the various achievements of NSAI before the General Body.

5. Presentation of the Statement of Accounts & Auditor's Report by Treasurer

Shri. Pawan Kumar Kansal, Treasurer, NSAI shall present the highlights of financial statement of accounts and Auditor's Report before the General Body for its approval.

6. Appointment of Auditor for FY 2018-19

Auditor for 2018-19 shall be finalized and approved by the General Body.

7. Approval of Annual Budget for FY 2018-19

The General Body needs to discuss and approve Annual Budget for FY 2018-19.

8. Approval of resolution that "Accommodation for GC members for attending GC meetings @ INR 7500 per night".

The General Body needs to discuss and approve resolution "Accommodation for GC members for attending GC meetings @ INR 7500 per night".

9. Vote of Thanks by the Vice President NSAI

Mr Sameer Mulay, Vice President NSAI shall extend vote of thanks to the members for their constant support and time.









MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017



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NATIONAL SEED ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

The **Eleventh Annual General Meeting of the National Seed Association of India** (NSAI) was convened on Friday 8th September, 2017 at NASC Complex, Pusa Campus, New Delhi. Prior to AGM there was inaugural session chaired by Dr B Rajender, Joint Secretary (Seeds), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.

INAUGURAL SESSION

Dr Kalyan Goswami welcomed all members from all across India. He thanked Dr B Rajender JS Seed for his presence in the AGM. He invited JS Seeds, Dr B Rajendar, Shri M Prabhakar Rao, President NSAI, Shri M G Shembekar, Vice president, NSAI, Shri A S N Reddy, General Secretary and Shri Pawan Kumar Kansal, Treasurer NSAI and GV Bhaskar Rao for lightening of the Lamp.

The welcome speech was delivered by Shri M Prabhakar Rao



Dr Shri M Prabhakar Rao welcomed Dr B Rajender, JS Seed for giving his valuable time and gracing the AGM with his presence. He also informed the members that Dr Rajender is the Alumni of IARI and doctorate in Agriculture having complete understanding of agriculture science.

Shri Rao informed the members that NSAI has been in close coordination with Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare for benefit of Seed industry and for the benefits of the farmers. He apprised the gathering that JS (Seeds) has agreed for a round table meeting with seed industry where Industry can put forth their suggestions for improvement in the harmonious implementation of the seed Law. There are different provisions and misconception about the implementation of the seed laws in the states. In this regard NSAI will try to get more clear notification and circular from the Ministry of Agriculture.

There is misconception about the Truthfully Labelled (TL) and Certified seed and NSAI has clarified it to Government. As it is well known that the certification standard is same for both certified seeds and TL





seed and the responsibility for maintaining these standards whether for TL or Certified seed is that of the seed company. So practically there is no difference between TL and Certified seeds. However, media is also wrongly interpreting the spurious seeds as substandard form of TL and Certified Seeds.

Shri Rao stressed on the fact that the organized sector takes great effort in research to develop a new variety and further to develop the quality seed with set standards. Once this quality seed goes to the market, the quality of the seed can be hampered due to adverse climatic conditions. Sometimes the



samples, which were taken by the seed inspectors of the state regulatory authority these samples might be showing low germination than the set standard. This could be due the harsh conditions of summers through which seeds have gone through in the market and sometimes due to the mistake in Seed sampling and Seed Testing by the government Seed Testing Laboratory. Often when the same sample is retested the sample shows different germination and quality parameters. Sometimes, duplication of some good variety of seed is also there in the market which contains the low standard seeds. Such type of activities has never been done by the NSAI members and organized seed sector. NSAI members always promote the practise of quality seeds in market. Hence there is urgent need to differentiate between spurious seed vs substandard seed and spurious seed makers vs organized seed sector. If this difference becomes clear then government organization can find out the culprit and spurious seed makers can be punished.

The President then spoke on the process through which the state government recognizes the private variety developed by the private organization. It has happened so many times in multiple states that the private varieties developed by private sector after spending substantial amount of money in R & D and production there are no uniform rules in states regarding the permission in states for releasing the variety. This leads to problem and farmers are not able to get those varieties easily. Industry is working on more than 100 crops which they breed and developed more than 100 varieties in each crop. This is a serious issue and there should be reasonable conditions for release of variety in states. We request for clarity on the issue. It will benefit the farmers and industry can do better if this problem will be resolved.

He has also updated the members about the recent issue of ban of research variety. There was a circular issued by two states through which the sale of Research variety was banned in those states. He expressed his gratitude to the JS for supporting the Industry. On the request of NSAI, JS Seeds has recommended to the states not to ban the sale of Research Variety.

Shri Rao explained to the members about the issue of GM Trait Licensing. He has updated the members about the progress in last one year on this issue. Earlier before this year the new Bt Cotton Hybrid, having approved biosafety traits, used to be released through GEAC / EBAM under the Ministry of Environment and DBT. NSAI took up this issue, NSAI represented that this system of hybrid approval is not proper and requirement of NOC or LOC is creating the anomaly situation of signing the licencing agreement. Due to efforts of NSAI, now the approval system is shifted from Ministry of Environment to Ministry of Agriculture. ICAR has also come up with guidelines which NSAI has circulated to all of its members. There is no need to submit NOC / LOC for commercial release of hybrid approval. The event confirmation report can be submitted by testing in CICR which is notified laboratory of ICAR. With this move of Government more and more companies can breed the new Bt Cotton Varieties / Hybrids with biosafety approved Bt traits. Similar situation will also come up with the upcoming GM traits which are also in the pipeline.

Shri Rao stressed that in some cotton growing states, several unapproved cotton traits are being sold in the market by some grey seed companies (companies belonging to unorganized sector not by organised sector).





This unapproved herbicide tolerant gene is in market and covering about 10-15% of cropped area. We have to collectively work together to find out the solution for this problem. He also mentioned about the problem related to pink bollworm. NSAI has taken up this issue with Department of Agriculture and the department has come out with a notification for implementation of concept of RIB which was pending for more than 3 years and NSAI association has done it in a very short period. Now most of the companies have already started the concept of RIB based on the experience of other countries like China. In China too, the refugia in a bag system is being followed through some other concept and the percentage of non Bt is higher in their system. Chinese reports have shown that this resistance management has appropriately controlled the insect resistance towards the technology. China is still using the single gene technology unlike India where we are using the so called advanced technology and china is able to manage with single gene technology. For supporting the resistance management in future industry should also do some more study on this subject. He further stated that the small and medium companies represent more than 90 % of industry and play a big role in meeting the requirements of seeds in the micro market. They have certain serious issues which association has taken up. One of the issue is on the issue of subsidy which NSAI has represented to the Government for giving subsidy directly to the beneficiary. The association is happy that government is also moving in this direction and trying to resolve the issue.

The next issue which was taken up by the association was revalidation of certified seed. Lot of certified seed is produced by small and medium companies. During the first year there was no problem but the issue started with the second year with revalidation of seed where continuous revalidation of seed is compulsory and it is given for 6 months only which has no scientific basis. NSAI has also taken up the issue of revalidation, but unfortunately industry could not get desired relief. The new rule says that a company can apply for revalidation any time but it will be given for 3 months only and on a continuous revalidation only 6 months validity will be issued. The President again requested JS Seed to look into this issue based on the empirical evidence and history of the rules.

In PPVFRA also industry was facing the same issue of NOC. After submission of substantial amount of representations for last 3 years, finally in the last meeting of PPVFRA, NOC was dispensed away for registration of Bt Cotton Hybrids. Earlier this particular stipulation was creating the anomaly in the market. In addition to that NSAI has also represented to the authority that time for registration of variety is too long so the time for registration of new variety should also be reduced. The authority has assured that it will also be done.

The President expressed his satisfaction that there is considerable progress in the working of the association as compared to last year. In future, too the association would continue to work closely with the Government for addressing issues of importance for the members.

The welcome speech of President was followed by Address of Guest of Honour, Dr B Rajender, Joint Secretary (Seeds), Ministry of Agriculture & farmers Welfare.

Dr B Rajender, Joint Secretary (Seeds), Ministry of Agriculture & farmers Welfare expressed his pleasure to be part of AGM. He stressed on the importance of agriculture in Indian economy and its contribution towards GDP. Agriculture is the mainstay of livelihood in rural areas and nearly 65%-70% of our population is engaged in agriculture related activities. He stressed that agriculture sector can be revitalized by concerted efforts to be made by the State Governments, GOI as well as the Union Government. However, while realizing that seed is an interstate movement commodity therefore, are the legislation pertaining to the seed development





and marketing have been enacted by the Parliament and enforced by the State Governments to protect the right of farmers and farming communities. The Central Government also developed various central schemes, programmes and policy framework for the development of overall agriculture in the states as agriculture is the state subject and has been listed in the State List and is considered as the primary responsibility of the State Government.

JS (Seeds) stated that seed is a critical determinant of productivity in agriculture. Seed is the harbinger of the modern technologies. Use of good quality seeds contributes 15-20% higher yield and the subsequent determinants fertilizer, irrigation and intercultural operations further enhances the productivities of seed. Thus, appropriate policy support for seed improvements through conventional breeding supplemented with modern biotechnology, in combination with improved agronomic practices, would greatly help in ensuring higher food production and nutritional security of the country. He stated that private seed industry has definitely played an important role in enhancing the Agriculture productivity of the nation. NSAI is the conglomeration and right forum to address the issues and problems being faced by private seed sector and put it before the Govt. Depts./Ministries for an early resolution. The Indian Seed industry is growing at about 15% annually, which is double the world's average. This has been possible only through increased use of quality seeds and an improvement in the Seed Replacement Rate (SRR). All this would not have been possible without the conducive environment and support provided by Government of India. New Policy on Seeds Development, 1988 is the first milestone in the agriculture history for enabling private seed sector participation in the seed business. The role of private seed sector was further increased by the implementation of the National Seed Policy, 2002, opening up of FDI in seeds sector, and infusion of the IPR culture in agriculture by enactment of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights Act, 2001 and the Biodiversity Act, 2002 etc. Though, all these years the GoI, has continuously been striving to streamline the regulatory framework in order to make it predictable, transparent and progressive.

He highlighted that currently India is member to the OECD Seed Scheme & ISTA and committed to move forward in the growth of seed sector in a transparent and sustainable manner to increase our seed exports to double digits, after meeting our domestic demand. It's an unequivocal fact that the innovations in the seed sector and well protected through IPR with the use of modern science including Genetic Modification (GM) for resolving various critical problems being faced in seed sector including disease and insect pest resistance, quality improvement and to address several intricate issues like abiotic stresses. Private seed sector has significantly contributed in this field in achieving agriculture production and successfully complemented with the public sector. Government of India has therefore, supported Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives in the Sub Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP) of National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NAMET) for overall development of seed sector.

He also informed the house that in the recent past, the DAC&FW, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has rendered its supports for resolving various burning issues like exemption of GST on seed, deduction in custom duty on seed spices for sowing and planting etc. JS(Seeds) further informed the house that DAC&FW and ICAR jointly cleared commercial release of Bt. Cotton hybrids/varieties with deregulated gene events received from public and private sector. ICAR has developed the guidelines for testing of the Bt cotton hybrids under AICRP trials for commercial release for the next in the Kharif, 2018. The Seed Division has also resolved various other technical matters like revalidation of the carryover stocks of seeds, uniform implementation of the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 across the country, Genetic purity standards for hybrid mustard & Rapeseed, labelling guidelines for Bt. cotton in the refugia in bag and separate pack for packing of the Bt. cotton seeds and steps are being taken for mandatory implementation of the refugia in bag concept in Bt. Cotton from December, 2019.

He stressed on the need for private seed sector to serve the farmers with honesty and sincerely with reasonable profits. The private seed sector should not have the motive of earning profits from the farmers and rather, serve them with clear heart and soul and with more responsibilities as they are providing basic inputs to the farmers for enhancing food production for the country in the years to come. The Government will always be supportive for the right causes for the protection of the interest of the farmers. He expressed his confidence that the public and private sector has the capability to meet the future challenges in the





Seed Development Programme. He also agreed that a round table meeting would be organised between the Government and NSAI for understanding various Industry level issues and planning way forward. Post the inaugural Session the Proceedings of the AGM was initiated.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017 KEY PROCEEDINGS

The AGM was chaired by NSAI President, Shri. M Prabhakar Rao. The AGM was attended by participants from states like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, & West Bengal. The total number of participants (individuals) in the AGM were 147, representing 116 member companies (organisations) from ordinary category, 2 from Association category and 5 from Associate category and 6 Non-Member Companies.

THE AGENDA OF THE AGM 2017

1. Welcome address by Executive Director
2. Procurement of Quorum
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of Last AGM (26th August 2016).
4. Presentation of General Secretary's Report
5. Presentation of the Statement of Accounts & Auditor's Report by Treasurer
6. Appointment of Auditor for FY 2017-18
7. Approval of Annual Budget for FY 2017-18
8. Approval of resolution that 1 contestant should be allowed to contest from 1 category.
9. Approval on resolution on 'Criteria for eligibility to contest Elections i.e. 5 years' experience as NSAI Member and 10 years' experience in Seed industry'.
10. Approval of Predefined role of Election Committee
11. Address by the President NSAI

NSAI ELECTIONS 2017

1. Announcement of the Election Process by Returning Officer
2. Address by Contesting Candidate
3. Voting
4. Announcement of results
5. Announcement and Welcome of Office Bearers and Newly Constituted Governing Council

VOTE OF THANKS BY VP, NSAI

The AGM began with a warm welcome by Executive Director, Dr. Kalyan Goswami. He thanked all the members for providing continued support to the Association for carrying out various activities. As per rules and regulations governing the conduct of National Seed Association of India (NSAI), a minimum quorum of 10% of the Ordinary Members is mandatory to start the proceedings of Annual General Meeting of NSAI. The ED informed that as on 31st August, 2017, NSAI had 420 ordinary members and hence we need minimum 42 Ordinary Members for requisite quorum for the conduct of A.G.M. Based on the attendance a total of 116 ordinary members present, he declared the Eleventh AGM of NSAI open.

KEY PROCEEDINGS

- The minutes of the Tenth AGM held on 26th August 2016 at New Delhi, was circulated earlier among the members and included in the annual report were put up for discussions and adoption. The minutes of the meeting was approved.



Presentation of General Secretary's Report

- The Annual Report 2016-2017 was presented by Shri A S N Reddy, General Secretary, NSAI. He also applauded the high visibility of NSAI as a true representative of the Indian seed industry. He highlighted on the various achievements of NSAI under the following heads:



A. MEMBERSHIP STATUS

- GS informed the house that NSAI membership has grown from 266 in FY 2013-14 to 483 in FY 2017-18. NSAI continues to be patronized by the major seed sector players and requests for our membership is increasing. From an aggregate of 483 members, as on 31st August 2017, 337 members have renewed (Ordinary 295; Associate: 32; Association: 09; and Public Sector: 01). 98 were new members spread across the 2 categories of Ordinary and Associate. With inclusion of new members, the total Ordinary members stands at 420 members.

B. INDUSTRY ISSUES

- GS stated that NSAI has worked relentlessly for taking up various industry issues for overall benefit of members. GS informed the house that NSAI has actively coordinated with Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare for Exemption of all Seeds under GST. Other important issues which NSAI had taken up are extension of validity period of revalidated certified seeds till December, 2017, coordination with MoA & FW from time to time for getting permission for Jute Seed Export from India to Bangladesh. NSAI also coordinated with MoA & FW for release of gazette notification specifying genetic purity of mustard from 95% to 85%, coordination with DDG (Crops Science) for sale permission of new Bt cotton Hybrids in north zone and got sale permission. In the past year NSAI has played its role as Nodal Agency to promote for Breeder Seed Indent for more 48 Crops to more than 150 companies. NSAI also coordinated for Extension of Implementation of amendment of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011. Among a host of issues which NSAI has represented to various Ministries on behalf of Industry are as follows:
- NSAI successfully represented to GEAC to dispense away with requirement of No Objection Certificate and following which GEAC shifted the process of Bt Cotton hybrid approval to ICAR. NSAI also represented to PPVFRA to dispense away with requirement of NOC norms for registration of Bt Cotton Hybrid. NSAI also represented in various Govt. Forums about Section 3 (j) of IP Act, that, Seeds are not Patentable.
- NSAI has also taken up the issue of Refugia in Bag, the same would come into effect from December 2019. NSAI has also actively taken up the issue of Uniform Seed Licence all over India, in each state the interpretation is different. NSAI has requested Government of India to take initiative in the same for uniform seed license.
- The other key issues which NSAI has taken up during the last year are, rule bound Income Tax for the Seed Industry, Issue of Custom duty on Import of Coriander / Chilli seed. Shri. Raman Uppal has done commendable work in this regard. Others being Annual Fee to be paid under PPV&FRA for Registered Variety, we have requested for lowering the percentage of annual fees, Coordination with State Governments of Bihar and Jharkhand to address the issue of ban of sale of Research variety.



C. MEETINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

The General Secretary briefed the general body about the various meetings and engagements undertaken. The General Secretary also mentioned in his presentation about the key areas of progress for NSAI through meetings and engagements.

D. COMMUNICATION & PUBLICATIONS

The GS informed that '**Seed Times**', is our main vehicle for communicating new knowledge and reports on NSAI and other events, etc. It continues to receive appreciation and accolades for its informative content and production quality. We continue with our practice of theme based content in every issue. During the period under report, we have published 02 issues of the magazine. The Seed Times (Vol 9 No. 3 & 4) issue focused on 'Vegetable Seed Industry - India and World'. While the next volume (Vol 10 No. 1) focused on 'Role of Biotechnology in Crop Improvement'. Other key publications during the period included Indian Seed Congress Souvenir, Indian Seed Congress Report, Indian Seed Industry Handbook- Seed Directory and NSAI Brochure for Exhibitions and Conferences.

Another important vehicle for communicating with members is NSAI monthly Newsletter '**Seed News**', is an important medium for communicating industry news. The newsletter is now a regular issue with emphasis on reaching out to members with new updates and activities of NSAI. It also covers various important notifications issued by Government. NSAI also communicates to its members Weekly news which features important updates on Agriculture and Seed Sector.

The GS stated that NSAI website has become an important source of information for the members. The 'What's New at NSAI' section informs the members about the latest developments of the industry, workshops and conferences. The Website has a section on 'Important Circulars and Representations', under this section all-important notifications and circulars are uploaded for benefit of members. The section on 'Important Notifications' places important notifications of Government. The 'Latest News' section informs members about the current updates of Indian Agriculture & Seed sector. Any member can now visit the website and access information, representations and notifications. NSAI is working towards further improvement of website.

- The GS informed the house that NSAI is also maintaining Twitter and Facebook Accounts for directly connecting with its members and information sharing as well. Communication with members has improved through daily and weekly mailers.

E. EVENTS/ CONFERENCES

INDIAN SEED CONGRESS 2017

The GS informed the house about Indian Seed Congress 2017 held at Kolkata on 13-14th February 2017. He stated that the event saw active participation from industry leaders (seed & allied), policy makers, developmental agencies, scientific community and various other organizations. This year the theme of Indian Seed Congress was 'Seeds for Joy'. On 12th February 2017, CEO conclave was organised. Over the years, CEO conclave has been viewed by industry leaders as a platform for strengthening industry voice and exchange of new ideas for renewed vigour among industry leaders. The CEO Conclave was attended by 65 Business leaders.

In the Indian Seed Congress 2017, six technical sessions were conducted on 13th and 14th February, 2017. A total of 39 eminent speakers from both government and private sector participated in the technical session. The technical session was focussed on "Doubling Farmers Income by 2022". A total of 566 Members attended ISC 2017, Kolkata. The other key events in which NSAI participated were Concluded Stakeholders meet on "IPR Issues on GM Traits and Seeds" (Hyderabad, Gandhi Nagar & New Delhi) and Krishi Unnati Mela 2017.



F. CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

GS informed the house that NSAI members have actively contributed to the cause of helping farmers during. The various seed donation undertaken by NSAI members are wheat & maize Seed Donation in Bihar by UPL/ Advanta Ltd., Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd, Delta Agri Genetics Pvt Ltd. NSAI members i.e. Dayal Seeds Private Ltd., Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd., Known You Seed (India) Pvt Ltd., Univeg Seed Technologies Pvt Ltd., Nobel Seeds Pvt Ltd, J K Agri Genetics also did Vegetable Seed Donation to Uttar Pradesh farmers in the month February 2017.

NSAI members i.e. Bharat Nursery Pvt Ltd. & Nuziveedu Seeds Limited also contributed to the cause to fight malnutrition in Mayurbhanj District of Odisha August 2017. The GS informed that apart from this, members are also doing a lot of CSR at individual company level. If members can share with NSAI the same can be captured by NSAI in website.

President stated that CSR is an opportunity for members to give back to society, members should actively participate in the same. The GS stated that Seed Company contribute a lot to employment generation, for Hyderabad based companies the direct employment being 16000 employees, indirect (seasonal people) 1 lakh. In Gujarat and Maharashtra the figure is much higher. The same needs to be found and informed to the Government.

When the presentation of Annual Report was completed by GS, it was put up for approval before the house.

- The 'Annual Report' was adopted and the members present appreciated the growth of the Association.

PRESENTATION OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS & AUDITOR'S REPORT BY TREASURER



This was followed by presentation of financial report by Shri Pawan Kumar Kansal, Treasurer. He highlighted the significant aspects of the annual statement of accounts and appreciated President, NSAI under whose leadership a lot has been achieved. He reassured members that good care has been taken to keep the finances in healthy shape. He further thanked Shri Niranjana K for timely suggestions.

The Annual Budget for FY 2017-18, was presented by Dr Kalyan B Goswami. The legal expenses are not paid by NSAI. The same is paid by individual

large members. President stated that even though the legal issues are related to larger interest of entire Seed Industry the legal expenses are being borne by some large companies.

ED informed the house that the Legal and professional expenses is 70 Lakh, for undertaking 2 projects with support of KPMG i.e. Rule based Income tax, Market Survey – Impact of Mergers and Acquisitions on Indian Seed Industry. NSAI has allocated INR 8 Lakh for CSR activity. The GC has taken decision with regard to corpus fund. The GC has decided to support state associations of West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh/Telangana.

Members suggested that legal and professional expenses should be separate. Also members wanted to understand the provision of CSR under NSAI budget and that if it was not a mandate, as NSAI is an association and not a company. The President suggested that even if it was not a mandate, it should be done as it would help society. President informed that it is only a provision and any expense will only be done with



due approval of Office Bearers only, the money is in safe hands. If emergency arises the same may be used or else it may lapse.

- The NSAI Budget for FY 2017-18 was unanimously approved by the General body.

The resolution for continuation of the services of the present auditor for one more year, was unanimously approved. The President moved the RESOLUTION No. NSAI/2017/6. After due deliberations among members the following resolution was unanimously passed by General body. The same would be included in the R & R of NSAI.

RESOLUTION No. NSAI/2017/6

an individual representing different member (organisation) cannot contest from more than one category (i.e. Ordinary, Associate and Association) in the same election. The same has been accepted and approved by the General Body unanimously. The Rules & Regulations of the National Seed Association of India is hereby amended and the same is included under point 10.4 Election and Its Mode, as new point 10.4.5.

The President moved the RESOLUTION No. NSAI/2017/7. After due deliberations among members the following resolution was unanimously passed by General body. The same would be included in the R & R of NSAI.

RESOLUTION No. NSAI/2017/7

It is Resolved unanimously by the GC that the 'Eligibility criteria to contest in NSAI Governing Council Elections shall be 3 years' minimum presence as NSAI Member (i.e. the contestant company shall be a member of NSAI for 3 years on continuous basis) and the individual person shall have minimum 5 years' experience in Seed industry'. This rule would apply from next GC elections. This amendment is proposed to ensure entry of competent people into the GC. The Rules & Regulations of the National Seed Association of India is hereby amended and the same is included under point 10.4 Election and Its Mode, as new point 10.4.6.

The President moved the resolution no RESOLUTION No. NSAI/2017/8. After due deliberations among members the following resolution was unanimously passed by General body. The same would be included in the R & R of NSAI.

The President moved the RESOLUTION No. NSAI/2017/8

Roles and Responsibilities of Election Committee

The Election Committee would have the role of supervision, direction & control of elections for electing Governing Council members of NSAI. It would deal with the preparation of electoral list and organising elections for election of members into the Governing Council of NSAI. The key thrust of Election committee would be well-run elections, electoral registration and transparency operations and equal opportunity for all eligible members to contest in elections with high levels of compliance to integrity and fair-play.

1. Composition:

The Election Commission consists of:

- a) Chairman from among the current year NSAI Members
- b) 2 other members from among the current year NSAI Members
- c) The Committee shall be constituted by the Governing Council
- d) Upon successful organising of the Elections the Election committee would cease to operate

2. Functions of the Election Committee:

The Election Committee performs following functions:

- a) The supervise, direct & control the flow of elections.
- b) To act as guardian of Free & Fair Elections.
- c) To frame Model Code of Conduct.
- d) To finalize Election Notice, Election Schedule, Electoral List, Nomination Form, Proxy Voting Form.
- e) To declare Nomination List.
- f) To finalize Ballot Paper.
- g) To oversee the proceedings of the Elections-Casting of Votes, Counting of Votes
- h) To declare the Results of NSAI governing Council Elections





3. Powers of the Election Committee:

The Election Committee is vested with the following powers:

- To advise the disqualification of any contestant as per the election guidelines.
- Framing of Timelines and modification of Election Schedule in agreement with Rules and Regulation of NSAI
- Decision on inclusion of Members in Electoral List based on Guidelines approved by the GC earlier.
- Declaration of Electoral List
- Dispute mitigation during the Election Procedure
- To pass any order in respect of the conduct of the elections when there is no law or rule made under the R & R. Resolved that the 'Roles and Responsibilities of Election Committee' has been accepted and approved by the General Body unanimously. The Rules & Regulations of the National Seed Association of India is hereby amended and the Roles and Responsibilities of Election Committee is included under point 10.4 Election and Its Mode as new point 10.4.7. This was followed by Address of NSAI President.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT NSAI

- Shri M Prabhakar Rao, President, began by thanking each member for extending unrelenting support to NSAI during the last year. The President briefly informed the members that NSAI has worked tirelessly to create consensus among all our members for ensuring the greater good of Indian Seed Industry and farmer welfare.
- The President expressed his satisfaction that NSAI has emerged as a member's voice in various forum of significance. He informed the house that NSAI has left no stone unturned to ascertain that no issue of concern for the members has gone unheard. NSAI has consolidated its position as the apex body representing the seed industry in the country.
- The President informed the house that NSAI is a key participant in various Government Meetings. And that NSAI has represented on behalf of the Indian Seed industry to various Government departments on issues such as GST, Rule based Income Tax on Seed, IPR etc.
- The President mentioned that due to the consolidated efforts of Indian Seed Industry and various stakeholders, today Indian Seed Industry stands for quality seeds which places great importance on welfare of farmers and their families.
- The President informed that in the coming time NSAI would send a delegation of 15-20 members to different country to understand the Seed Industry and market potential of the respective countries. The countries can be Thailand, The Netherlands and Germany etc.
- The President informed the house that apart from BT cotton, NSAI is also now hugely focussing on Vegetable Seed Industry as well. He stressed on the fact that relevance of Bt Cotton is not for Bt alone but it is related to the issue of right interpretation of Indian law. The effort is to fight the unjust practices of monopoly. Under Indian Patent Act Seeds and Plants cannot be patented. In future, too it is expected more GM crops may come to India, it is in the best interest of industry to be ready for the same.
- Europe has also done similar thing as that of India. Under Indian Patent Act Seeds and Plants cannot be patented. In Europe also, European Seed Association has played a major role in EPO ruling that new plant varieties (derived from a patented transgenic plant) can't be patented despite a patent granted to a transgenic plant. This is a landmark decision in the world. NSAI had also fought for a similar case in India with Protection of Plant Variety & Farmers' Rights Authority which provides intellectual property rights for plant varieties in India and Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and got their favourable ruling too in this case.
- Shri Bhavin Shah, PB Associates, raised the issue of applicability of GST on Transportation. He said that while seeds are under the 0 % tax regime under the GST, then there should be no tax on transportation of seeds, chemical and packaging material. He has raised his concern that while there is no GST on seeds than how companies will claim the credit refund paid for treatment chemical and packaging material. President stated that NSAI has already taken up the issue with Shri Sitharaman Reddy, Trade Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare. This issue is under Process.





The President expressed hope that member's excellent support for the work being done continues to grow and NSAI continues to work with more passion and energy for all its members. The AGM ended with vote of thanks being delivered by Vice President, NSAI Shri M G Shembekar. He expressed his satisfaction about the way NSAI was working for the members. He thanked all participants for making the 11th AGM.

NSAI GOVERNING COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2017-21



The major attraction of this year's AGM was the NSAI Elections 2017. The elections were organised to elect new members to Governing Council for 2017-2021. In order to conduct the election smoothly a three-member Election Committee(EC) was constituted earlier which comprised of Shri. Pawan Kansal(Chairman), Shri. ASN Reddy (Member) and Shri. Janak Peshrana (Member). Chairman Election Committee 2017 welcomed the gathering and declared the elections 2017 open. The Chairman read out the process and other details about the election. The announcement of the elections was on Announcement of Elections August 11, 2017, The last date and time for receipt of filled Nomination Forms was August 24, 2017, the scrutiny of forms by Election Committee and Announcement of list of Valid Candidates was August 25, 2017, the last Date for Withdrawal of Candidature August 31, 2017, the Announcement of Final List of Candidates was September 1, 2017, the last Date for Receipt of Original Proxy form in the allotted sealed Envelope September 7, 2017.

The Chairman informed the house that the Election committee(EC) went in for bar coding of Proxy Forms and Envelopes for enhanced security. Throughout the process of organising Elections the Election Committee has tried to match up-to the highest level of Transparency and Fair Play. The EC has ensured that any plea and query raised by members was attended at the earliest.

This year the election is being organised for electing 06 members in ordinary category and 01 member in Associate category. The vacancy in Ordinary category was due to resignation of Shri Vaibhav Kashikar. The 07 members so elected would be in Governing council for 2017-2021.

To begin within the Associate Category, the EC received only 1 nomination of from Dr Manish Patel, INCOTEC. As there was only 1 candidate in Associate Category, the Election Committee declared him as elected uncontested in the Governing council member. For the Ordinary category, Total of 19 Nominations were received. Out of which 1 candidate Shri Vinay R. Dhannwat, NAVBHARAT SEEDS PVT. LTD. had withdrawn his candidature within the set deadline.





The remaining candidates were as follows:

S. No.	Name of Organization	Name of Candidate
1	Ankur Seed Pvt. Ltd.	Vaibhav Kashikar
2	GARC Seed Pvt. Ltd.	K Niranjan Kumar
3	Garnier Seeds (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Pankaj Taneja
4	Gemini Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	S Jayaveer Rao
5	Indo Agri Genetics	K D Prajapati
6	Mahalaxmi Seed Company	Dinesh Bhai Patel
7	Markiv Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	Naresh Harkhabhai Patel
8	Moti Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	Kirtan Kumar Yogesh Bhai Patel
9	Narmada Sagar	Patel Girdharbhai Dahyabhai
10	Nuziveedu Seed Ltd.	M Prabhakar Rao
11	Safal Seeds & Biotech Ltd.	Kamal O Zunzunwala
12	Sarvodaya Trading Company	Dilipbhai Patel
13	Spriha Bioscience Pvt. Ltd.	M Harish Reddy
14	Sri Rama Agri Genetics	Ch. Ram Babu
15	Super Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	Ashwani Garg
16	Vasanth Agribiotech (P) Ltd.	V Venkateswarlu
17	West Bengal Hybrid Seeds	Arun Kumar Agarwalla
18	Western Bio Vegetable Seeds	N P Patel

The Election Committee informed the house that there would allow 3 Observers at the Time of counting of the Votes who are as follows:

1. Shri. K V Somani
2. Dr P K Agarwal
3. Shri. Alok Marodia

Following this individual candidate were requested to address the gathering. During the addressal by candidates few candidates withdrew their nominations who are as follows:

1	Garnier Seeds (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Pankaj Taneja
2	Indo Agri Genetics	K D Prajapati
3	Mahalaxmi Seed Company	Dinesh Bhai Patel
4	Moti Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	Kirtan Kumar Yogesh Bhai Patel
5	Narmada Sagar	Patel Girdharbhai Dahyabhai
6	Sri Rama Agri Genetics	Ch. Ram Babu
7	Vasanth Agribiotech (P) Ltd.	V Venkateswarlu



CASTING OF VOTES

This was followed by casting of votes by individual member companies and proxy holders. Post which the final result was announced by the Chairman in the following order as follows:

1	GARC Seed Pvt. Ltd.	K Niranjn Kumar
2	West Bengal Hybrid Seeds & Biotech Pvt. Ltd.	Arun Kumar Agarwalla
3	Western Bio Vegetable Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	N P Patel
4	Nuziveedu Seed Ltd.	M Prabhakar Rao
5	Super Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	Ashwani Garg
6	Safal Seeds & Biotech Ltd.	Kamal O Zunzunwala

The Elections was followed by 58th Governing Council Meeting where the GC members elected the new Office Bearers who are as follows:

NSAI GOVERNING COUNCIL COMPOSITION 2017-19

1	PRESIDENT	M PRABHAKAR RAO (NUZIVEEDU SEEDS LTD.)
2	VICE PRESIDENT	SAMEER MULAY (AJEET SEEDS LTD.)
3	GENERAL SECREATRY	PRANJIVAN P ZAVERI (FARM TECH BIOGENE PVT. LTD.)
4	TRESURER	PAWAN KUMAR KANSAL (KOHINOOR SEED FIELDS INDIA PVT. LTD.)

The constitution of the new GC is as follows: GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS

5	MEMBER (ORDINARY)	G.V. BHASKAR RAO (KAVERI SEED CO. LTD.)
6	MEMBER (ORDINARY)	N P PATEL (WESTERN BIO VEGETABLE SEEDS PVT. LTD.)
7	MEMBER (ORDINARY)	JANAK PESHRANA (SEEDS INDIA)
8	MEMBER (ORDINARY)	K NIRANJAN KUMAR (GARC SEED PVT. LTD.)
9	MEMBER (ORDINARY)	ARUN KUMAR AGARWALLA (WEST BENGAL HYBRID SEEDS & BIOTECH PVT. LTD.)
10	MEMBER (ORDINARY)	ASHWANI GARG (SUPER SEEDS PVT. LTD.)
11	MEMBER (ORDINARY)	KAMAL O ZUNZUNWALA (SAFAL SEEDS & BIOTECH LTD.)
12	MEMBER (ASSOCIATION)	K.S. NARAYANASWAMY (KARNATAKA MAIZE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION)
13	MEMBER (ASSOCIATE)	MANISH PATEL (INTEGRATED COATING & SEED TECHNOLOGY INDIA PVT. LTD)

The Governing Council decided to defer the selection of 2 co-opted members up to next GC meeting.

Glimpses of AGM and Elections





Glimpses of AGM and Elections







**RESOLUTIONS
PASSED IN
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING 2017**







RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING


2017

Resolution No. NSAI/2017/1

The minutes of the meeting of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th August, 2016 in New Delhi is confirmed and approved by the General Body unanimously.

Proposed By: 
(RAMANT PALUPPAL)

Seconded By: 
(C.N.P. Patel)


(T.L. Dholaria)





RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2017

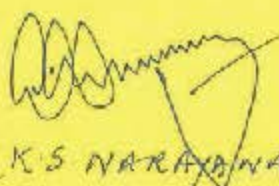
RESOLUTION No. NSA/2017/2

Resolved that the Annual Report for the year 2016-17 are accepted and approved by the General Body unanimously.

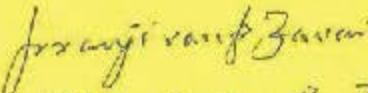
Proposed By:



Seconded By:



CKS NARAYANA SWAMY



Pranjivan P. Zaveri
(Pranjivan P. Zaveri)



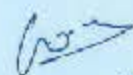
RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2017

RESOLUTION No. NSAI/2017/3

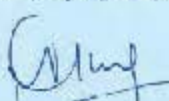
Resolved that the Statement of Accounts and Auditor's Report for the year 2016-17 has been accepted and approved by the General Body unanimously.

Proposed By:


G. D. Patel

Seconded By:


PANKAJ TANUJA


Ashwani Kumar Gang




RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2017


RESOLUTION No. NSAI/2017/4


Resolved unanimously that the existing Auditors of NSAI M/s A K GUPTA & ASSOCIATES (Chartered Accountants), New Delhi be re-appointed for the year 2017-18 at a remuneration of Rs 25,000 per annum.

Proposed By:

 (MANISH PATEL)

Seconded By:

 (V. Sudarshan Reddy)

 (VAIBHAV KASHIKAR)



RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2017

RESOLUTION No. NSAI/2017/5

Resolved that the Annual Budget for the FY 2017-18 has been accepted and approved by the General Body unanimously.

Proposed By:

K. Mahajan (Karan Mahajan)

Seconded By:

Legnath

Sanku (Sanjeev Mulya)


RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2017


RESOLUTION No. NSAI/2017/6

Resolved that 'an individual representing different member (organisation) cannot contest from more than one category (i.e. Ordinary, Associate and Association) in the same election. The same has been accepted and approved by the General Body unanimously. The Rules & Regulations of the National Seed Association of India is hereby amended and the same is included under point 10.4 Election and Its Mode, as new point 10.4.5.

Proposed By:

 (Kunal D. Lenzarwala)

Seconded By:

 (Sameer Muly)

 (Anurag Agarwal)



RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2017

RESOLUTION No. NSAI/2017/7

It is Resolved unanimously by the GC that the 'Eligibility criteria to contest in NSAI Governing Council Elections shall be 3 years' minimum presence as NSAI Member (i.e. the contestant company shall be a member of NSAI for 3 years on continuous basis) and the Individual person shall have minimum 5 years' experience in Seed industry'. This rule would apply from next GC elections. This amendment is proposed to ensure entry of competent people into the GC. The Rules & Regulations of the National Seed Association of India is hereby amended and the same is included under point 10.4 Election and Its Mode, as new point 10.4.6.

Proposed By:

[Signature]
(M. G. Shendekar)

Seconded By:

[Signature]
(Sachin Bhalinge)
[Signature] (N. P. Patel)

RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2017

RESOLUTION No. NSAI/2017/8

Roles and Responsibilities of Election Committee

The Election Committee would have the role of supervision, direction & control of elections for electing Governing Council members of NSAI. It would deal with the preparation of electoral list and organising elections for election of members into the Governing Council of NSAI. The key thrust of Election committee would be well-run elections, electoral registration and transparency operations and equal opportunity for all eligible members to contest in elections with high levels of compliance to integrity and fair-play.

1. Composition:

The Election Committee consists of:

- Chairman from among the current year NSAI Members
- 2 other members from among the current year NSAI Members
- The Committee shall be constituted by the Governing Council
- Upon successful organising of the Elections the Election committee would cease to operate

2. Functions of the Election Committee:

The Election Committee performs following functions:

- The supervise, direct & control the flow of elections.
- To act as guardian of Free & Fair Elections.
- To frame Model Code of Conduct.
- To finalize Election Notice, Election Schedule, Electoral List, Nomination Form, Proxy Voting Form.
- To declare Nomination List.
- To finalize Ballot Paper.
- To oversee the proceedings of the Elections-Casting of Votes, Counting of Votes
- To declare the Results of NSAI governing Council Elections

3. Powers of the Election Committee:

The Election Committee is vested with the following powers:

- To advice the qualification of any contestant as per the election guidelines.
- Framing of Timelines and modification of Election Schedule in agreement with Rules and Regulation of NSAI
- Decision on inclusion of Members in Electoral List based on Guidelines approved by the GC earlier.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2017

- d) Declaration of Electoral List
- e) Dispute mitigation during the Election Procedure
- f) To pass any order in respect of the conduct of the elections when there is no law or rule made under the R & R.

Resolved that the 'Roles and Responsibilities of Election Committee' has been accepted and approved by the General Body unanimously. The Rules & Regulations of the National Seed Association of India is hereby amended and the Roles and Responsibilities of Election Committee is included under point 10.4 Election and Its Mode as new point 10.4.7.

Proposed By:

G. D. Rhol

Seconded By:

K. S. Narasimhan
- J. S. Narasimhan
N. S. Narasimhan (Narasimhan N. Nauti)

ANNUAL REPORT

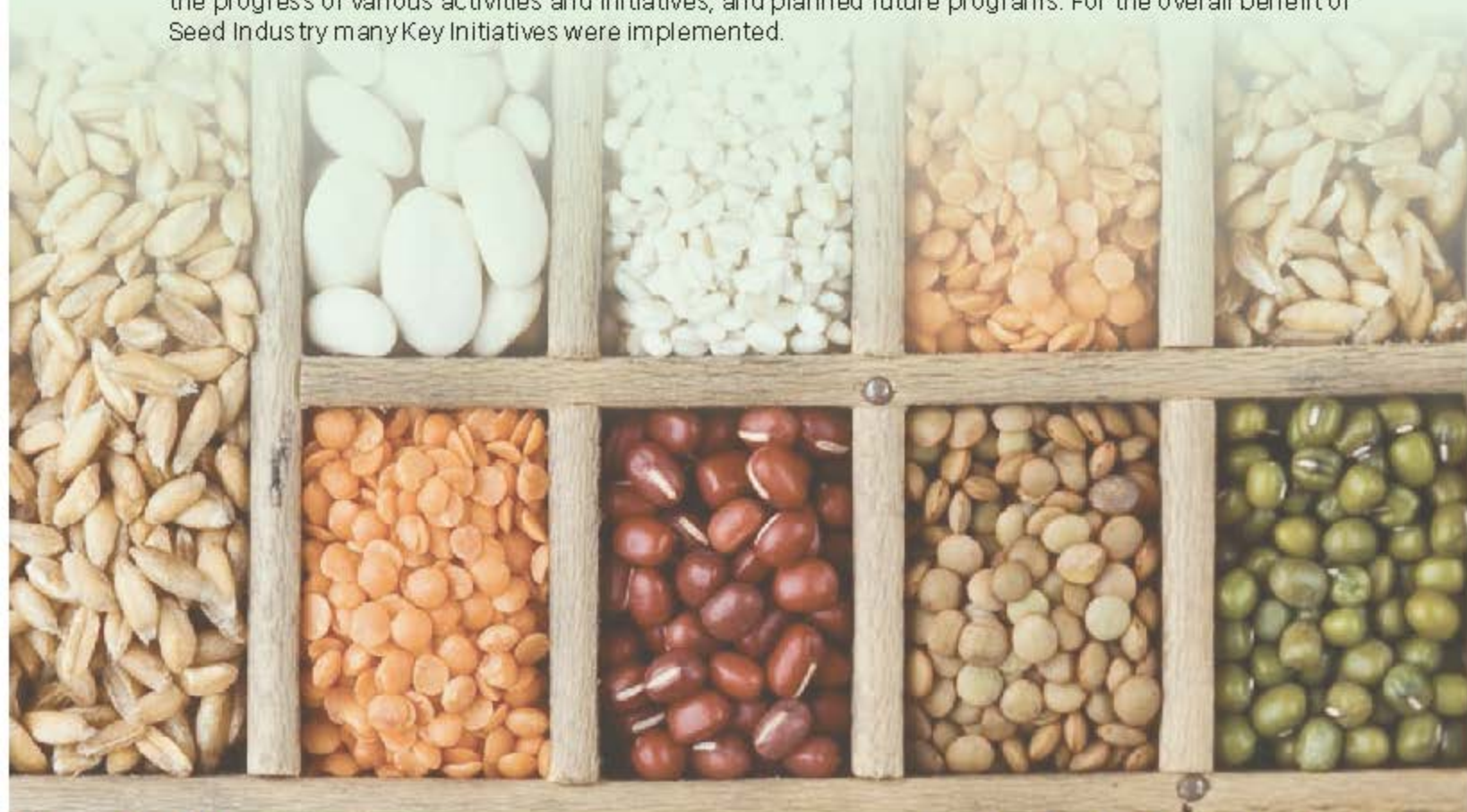
September 2017

August 2018

National Seed Association of India has continued to enjoy the strong support of its members and government both at state and national level, in representing the cause of Indian Seed Industry and partnering national agenda for agricultural growth. Over the year NSAI and its members have strongly believed that for Indian Agriculture to progress; the farmers of the country must progress. The Industry participation in the NSAI events, meetings and Issue based Workshops has been very encouraging. The increased convergence of efforts can be witnessed through active and regular engagement with policy makers for consultations on important issues of prime importance. This has indeed established the leadership role of NSAI as true representative of Indian Seed Industry. NSAI is now a regular participant to seminars of National and International repute, as both speakers and delegates.

A. MANAGEMENT

The Governing Council met on four occasions during the period since last Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 8th September, 2017 (New Delhi), 1st December, 2017 (New Delhi) 31st March, 2018 (Bengaluru) 30th June, 2018 (Hyderabad) and 20th August 2018 (Teleconference). During these meetings, the GC reviewed the progress of various activities and initiatives, and planned future programs. For the overall benefit of Seed Industry many Key Initiatives were implemented.



S. No.	Governing Council Meeting	58 th	59 th	60 th	61 st	62 nd
	Venue	New Delhi	New Delhi	Bengaluru	Hyderabad	Telcon
	Date	8 th Sept. 2017	1 st Dec. 2017	31 st March 2018	30 th June 2018	20 th Aug 2018
1	Mr. M. Prabhakar Rao Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd.					
2	Mr. Sameer Mulay Ajeet Seeds Ltd.					
3	Dr. Pranjivan P Zaveri Farm Tech Biogene Ltd.					
4	Mr. Pawan Kumar Kansal Kohinoor Seed Fields India Pvt. Ltd.					
5	Mr. G.V. Bhaskar Rao Kaveri Seed Co. Ltd.					
6	Dr. N.P. Patel Western Bio Vegetable Seeds Pvt. Ltd.					
7	Mr. Janak Peshrana Seeds India					
8	Mr. K. Niranjan Kumar GARC Seeds Pvt. Ltd.					
9	Mr. Arun Kumar Agarwalla West Bengal Hybrid Seeds & Biotech Pvt. Ltd.					
10	Mr. Ashwini Garg Super Seeds Pvt. Ltd.					
11	Mr. Kamal O. Zunzunwala Safal Seeds & Biotech Ltd.					
12	Mr. K.S. Narayanaswamy Karnataka Maize Development Association					
13	Dr. Manish Patel Integrated Coating and Seed Technology					

B. MEMBERSHIP

NSAI continues to be patronized by the major seed sector players and requests for our membership is increasing. From an aggregate of 472 members, as on 20th August 2018, 274 have renewed (Ordinary 238; Associate: 28; Association: 07; and Public Sector: 01). 26 were new members from Ordinary Category.

C. COMMUNICATION

I. Seed Times

The NSAI magazine 'Seed Times', is our main vehicle for communicating new knowledge and reports on NSAI and other events, etc. It continues to receive appreciation and accolades for its informative content and



Seed Times Volume 10
No. 2, Journey of Seed



Seed Times Vol 11 No.
1, Seed Sectors around the Globe

production quality. We continue with our practice of theme based content in every issue. During the period under report, we have published 02 issues of the magazine. The Seed Times (Vol 10 No. 2) issue focused on 'Journey of Seed'. While the next volume (Vol 11 No. 1) focused on 'Seed Sectors around the Globe'.

II. NSAI Newsletter- Seed News

NSAI monthly Newsletter 'Seed News', is an important medium for communicating industry news. The newsletter is now a regular issue with emphasis on reaching out to members with new updates and activities of NSAI. It also covers various important notifications issued by Government.



September, 2017



October, 2017



November, 2017



December, 2017



January, 2018



February, 2018



March, 2018



April, 2018



May, 2018



June, 2018

III. NSAI Website

The NSAI website has become an important source of information for the members. The 'What's New at NSAI' section informs the members about the latest developments of the industry, workshops and conferences. The Website has a section on 'Important Circulars and Representations', under this section each department are subcategorized with important notifications and circulars which are uploaded for benefiting members. The section on 'Important Notifications' places important notifications of Government. The 'Latest News' section informs members about the current updates of Indian Agriculture & Seed sector.





Important Representations

- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- Ministry of Environment & Climate Change
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Science & Technology
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
- Competition Commission of India
- Protection of Plant Variety & Farmers Right Act
- NTTI Ayog
- Parliament Questionnaire
- Prime Ministers Office
- Embassy
- State Agriculture Universities (SAU)
- State Department of Agriculture
- State Seed Corporation (SSC)
- Association / Chamber
- Corporate social responsibility (CSR)

What's New at NSAI

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DoA&C)

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)

National Seed Corporation (NSC)

Ministers office

RECENT PHOTO

[View Photo Gallery](#)

Important Notifications

- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- Ministry of Environment & Climate Change
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Science & Technology
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
- Competition Commission of India
- Protection of Plant Variety & Farmers Right Act
- NTTI Ayog
- Parliament Questionnaire
- Prime Ministers Office
- Embassy
- State Agriculture Universities (SAU)
- State Department of Agriculture
- State Seed Corporation (SSC)
- Association / Chamber
- Corporate social responsibility (CSR)
- Miscellaneous

Department of Biotechnology (DBT)

Department of Science & Technology (DST)

Ministers office

What's New at NSAI

Participation in 2nd Wellness India 2018 expo and Krishi India expo 2018 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, August 20-22, 2018

Last Updated: Monday, 20th August, 2018

Analysis of Delhi High court decision and its long term impact on seed industry

Last Updated: Tuesday, 15th May, 2018

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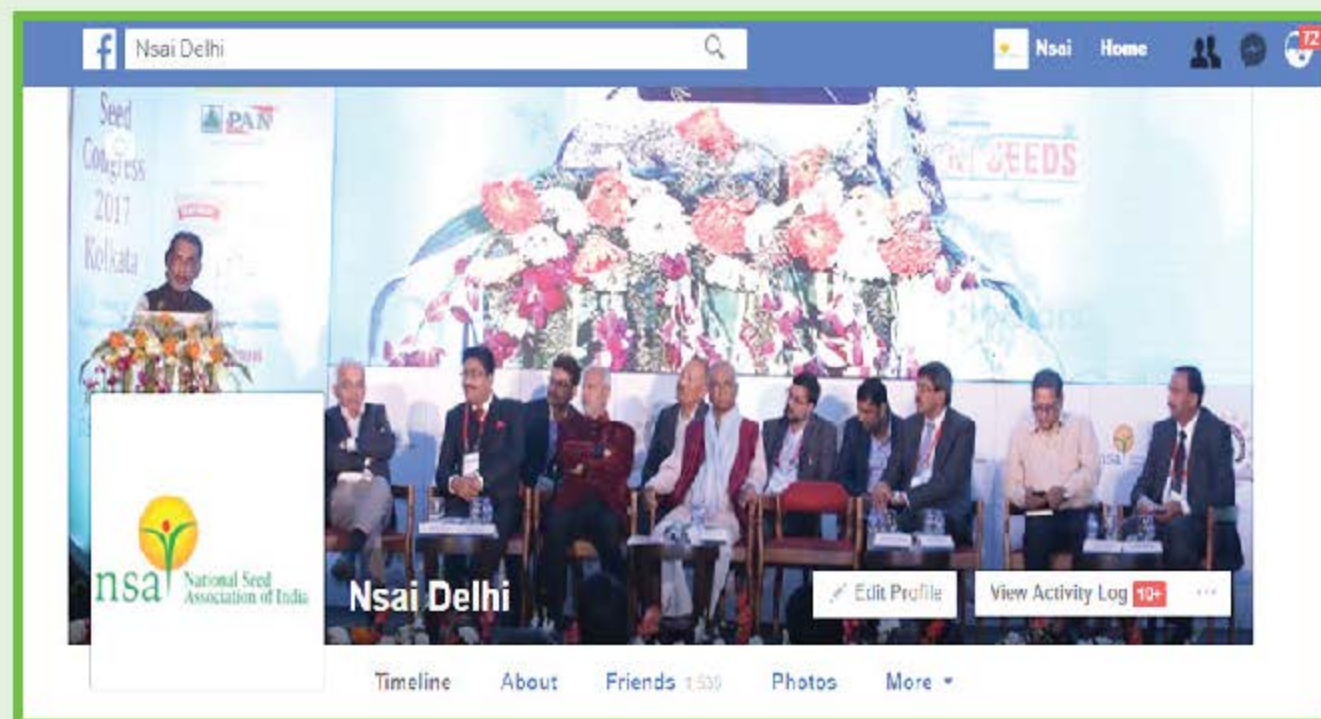
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IV. NSAI Social Networking

NSAI is also maintaining Twitter and Facebook Accounts for directly connecting with its members and information sharing as well.



V. Daily & Weekly Mailers

NSAI communicates with its members through daily and weekly mailers. We have a dedicated email id i.e. info@nsai.co.in for communicating to members about latest industry developments.

D. NSAI MEETINGS

National Seed Association Attended Meeting with Reference to Pink Bollworm Infestation on Bt Cotton Organized by MoA&FW

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare had organized a meeting with reference to the breakdown of resistance to pink Bollworm under the chairmanship of DDG (Crop Science), ICAR on 25th October 2017, at Krishi Bhawan. Director CICR presented a presentation on their surveillance report in the meeting.

NSAI was represented by its President Mr M Prabhakar Rao. The meeting was also attended by Dr P P Zaveri, Mr G D Patel, Mr Pawan Kumar Kansal, Dr Chandel, Dr Kalyan Goswami and Dr Manisha Negi.

National Seed Association of India Attended Round Table Meeting on "One District One Factory" with Ghana Delegation Organized by FICCI

NSAI participated in a round table interactive session with the Ghana delegation on business opportunities in the ambitious industrialization program of 'One District, One Factory' which was held in the Ghana High Commission in India on 9th November 2017 to give impetus to the trade relations between Ghana and India.



The session was held under the coordination of His Excellency Mr. Michael Aaron Nii Nortey Oquaye, High Commissioner of Ghana to India. The session was attended by a cohort of the Indian businessmen including Kirit Sobti from Indocorp, Rohit Khattar from K.S. Infosystems, Narsimha Hegde, Ashok Leyland, Vijay Sardana, UPL Limited, Surinder Makhija, from Jain Irrigation, Pramod, International Tractors Limited, Tarun Sharma from Mahindra & Mahindra, Sumant Khanna, Escorts, Manu Sharma from Shakti Pumps.

Sheila Sudhakaran, Advisor, Africa Division, of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Susnato Sen, Head of Africa division, FICCI were the facilitators of the event. A high profile team from Ghana including representatives of the Ghana Commercial Bank and the EXIM Bank informed about their programmes and what they wanted to do for the businessmen to help assist the projects of the Indian business community. NSAI was represented by Priyank Samuel.



National Seed Association of India Attended Meeting of the Field Inspection & Scientific Evaluation Committee (FISEC) for on-the-Spot Inspection of the Cotton Fields Organized by Dept of Biotechnology

The Department of Biotechnology has constituted "Field Inspection & Scientific Evaluation Committee (FISEC)" to assess the veracity of spread of unapproved HT cotton and to recommend the strategies and measures to be adopted.

DBT had organized a meeting of the FISEC committee on 15th November 2017 and invited all the stakeholders. The meeting was chaired by Dr S R Rao, Advisor, DBT. NSAI presented its view points on the subject before the committee. NSAI was represented by senior Governing Council Member i.e. Mr. G V Bhaskar Rao (Kaveri Seeds co Ltd), Mr. Sameer Mulay (Ajeet Seeds P Ltd), Mr. Pawan Kumar Kansal (Kohinoor Seed Fields I Pvt Ltd.) and Dr Chandel (Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd.). Also present were Dr Kalyan Goswami and Dr Manisha Negi from NSAI.

NSAI Attends 1st All India Progressive Farmers Convention organised by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture & All India Farmers Alliance

Indian Council of Food and Agriculture & All India Farmers Alliance organized the 1st All India Progressive Farmers Convention on 14-15th December 2017 in New Delhi. The aim was to establish a national level platform for progressive farmers to share their success stories and connect with the industry and key stakeholders for collaboration and growth opportunities. Dr Kalyan B Goswami participated in a session on Enhancing Inputs, Credit and Insurance Outreach.



NSAI Participated in the 2nd Edition of ET Agro Summit

Dr Kalyan Goswami, DG, NSAI, was an Esteemed Speaker for the session "Adopting the 7 Point Strategy: Revamping India's Agriculture Policy" - Reformative policies for enhancement of agri sector has been the Govt's agenda for the past 3 years, introduction of newer beneficial schemes like "per drop more crop" "soil health card" to increase the irrigation efficiency & soil yield alone will not be enough for overhauling the Agri sector. This power packed panel of big wigs emancipates a holistic approach Industry & Govt should adopt for a holistic solution.

As ET perceived a promising future for the agricultural community & farmers in particular who are striving for a better yielding crop year on year, technology coupled with reformative policies & Industry - Govt commitment towards agriculture will act as an enabler for a prosperous & more productive farming & farmers of tomorrow.

The Economic Times 2nd Agro Summit was an important forum for the members of agricultural community. Dialogues and practical case studies on the latest technologies for the agricultural sector, practical and need-based information sessions from policy makers & regulators, corporates, drivers & influencers of the agricultural community were some of the unique features of this forum. Dr Manisha Negi and Mr Priyank Samuel also attended the summit from NSAI.





NSAI Participated in a Strategy Workshop on Accelerating Seed Delivery Systems

NSAI participated in a Strategy Workshop on Accelerating Seed Delivery Systems organised by National Academy of Agricultural Sciences held at NAAS Complex on December 27, 2017. The workshop started off with a welcome and theme speech by Dr K V Prabhu, Secretary, NAAS. Followed by remarks by Co-Chair Prof R B Singh, Ex-President, NAAS and then the Chairman's address by Prof Panjab Singh, President, NAAS. The Workshop covered various Technical sessions on Accelerating Seed Delivery Systems, NSAI was represented by Dr Kalyan Goswami.

NSAI Meeting with MoA&FW regarding Extension of validity period of Certified Seeds till December, 2018

This was with reference to the extension of validity period of certified seeds after the expiry of validation period. On the request of NSAI member companies, NSAI had requested to Ministry of Agriculture, to extend the revalidation period of certified seeds till December, 2018 and to withdraw the notification dated 12th January 2017 (for three-month validity). After the continuous efforts and follow up of NSAI, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare came out with an office memorandum and extended the validity period of revalidated seeds till December 2018 and withdrew the notification dated 12th January, 2017.

NSAI Conducted a meeting for Cotton Seed Companies to brain storm on the issues faced

NSAI Conducted a brain storming session on 16th April 2018, at The Metropolitan with senior executives of 10 Cotton seed companies, the main objective of the meeting was that every year Seed Companies has to conduct trials in north for sale permission of Bt Cotton, which are already approved by GEAC. There is a very much disparity in the evaluation result every year for the same hybrids and seed companies has to suffer to get the sale permission for Bt Cotton hybrids.

Dr Gumber apprised the house about the history of these trials in north. He explained the house that in 2015 there was a huge damage done by white fly and CLCuD in north and yield were drop down to 197kg/h from 600kg/h. Government has also given compensation to the farmers. Government of Haryana initiated the meeting with Director Agriculture of both the states and VC of HAU & PAU to resolve the problem.

After which a big project "Long research Trial Development Programme" was started to check the problem of whitefly and CLCuD. 700 Cr of rupees were allotted to both PAU and HAU for this project. The project was divided into two phases. Each company representatives raised their concern and educated each other with the different types of challenges faced by each company in the trials, this followed by discussing what NSAI should be taking steps for this issue and what points to be included for the legal course of action by the concerned Companies.

NSAI Participated in a meeting with JS Seeds on Bt Protein level

NSAI participated in a meeting organized by Department of Agriculture Cooperation, MoA&FW on 21st June, 2018 to discuss the maximum level of protein expression in Bt Cotton hybrids (BG I and BGII). It was agreed by the Department of agriculture that the earlier Gazette notification specifying minimum level of Bt protein expression for Cry1Ac and Cry2Ab has some errors and there should be a study to finalise the minimum level of Bt toxin (for BGI and BGII) for approval of Bt Cotton hybrids. On the request of Seed Industry, Department of Agriculture has recommended to the CICR to conduct a study and to fix the minimum standard for Bt protein expression in Bt Cotton hybrids. The next meeting to discuss the protocol for Bt protein expression would take place in next week. DAC&FW will also constitute a group to finalize the level of protein expression in Bt Cotton in which representative of NSAI will also be included.





E. EVENTS/ CONFERENCES



Indian Seed Congress 2018:

The eighth edition of the Indian Seed Congress (ISC) went International for the first time. It was organized at Colombo, Sri Lanka on 5th -6th February 2018. It saw active participation from industry leaders (seed & allied), policy makers, scientific community, developmental agencies and various other organizations. This year the theme of Indian Seed Congress was 'Seeds beyond Boundaries'.

On 4th February 2018, CEO conclave was organised. Over the years, CEO conclave has been viewed by industry leaders as a platform for strengthening industry voice and exchange of new ideas for renewed vigour among industry leaders. The CEO Conclave was attended by 37 Business leaders. The conclave saw interaction by eminent personalities like Niranjana De' Silva and Yukthi Gunasekara.

ISC was formally announced open for all participating delegates on 5th February 2018. The event was inaugurated by the Dignitaries of the National Organising Committee of ISC 2018. The opening address was given by Dr Kalyan Goswami Director General, National Seed Association of India.

The welcome address was given by Mr M Prabhakar Rao, President National Seed Association of India, he welcomed the 8th International Edition of ISC by announcing the theme "Seeds Beyond Boundaries". He stressed upon the dynamic and fast-growing Seed Industry of India where the next "green revolution" is slated to happen. Mr Rao also believed that the congress would provide an opportunity for the industry participants to get updated with the latest developments in the seed sector and also conduct various business transactions with members from India and abroad. Mr Manish Patel, Co-Convener, ISC 2018 enlightened the audience with the history of Indian Seed Congress over the years and all its seven editions till now. Mr Patel educated the gathering through how NSAI was born in 2007 and when the senior management decided to generate a platform where they wanted all members to participate, celebrate, grow and develop their business, so started Indian Seed Congress in 2010 (Bangalore). This followed a successful



and growing Congresses conducted each year hence forth in various parts of India like Hyderabad, Pune, Gurgaon, Gujarat, Agra and Kolkata. Speaking on this occasion Mr Vaibhav Kashikar, Convener- ISC 2018 focused on to sharing why this edition of ISC was taken to Colombo, Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka being the most friendly Neighbouring country NOC decided to step into Colombo and organise this 8th edition there.

This was followed by the address of Dr Pranjivan Zaveri, General Secretary, NSAI. Dr Zaveri shared his vision about the Indian Seed Industry, he educated the congress with the Growth of Seed Sector in India, also about the journey of Seed Industry over the years and how they play a role in Improving Agriculture in India.

This was followed by the Vote of thanks delivered by Mr Sameer Mulay, Vice President, NSAI. Mr Mulay also stressed upon the commitment of NSAI to work for doubling farmer's income not only in India but all over the world and starting from the SAARC Countries.

To promote the B 2 B Activity in the congress, the National Organising Committee inaugurated Trading Table and Exhibition Hall. This time 27 Companies across the globe have booked their table slots and 09 Exhibition Stall to promote their business activity among the participated delegates.



Indian Seed Congress- Technical Sessions

In the Indian Seed Congress 2018, five technical sessions were conducted on 5th and 6th February, 2018. Eminent speakers from both government and private sector participated in the technical session. The technical session was focused on the theme of Congress "Seed Beyond Boundaries".

To achieve this target the broad heads of discussion were on:

- Global Seed Industry Trends.
- International Movement of Seed Regulations & Challenges.
- Biotechnological and Molecular Approaches; Innovation and Regulations
- Progress and review of Plant Breeding-Public and Private Sector.
- Panel discussion Seed-Associations Meet.

The technical Sessions were concluded on 6th February evening with vote of thanks to all speakers and participants.







Indian Seed Congress - Trading Table

To promote the B 2 B Activity in the region, the National Organizing Committee focused on Trading Tables this year. This year 27 companies both from India and abroad had booked their table slots to promote their business activity among the participants. There were two categories of trading table i.e. Display and Regular Trading Table.



Entertainment & Cultural Program

After the thought provoking and explanatory sessions, it was time for pleasure and delight. Entertainment has the capacity to cross across the boundaries of region, language, gender, competition and bind everyone with seemingly unlimited energy. As part of the event, on the evening of 5th February 2018, Welcome Dinner was organised for all the delegates. Some local traditional dance performances were performed in the Welcome dinner. Also on 6th February 2018 Gala Dinner was organised in which Eminent entertainers enthralled the audience with their energetic performances.





Glimpses of Indian Seed Congress



NSAI Members Participated in CSR Activity – Seed Donation in Bihar

With the view to aid farmers of Bihar Flood victims, Members of National Seed Association of India actively participates in donating seeds of Maize, wheat and vegetable seeds. We appreciate and thank our Members who helped for a social cause. The companies who donated seeds were Ajeet Seeds Ltd., Ankur Seeds Pvt Ltd., Crystal Crop Sciences Ltd., Kaveri Seeds Co Ltd., Nath Biogene India Ltd. and Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd.



NSAI participated in Krishi Unnati Mela 2018

Krishi Unnati Mela, an annual event that witnesses congregation of lakhs of farmers from across the country, showcases latest technology in agriculture and allied services. Farmers are also updated on various Government initiatives. The event, through a 360-degree information dissemination mechanism like setting up of stalls and pavilions, organizing seminars and conferences, live demonstrations, cultural shows etc provides limitless opportunity to farmers to share, interact and learn about the various initiatives of the Government.

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh on 16th March 2018 inaugurated the Krishi Unnati Mela 2018 in New Delhi.





Highlights of Krishi Unnati Mela 2018

- Hon'ble Prime Minister on March 17, 2018 to launch 25 Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) and inaugurate Biennial National Conference on KVK, addressing 681 KVKs through live telecast
- Prime Minister to confer National Level Krishi Karman Awards to best performing states and progressing farmers and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Krishi Vigyan Protsahan Puruskar
- More than 600 stalls to display and provide direct access to latest technologies and Government initiatives
- Theme Pavilion to showcase various schemes and initiatives in the agriculture and allied sector and also highlight start-up initiatives being implemented
- Exclusive seed selling counters to facilitate purchase of quality seeds by farmers
- Seminars and conferences to facilitate scientist-farmer interaction
- Live Demo on Micro Irrigation, Waste water utilization, Conventional and modern rain fed farming technologies, Vertical farming, Integrated farming, Fruit Trees, poly houses, Protected Cultivation, Animal Husbandry (Pashudhan) and Fisheries, Jevik Kheti, Farm machinery, Drone operation etc.
- Cultural shows and films on various aspects of agriculture

The event provides an information platform to the farmers and they should take advantage of this opportunity to become partners in the development of themselves and their country. The overall objective of the fair is the development, empowerment, and progress of the farmers. From NSAI members Kohinoor Seeds Fields (India) Pvt Ltd, took a stall and displayed their products.

NSAI Participated in RMS seed workshop

NSAI participated in the RMS seed workshop on 27th March 2018, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Organized by IRRI in collaboration with BMGF and Government of Odisha. Dr Kalyan Goswami, Director General, NSAI spoke to the house about the general view on the Indian seed Market. He summarized the functioning, challenges and scope of Private firms and industries in Seed Sector.



NSAI Observed 11th Foundation Day



The banner features a light green background with a floral pattern. At the top center is the NSAI logo, which consists of a stylized orange sun-like shape above the text 'nsai' in green, followed by 'National Seed Association of India' in a smaller font. To the left of the logo is a blue balloon with yellow and green triangles, and to the right is a bouquet of colorful balloons. Below the logo, the text '11th FOUNDATION DAY' is written in large, bold, blue letters with an orange outline. The main body of the banner contains a message from Dr. Kalyan Goswami, followed by a 'Thankyou Members!!' and 'With Regards Dr Kalyan Goswami'. At the bottom, the date '8th May 2018' is written in large, bold, red letters. The entire banner is framed by a decorative border of colorful patterns.

nsai National Seed Association of India

11th FOUNDATION DAY

Dear Esteemed Members,

It gives me immense pleasure and satisfaction to share with you that today is National Seed Association of India's 11th foundation day. We remain extremely grateful for your steadfast and exceptional support to us.

As we turn an year older we would like to say 'THANKYOU' for always believing in NSAI and its mission to work for betterment of Indian Seed Sector. Today NSAI stands as credible voice of seed sector and is recognised as an apex body of Indian seed industry by all prominent ministries of Government of India. This could not have been possible without you. In the years ahead too, we look forward to your active participation, guidance and whole hearted support.

Thankyou Members!!

With Regards
Dr Kalyan Goswami

8th May 2018





F. INDUSTRY ISSUES

1. Decision of Delhi High Court on patenting of Bt Cotton Technology

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the form of Patent and Plant Breeders' Right (PBR) are the most discussed and debatable issues in the present day for the seed industry. In order to implicitly understand the judgment of Hon'ble Delhi High court pertaining to patenting of Bt. cotton technology, it is better to first get acquainted with the terms of PBR, patent and relevant provisions of TRIPS agreement.

PBR is the right of the breeder to enjoy the benefits of his research for a restricted period for his new varieties. The WTO also provides that plant varieties must be protected by patents or by sui generis system such as PPV&FR Act of India under which a variety must have the novelty, distinctiveness, uniformity and stability.

A patent grants an individual the right to exclude all other people from manufacturing, using, or selling the product on which the patent was granted. A plant patent can be described as a patent on the plant as a whole or feature of a plant, such as a particular plant gene or gene sequences. However, Section 3(j) of Indian Patents Act excludes from patentability "plants and animals in whole or any part thereof other than microorganisms but including seeds, varieties and species and essentially biological processes for production or propagation of plants and animals." in pursuance of Article 27(3)(b) of the TRIPS Agreement. Thus, both Indian Patents Act and PPV&FR Act are the TRIPS compliant.

The Govt. of India along with several other developing countries of the world have specifically negotiated to insert the article 27(3) in the TRIPS Agreement. The reason that our country has chosen not to grant patents for seeds and planting material was that such provision can lead to monopolization of food and suppression of farmers rights. Taking this in to consideration, the two member bench of Hon'ble Delhi High Court pronounced a judgment on 11-04 -2018 interpreting only the law of the land. The essence of the judgement is that the Monsanto has been making false patent claims on seeds and plant varieties under Indian Patents Act to charge high trait value from the farmers. In fact, whatever IPR they have to enjoy should be obtained under PPV&FR Act by making claims for benefit sharing under this Act before the statutory body i.e. the PPV&FR Authority. The PPV&FR Authority through a due process of law in consultation with all the stakeholders will decide the quantum of benefit sharing based on the agronomic value of trait instead of what hitherto is deciding it unilaterally at exorbitant levels, claiming non-existent patent rights, on their own for excessive profits. The issue is not whether they have IPR or not but it is under what Act they have IPR. The misrepresentations of Monsanto about having patent rights on seeds to charge exorbitant trait value have finally been confirmed by the Hon'ble High Court. Further, Under the PPV&FR Act no permission is required from the owner of the variety including transgenic variety for conducting research on that variety for development of new varieties as the researchers rights provide for universal access with an obligation to pay benefit sharing as decided by the PPV&FR Authority. Further, innovations are encouraged under PPV&FR Act to make available superior varieties to the farmers. The GM trait developers can represent for appropriate trait value fixation giving justification on the agronomic value conferred by the GM traits and definitely can secure appropriate and reasonable returns on their investments. The relevant provisions of PPV&FRA can be elaborated in following manner-

Under this Act transgenic variety can be a "new variety" and, therefore, registrable under Section 15 (1) provided it satisfies the conditions of novelty, distinctiveness, uniformity and stability. A breeder under Section 16(1) includes the breeder of such transgenic variety. Under Section 24, varieties, other than essentially derived varieties can be given registration. The facility of benefit sharing then is conferred upon all interested to seek the advantages, upon fee determined in this regard. What is crucial in this enactment is benefit sharing under Section 26. If someone's variety with a unique trait (like the Bt. Trait) is used to create a new variety, benefit sharing can be claimed from the creator of the new variety under Section 26 of the PPV&FR Act read with Rules 41 to 44 of the PPV&FR Rules. The registration of a plant variety or a transgenic variety under Section 28 of the PPVFR Act confers certain exclusive rights enshrined therein on the breeder. Section 30 of the PPVFR Act provides for "Researcher's rights" allowing use of any registered variety for





developing new varieties. Under section 39, the farmers have the right to save, sow, re-sow, exchange, share and sell the farm saved seeds of any protected variety including a transgenic variety.

India's commitment to TRIPs, especially its commitment to enact a sui generis law, the enactment of the Plant variety protection Act and its conscious exclusion of patent protection to matters falling within Section 3 (j) are to be construed as an expressed intention to deny patents to "plants including seeds, varieties" or any part thereof. The "trait" it developed and for which patent was granted, is subsumed by the "variety" culminating in a "seed" and later a "plant". Undoubtedly, the trait is part of both the variety or the seed, or both and, therefore, excluded. It was therefore, held that Section 26 of the PPV&FR Act read with Rules 41 to 44 of the PPVFR Rules, and should be read concurrently with section 21(2) of the Biodiversity Act, in order to claim benefit sharing for use of the Bt. Trait.

India has a well-balanced legal framework that protects the rights of plant breeders, farmers and biotech companies. The Patents Act permits biotech companies to patent their artificially engineered genes and use them to create transgenic seeds in a laboratory. Biotech companies have the corresponding right to prevent anyone else from producing such transgenic seeds in a laboratory and selling the same. In fact, in the case of Bt cotton, Monsanto did precisely this, when it sold transgenic seeds to Indian seed companies for use as initial varieties for creating new varieties. However, once the transgenic seed is sold by a biotech research company, it cannot claim patent rights on subsequent seeds produced by farmers and breeders using essentially biological processes. For that, it must rely on the provisions of benefit sharing under the PPVFR Act.

This is a landmark judgement for Indian Seed Industry. This provides for universal access to all the breeders of small, medium or large companies including public sector to develop new plant varieties with any transgenic trait subject to its biosafety approval. The farmer shall have availability of more varieties from a wide range of seed companies. There shall be more competition and fair play in the market.

The innovation in trait development shall also be encouraged through benefit sharing provisions in proportion to the agronomic value a trait can confer to the new varieties. If a trait loses agronomic value, the trait value also shall disappear. This will be fair to the farmers as well.

2. Position of NSAI on harnessing IPR for agricultural growth submitted to TAAS

The National seed association of India (NSAI) is the apex seed industry body. NSAI's members comprise of Plant breeding and R&D driven seed companies, seed producers and seed marketers spread across 20 States of the country who contribute to 70% of the commercial seed industry of India. A meeting was convened by Trust for advancement of agricultural sciences (TAAS) with various stakeholders on 27th July 2018 at IARI, New Delhi to deliberate on the strategies to "harness IPRs on biological innovations for agricultural growth" and arrive at recommendations. NSAI made an elaborate presentation on its view on the subject and following are the recommendations of NSAI to TAAS.

- i. Plant breeders deal with traits and is agnostic to the origin or composition of a trait. A trait can be occurring in nature or could have been developed using artificial processes including biotechnological methods. A trait can be visible as a morphological expression on a plant part or it may be expression of gene through metabolic processes of plant leading to a characteristic of a plant variety. The PPVFR authority should therefore make/revise required rules and formats for all required traits with necessary revisions to DUS criteria for all crops.
- ii. Plant breeders bring various desirable traits or characteristics of interest together for development of a "plant variety" through breeding methods. Once these traits are reduced and established in a plant in a Distinct, Uniform and Stable (DUS) manner, such a plant is designated as a Plant variety as per the provisions & procedure described of the PPVFR act. All Plant breeders access traits from the available germplasm under the rights available to them under section-30 of the PPVFR Act. All such contributions for development of a trait are rewarded under benefit share mechanism defined in section-26 of the PPVFR Act.





- iii. There has been a misunderstanding and misinterpretation of Section-26 of the act, where it is being mislaid that benefit sharing is only for communities for conservation of germplasm and not for traits developed by farmers, breeders or biotechnology companies/organizations or communities. Essentially the "trait of interest" or desirable character is a fundamental unit for a plant breeder on which the variety development activity is centered around. Communities protect groups of traits in one or more plants as a valuable germplasm and contribute to development of one or more varieties. Similarly any individual or a farmer or a breeder or a biotechnology company or a community who contributes to a particular trait can seek benefit share under provisions of the act. Compensation is provided to the contribution of the people of a village or local community under section-41 of the PPVFR Act, read with rules 68 to 70 of the PPVFR Rules, 2003. The PPVFR authority should immediately rectify this misunderstanding through adequate awareness programs to make people understand that benefit sharing/incentive is for all contributors of a trait or traits including breeders, farmers, communities or biotechnology organizations in the spirit of section-8.0 of the Act.
- iv. The act includes all plant varieties including transgenic plant varieties. Therefore the disclosure requirements for transgenic plant varieties should be linked to biosafety approval and clearances. The trait developers also should mandatorily register their transgenic Plant varieties which will become source material (donor seeds) for subsequent GM plant varieties after obtaining biosafety clearance for claiming benefit share in future.
- v. Further PPVFR Authority should revise and develop new benefit sharing guidelines for contributions to all traits including transgenic traits developed by biotechnological methods by issue of necessary guidelines as per the benefit sharing rules to bring clarity on this important provision of PPVFR act. By making necessary changes in the rules, the National gene fund (NGF) can expect significant revenue inflows, which can be further used for farmer's welfare and funding relevant public goods for Plant genetic improvement and agricultural growth.
- vi. PPVFR Authority should streamline and automate application filing, prosecution and grant procedures in line with disclosures needed for BD Act, Benefit sharing and Researchers and breeders rights for access to genetic resources.
- vii. A inter-departmental coordination mechanism may be developed between Patent/Trademark office, BDA, GEAC and PPVRA for providing information to breeders on the (i) germplasm or trait availability (ii) biosafety clearance details, etc. to enable breeders make informed choices including signing of SMTAs.
- viii. An information portal may be made available to all breeders, trait developers, farmers, communities and public at large on all traits, parental lines, varieties and germplasm. Inputs may be taken from CPVO, EPO portals and examples such as PINTO database.
- ix. PPVFR Act has some good safeguard provisions for farmers, researchers and consumers especially not permitting registration for harmful technology like terminator technology, GURT and also compensation to farmers if variety is not giving expected performance, and invoking compulsory licensing if reasonable requirement of seed of public at reasonable price is not met. These provisions are not available in Patent Act. Therefore, for transgenic seeds and varieties also PPVFR is the most appropriate Act for IPR protection.

3. Specifications for sample size, sampling procedure, testing procedure and tolerance levels for Bt cotton seed lots

In order to regulate the quality of seeds being sold to the farmers, the Government of India enacted the Seeds Act, 1966 and made the Seeds Rule 1968 and specified the seed quality standards thereunder. Further, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India also brought out three important





seed publications i.e. (i) Seed Testing Manual (1967), (ii) "Handbook of Seed Testing" (1993) and (iii) "A Handbook for Seed Inspectors" to regulate the quality of seeds being sold in the market. The above three publications mainly focus on the importance of seed testing and seed sampling. They emphasize that the accuracy of seed testing result is mainly depends on how precisely the seed sample has been drawn which should be a true representative of the seed lot. The other important factor which affects seed testing results are tolerance level for accepting variations in results. There are five sources of variations. These are: (i) bag to bag variation, (ii) in-bag variation, (iii) working sample variation, (iv) among analysts variation and (v) in-analyst variation.

The Handbook for Seed Inspectors also emphasizes the importance of Seed Sampling and specifies the submitted sample size and also the use of tolerance Levels. The Sample Size is also very important for accuracy of the result and tolerance levels have been specified based on the sample size. There is significant negative correlation between size of the sample and variation in analytical results. Lower the sample size, greater the variation in the analytical results and hence the greater tolerance level is specified for the smaller sample size. For instance, in case of 75% specified germination standard, the tolerances given are: 4 for 800 seeds, 6 for 400 seeds and 9 for 200 seeds in all the above three manuals. It is pertinent to mention that sample size and tolerances are specified for all the quality parameters.

Bt cotton with first generation trait was commercialized in 2002 and with second generation was commercialized in 2006. The Submitted Sample Size and the Working Sample Size were specified under rule 33 of the Seeds Rules, 1968 as 25g and 10 seeds respectively vide Office Memorandum No. 17-8/2005-SD.IV dated 02.11.2005 of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation), Government of India for testing Bt cotton seeds. These sample sizes, contrary to the principles of seed sampling laid down in the above three manuals, are very small and such samples cannot be considered as representative sample of the said seed lot. Further, tolerances are also not specified. This could result in a bad seed lot being passed and a good seed lot being declared fail by the seed analyst.

Meanwhile, Pink Bollworm developed resistance against Bollgard-II trait in Gujarat and was rapidly spreading. To address this problem, National Seed Association of India represented to the Secretary (DAC&FW), Government of India vide letter dated 02.09.2015 (Copy enclosed) for immediate approval of concept of Refuge in Bag (RIB), so that it could be implemented even for Kharif-2016 itself and further spread of insect resistance is prevented. NSAI took initiative to ensure that RIB concept is adopted at the earliest to address insect resistance problem.

RIB is a new concept, for which the sampling and testing procedures are yet to be specified under the Seeds Act, 1966, though the gene purity parameter in terms of transgene *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) and minimum level of Bt Toxin both for "Refuge as Separate Pack" (SP) and Refuge in Bag" (RIB) have been specified vide Notification S.O.4215(E) dated 27.12.2016 by Government of India.

For RIB concept, purity in terms of transgenics/transgenes and minimum level of Bt. Toxin is specified as follows:

"Purity in terms of transgenics/transgenes

Bt. Cotton RIB seed pack (475 g) having minimum of 90% and maximum of 95% seeds positive for each gene. The 475 g RIB packet shall contain minimum of 5% and maximum of 10% non-Bt. cotton seeds.

Minimum level of Bt. Toxin

420 nanogram of each toxin per sq. cm of leaf or per gram of seed/leaf."

As purity in case RIB concept is specified for both minimum and maximum, tolerances have to be provided accordingly. We state that the seed analysts are analyzing the Bt cotton seed samples drawn from SP and RIB packets despite that there are no sampling and testing protocols. The specified sample size is against the scientific principles of seed sampling and testing and no tolerances are specified and the seed inspectors are issuing Show Cause Notices and also launching prosecutions, based on such reports. This is resulting in unnecessary harassment to the seed companies.





NSAI has requested Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture & farmers' Welfare on 16th July 2018 to revise the seed sample size and to specify sampling procedure, testing protocols and Tolerance Levels and also direct the State Departments of Agriculture not to launch prosecution based on such unscientific reports.

4. Need of NOC from technology provider for Registration of Bt Cotton Hybrids under PPV&FRA

The PPV&FR Authority had been asking for NOC from the technology provider when a seed company is applying for registration of a new variety under the PPVFR Act. Such a stipulation is not backed by any provision in the PPVFR Act. If the stipulation was not there, under Section 30 of the PPVFR Act, the seed companies would have had access to the registered Bt cotton hybrid for development of new hybrids and payment of trait fee would be done as per the clause 26 of Benefit sharing of PPV & FRA.

NSAI has requested PPV&FR Authority for not to insist for NOC from technology provider for registration of Bt Cotton Hybrids under PPV&FRA and has done several meetings with the Authority. PPVFR Authority has taken the legal opinion on the matter from Shri Tushar Mehta, Additional Solicitor General of India. The Ld. Addl Solicitor General of India has given his considered and valuable opinion that there are no provisions in support for insistence of NOC and it may cause significant loss of revenue to the National Gene Fund.

In the 27th meeting of PPVFR Authority held on 31-5-2017, it was decided by the members after taking into consideration the valuable opinion of Ld. Additional Solicitor General of India and examining the relevant provisions of the Act that the requirement of submission of a No Objection Certificate from the concerned Technology Provider as a part of the application will be dispensed with for registration of the Bt cotton plant varieties. This decision shall come into force with immediate effect and it applies to all pending applications for registration also. However, the applicant has to submit a declaration under section 18(1) (h) of the Act, which is already incorporated in Form 1 and Form 2, under the title "Declarations", specified under Regulation 10 of the PPV&FR Regulations, 2006." Now, after joining of new Chairperson in PPV&FRA the Authority has again initiated exercise to bring back NOC requirement for registration of Bt Cotton. However, on the petition of Seedsman Association Kurnool, the Hyderabad High Court has stayed the matter.

5. Request made to Agriculture Minister and Secretary (DAC&FW) Govt. of India Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare to take immediate action on following issues:

i. Attempt for Revival of No Objection Certificate from the Trait Development/Provider by PPV&FRA.

The members of the National Seed Association of India are highly disturbed from the information that the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (Authority) is contemplating to bring back the No Objection Certificate (NOC), which the Authority had dispensed with in its 27th meeting held on 31st May 2017 after meticulously deliberating the issue on merits. The matter, which had been appropriately closed by the Authority after taking legal opinion from one of the top most and competent law officers of Government of India, is being reopened merely based on a simple representation of an association of MNC companies and their supporters giving a different twist to the subject to overcome the existing legal opinion obtained by MoA after considering representations of NSAI and farmers.

It has been provided by law makers that seeds and plant varieties are outside the domain of Patent to avoid Monopoly by insertion of section 3(j) in IPA. Accordingly as per new Seed policy 2002 transgenic plant varieties are also covered under PPVFR Act. The MoA obtained legal opinion which clarified these aspects. It's surprising to see attempt of PPVFR Authority to bring NOC back despite the Hon'ble High Court judgment holding that there can't be patent on seeds or plant varieties.

NSAI has requested Union Agriculture Minister to intervene so that the Indian farmers and breeders are not trapped once again by any transgenic trait provider in future like in past. The seed industry had been very much concerned with the fallout of the imposition of NOC without backing of law, in as much as many seed companies were forced to close down their cotton seed business due to suppression of researchers'





rights provided under Section 30. Some of its member associations and seed companies have even gone to court in the matter based on which previous decision to do away with NOC was taken. Farmers shall also be adversely affected if the NOC is imposed by PPVFR Authority, without backing of law, as it can suppress their rights available to them under section 39 of the PPVFR Act.

The Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi by holding in its recent judgment that Monsanto does not have patent rights on plants, varieties, seeds and essentially biological processes by virtue of section 3(j) of the Patents Act, 1970, has further confirmed the decision of the Authority's 27th meeting.

ii. Fixation of Bt Cotton Seed Price for Kharif 2019

For Kharif 2017, DAC&FW has reduced the seed value in the price of Bt cotton seed to Rs 701 from previous year price of Rs 751 per packet. With this low Seed Value fixed for Bt Cotton seed, the industry is truly finding it very difficult to run the Bt cotton seed business in this Kharif season. We have already brought this to your notice in our previous meeting and requested for enhancement of the seed value component of the MSP in view of increase of cost of production, processing, testing and marketing of seeds. The costs of inputs including labor, fertilizer, and chemical have increased substantially since 2011, while seed value was actually reduced since then and therefore we request for enhancement of the seed value by Rs. 150/- **(NSAI had submitted the cost bifurcation on 28th February, 2018).**

Despite NSAI Request for Seed value enhancement it was actually reduced by 50/- and this can impact seed production this year and impact quality Seed availability to farmers. Global cotton commodity prices are increasing rapidly leading to Surge in demand for cotton Seed next year. Farmers may not get required quantity of cotton seeds next year. NSAI has therefore, requested CSPCO to enhance seed value and declare the MSP for 2019 as soon as possible so that Seed companies can take up adequate seed production to meet demand next year.

iii. Development of Resistance by Pink Bollworm (PBW) for BGII trait:

The PBW has developed resistance to BG-II since 2015. Due to lack of appropriate extension activity in Maharashtra, there was a severe damage to the cotton crop in that State. The officials of the Agriculture Dept., Maharashtra as well as other states are holding the seed companies responsible for the efficacy of the trait. This is not correct since the efficacy of the trait falls under the domain of the trait developer as per the provisions of the Cotton Seeds Price (Control) Order, 2015 or under EPA. CICR and ICAR have repeatedly clarified this in meetings that happened in MoA last year. It may be clarified by DAC&FW to Maharashtra and all other states that the trait efficacy is a responsibility of the trait developer i.e. MMBL, as all Seed lots of all Seed companies are having susceptibility to PBW it proves that this is not a seed quality related issues. Generally, the seed quality deficiency can be in few lots randomly and can't be across the board for all lots of all companies. As such Seed quality issues can be held to be responsibility of the concerned Seed company and all steps under law can be taken against them.

iv. Parameters for adventitious presence of HT cotton trait and its testing protocol

Despite representation from NSAI, this has not been notified by DACFW. NSAI request that this to be notified as soon as possible so that the companies are made aware about what standards are to be maintained and what protocols and procedure are followed for sampling and testing to detect presence or absence of HT gene. In the absence of this, the regulatory authorities have now adopted crude and unscientific procedure to test the cotton leaves and seeds, which results only in false negative or false positive report, and based on which, action is being initiated against the seed companies, farmers and ginning plants.

v. Uniform Rules to carry out Seed Business in all states as per Seed Control Order

Under the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983, all the seed manufacturers and dealers are required to obtain a license for marketing the seed. Most of the States are also adding the varieties / hybrids to be marketed





in the seed license. While this is not laid down under the Seeds (Control) Order / Seeds Act, the members of the Association are cooperating with the licensing authorities by submitting the necessary information about new varieties developed by them to the licensing authority for inclusion of varieties / hybrids in the seed license. However, different States are coming up with different requirements with reference to the performance evaluation data. Some States are insisting for the data from the State Agriculture Universities (SAUs) while the others are allowing it based on an affidavit from the seed company, which includes the evaluation done in their own R&D farms. NSAI request for communication of uniform guidelines wherein an affidavit from the applicant giving the morphological characters and the performance evaluation data as per their own R&D trials shall be made adequate for all the States.

vi. Marketing of proprietary hybrids / Research hybrids

Keeping in view of the requirements of farmers, the private sector has made significant investments in R&D for varietal breeding programs for developing new varieties and hybrids. The research varieties developed by private sector which are similar to certified seeds of notified varieties, have been commercialized after rigorous evaluation and testing both for quality and genetic purity. These varieties have been widely accepted by farmers across geographies, due to their superior yields, tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses and other advantages which the farmer as a consumer have recognized based on their use and experience. The Seeds Act and the Seeds (Control) Order permits for sale of such research hybrids as labeled seed.

vii. Revalidation of Certified Seed after the expiry of validity period

In Indian Minimum Seed Certification Standard, 2013 the provision for revalidation of seed has been changed stating that the request of revalidation should be made before the expiry of validity period. The change in the provisions of revalidation is unfavorable for the seed Industry. Even if there is no sale season or demand of seed, one will have to get their seed revalidated. Since the seeds are revalidated for six months only, the validity of revalidation will over before the sowing season hence it cannot be put in the market and the second revalidation will have to be done for all seeds. The chances are high that due to procedure of second revalidation, the sale of seed will lose the second season.

NSAI have been requesting to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to amend the IMSCS, 2013. DAC&FW has given the relaxation for revalidated period of certified seeds till the end of 2018. DAC&FW has also decided ICAR may conduct a study in this regard. As this study may take 3-4 years, DAC&FW may take in to account the trial result of GSSCA conducted on this aspect and accordingly amend IMSCS and bring back the original procedure and implement the OM 18-17/88-SD-IV dated 28 April 1989.

viii. Charging of Registration fees by Breeder for lifting of breeder seed

In some of the states like Haryana, Orissa etc. the state agriculture universities are demanding high amount of money around Rs 20000/- per variety as registration fees over and above the price of breeder seed for lifting the breeder seed allotted by Govt. of India. This is a very unjustified demand of breeders which is putting small and medium seed companies under hardship and hampering their business as they are multiplying and supplying seeds of public bred varieties to farmers at reasonable price. DAC&FW and ICAR should immediately intervene in this matter.

ix. Establishment of a Seed export promotion council to encourage Seed exports from India

India has vast potential of Export of Seeds and planting materials to other countries. However presently our contribution in Global seed market is insignificant. In order to boost the Seed export by utilizing our existing potential, a Seed Export Promotion Council may be established in PPP Mode.

6. Issue of Refugia in Bag and issuance of labeling format under this concept:

On the reports from major cotton growing states about damages of Bt Cotton Crop by pink bollworm NSAI has taken up the matter with Agriculture ministry. In consequence of an intensive follow up of NSAI, ministry





of agriculture has conducted several meeting with eminent scientists and industry representatives and implemented the concept of RIB (Refugia in a Bag) and PIP (Pack in Pack). Under the concept of Refugia in a Bag, 23.7g of Isogenic Non Bt Cotton hybrid will be mixed as Refugia with 475g of Bt cotton Seeds. As the development of Isogenic non Bt cotton hybrid seeds would take time, so on the request of NSAI, ministry of agriculture has given time to seed industry up to 2019 for implementing the RIB concept. It was also decided that in Case of RIB, the gene purity will be mentioned as minimum 90% and maximum 95%, while there will be no change in the seed quality standards in case of earlier system (450g Bt cotton seeds + 120g non Bt cotton hybrids) where the gene purity will continue to be 90 %. After continuous follow up of NSAI, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has issued a Gazette Notification, specifying the standards as per the discussion held in meeting for both Refugia in Bag(RIB) and pack in Pack (PIP) concept.

In continuation to that Maharashtra Agriculture Department has issued a notification to include some specific details on the Bt Cotton packets. On the request of members, NSAI has requested Ministry of Agriculture to issue a standard format of labelling of Bt Cotton Seed Packets as per the Seeds Act, 1966. On the request of NSAI and after a continuous follow up Ministry of Agriculture has issued an Office Memorandum, specifying the labelling format for packaging of Bt Cotton seeds under the concept of RIB and PIP.

7. Cotton leaf Curl Virus menace and Bt cotton Seed Sale permission

NSAI had made representation for sale permission of Bt Cotton Hybrids with respect to the CLCuV tolerance in Punjab and Haryana on the request of NSAI members. After an extensive follow up and several meetings with ICAR and concerned state governments, NSAI has got sale permission for all the applied hybrids in Haryana.

8. OECD Seed Certification

NSAI has been facilitating its member companies in educating them on OECD Registration process and representing their issues at Ministry for smooth and timely registration. NSAI has also following up for the enlisting of applied varieties under the OECD Scheme.

9. Issuance of Gazette notification for Minimum Seed Certification Standard of Rapeseed & Mustard

NSAI had taken up the issue of genetic Purity standard of Mustard & Rapeseed. As per the notification dated, 23rd September, 2014, Department of Agriculture Cooperation has made amendment in Gazette Notification dated, 18th December, 1991 for genetic Purity of Mustard & Rapeseed from 95 to 85 per cent. The notification is valid till 30th September, 2016. In view of the above, NSAI has approached ICAR for further extension of the above notification with 85 percent genetic purity. With the constant effort of NSAI, Department of Agriculture Cooperation has issued Gazette Notification for mustard seed genetic purity with 85 percent.

10. Ban of sale of Research variety in Bihar and Jharkhand

Agriculture Department of Bihar and Jharkhand have issued a notification imposing ban on sale of research variety seeds in their respective States on 9.6.2017 and 15.6.2017 respectively. National seed Association of India has represented the issue to JS (Seed), Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and also done meeting with principle Secretary and Director Agriculture Bihar and Jharkhand. NSAI has represented to MoA that this prohibition on sale of Research Variety is contrary to the provisions of Seeds Act, 1966, Seed Rule, 1968 and Seed Control (Order), 1983.

On the continuous effort of NSAI, JS (Seed), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, MoA&FW has given recommendation to the Secretary, Bihar and Jharkhand to follow the Seeds Act, 1966, Seed Rule, 1968 and Seed Control (Order), 1983 to ensure the availability of quality seed among the farmers.

11. Goods and Service Tax

As Central Government and all states have been completely exempting seeds from the levy of any tax whatsoever during intra- and inter- state movement, the same practice should be continued under the GST





regime. With regard to this NSAI had requested to Ministry of Agriculture and Finance to keep the seeds and planting materials in the Negative List under the proposed GST Act. In this context, NSAI has done several meetings in Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare for recommendation to Ministry of Finance for keeping seed under the negative list in GST. In continuation to that NSAI has also met and requested to member Secretary of Empowered committee of State Finance Ministers, Chairman GSTN to consider the appeal of Seed industry to keep seed under the negative list in the recent Model GST Law, 2016.

On the result of continuous effort and follow up of NSAI, GST council has declared the Nil rate for all goods of seed quality for the chapter 9 and chapter 12 only. Due to the classification of all crops in different chapter, seeds of some important crops had come under the purview of GST under 5% tax regime. On the request of our members, National Seed Association of India has represented the matter to the Honourable Government of India (Ministry of finance and Ministry of Agriculture) vide its letter **dated, 3rd July, 2017, 11th July, 2017 and 17th July, 2017**. NSAI has done relentless follow up with the government and submitted required clarification along with the supportive in this regard to Ministry, to cover all goods of seeds of quality, seedlings, saplings, and planting material pertaining to other agricultural crops under the Nil category.

On 28th June, 2017 Ministry of Finance had issued a **Notification No. 02/2017 and exempted "all goods of seed quality" under Chapter 9 and Chapter 12 only**. The said exemption list did not cover all goods of seeds of quality, seedlings, saplings, and planting material pertaining to other agricultural crops covered under the chapter 6, 7 and 10. **On the continuous efforts of NSAI, Government of India has issued a corrigendum to Notification No. 02/2017 vide dated 27th July 2017** and exempted all goods of seed quality referred under Chapter 7 and Chapter 10 in addition to exemption given earlier under Chapter 9 and Chapter 12 vide referred notification.

Accordingly, all seeds of quality mentioned under Chapter 7, Chapter 9, Chapter 10 and Chapter 12 are now exempted. Chapter 6 which covers planting material is already exempted vide referred notification.

12. Rule bound Income Tax for the Seed Industry

As per the section 10(1) of Income Tax Act, 1961, income from cultivation and sale of seed was consistently accepted as tax exempt agricultural income by the income tax department since 1980 to 1999-2000. Since 1990-2000, despite the existence of same Income tax laws and rules, Income tax department has sought to tax the income from cultivation and sale of seeds.

To clarify the conflicting position emerged on the taxation of income from cultivation and sale of seed, the DGIR commissioned a study in 2002. The study recommended that the seeds are produced by conducting agriculture and the income be either treated as tax exempt agricultural income (as was consistently done till 1999-2000), or within the scope of section 295 (2) (a)(i) of the Income Tax Act 1961, a rule should be made to tax the income from cultivation and sale of seeds on the lines of taxation of income of plantation companies i.e. tea, coffee and rubber".

A report prepared by India Development Foundation (IDF) has concluded that the income should be bifurcated in the ratio of 90:10% as agricultural income: business income for the purpose of Taxation. In other words, only 10% of the income is to be subjected to tax. Based on these reports, NSAI has requested to Central Board of Direct Taxes for Rule bound taxation of income from cultivation and sale of seeds similar to taxation of plantation crops. NSAI has done several meetings with Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Agriculture to formulate Rule bound taxation of income from cultivation and sale of seed.

As an outcome of rigorous follow up of NSAI, Director General Risk Assessment has requested Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to call a meeting with stakeholders, so that the issue can be taken up further.



G. NSAI IN NEWS

These two issues could put the brakes on the Bt cotton story

By G. Seetharaman, ET Bureau | Jan 21, 2018, 06:56 AM IST



Ashwari Mehajan, national co-convenor of the Swadeshi Jagan Manch (SJM), says the pink bollworm attacks are a failure of the technology for which Monsanto charges a fee.

"Open any boll here and you'll see it's destroyed," says Ganesh Shere, a farmer at a village called Jamb in Yavatmal district, about 160 km from Nagpur, in northeast Maharashtra.

He walks along the length of his bone-dry, four-acre cotton field and splits two dozen cotton bolls, with a stone or his fingers, to reveal the damage done by pink bollworms, which have become resistant to the genetically modified (GM) cotton variety he uses.

His yield this year has only been 200 kg, less than 5% of what he produced last year. Shere, a 51-year-old former farmer, has lost his losses at Rs 2 lakh.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Seed cos threaten to stop making Bt cotton seeds

16/11/2018, 09:05 PM IST



NAGPUR: The pink bollworm crisis, which hit the state's cotton farmers, has taken a new turn. The companies that make Bt cotton seeds have threatened to stop manufacturing the genetically modified variety, which is supposed to be resistant against bollworm.

A letter sent by National Seeds Association of India (NSAI) to joint secretary (seeds) in the union agriculture ministry says that its members may stop making the current version of Bt cotton seeds from this month, if their demands are not accepted.

The seed makers are under fire from state government, which has announced that manufacturers would have to pay a part of the compensation payable to cotton growers for losses due to pink bollworm attack. The seed makers also hinted at plans to move the court against the state government order.

Maharashtra bans co-marketing of brands for BT cotton seeds

Selling Bt seeds that are produced in other states under different brand names is called co-marketing. Earlier, state agriculture minister Pandurang Fundkar had said co-marketing practice makes it difficult for the authorities to take legal action against such companies.

By Nandini Kharas | Pune | Published: January 18, 2018 9:23 AM



Bt cotton seeds effective: Monsanto to government

Major Monsanto's India JV firm MMBL has written to the government asserting that its Bt technology seeds continues to be effective in controlling pest.

January 2018 07:57 PM | Last Updated: 18th January 2018 08:55 PM



Threat to stop selling Bt cotton seeds irresponsible: Monsanto



HYDERABAD, JANUARY 17

The world's largest seed company, Monsanto, has threatened to stop selling its Bt cotton seeds in India, saying the seeds are not effective in controlling pest.

Seed cos threaten to stop making Bt cotton seeds

17/11/2018, 13:04 IST



Representative Image

NAGPUR: The pink bollworm crisis, which hit the state's cotton farmers, has taken a new turn. The companies that make Bt cotton seeds have threatened to stop manufacturing the genetically modified variety, which is supposed to be resistant against bollworm.

A letter sent by National Seeds Association of India (NSAI) to joint secretary (seeds) in the union agriculture ministry says that its members may stop making the current version of Bt cotton seeds from this month, if their demands are not accepted.

Following pest infestation, will Indian farmers turn wary of GMO Bt cotton?

G Seetharaman | Economic Times | January 24, 2018



The loss caused by the pink bollworm infestation has raised questions about the future of Bt cotton. The loss in Bt cotton is estimated to be over 90% of the total cotton production in the country.

'Refuge planting needed to slow pest resistance'

TV MUMBAI



During the last week, the cotton crop in the area was heavily infested with bollworms.

RELATED

Cottonseed firms to grow: Reserve trait value on Bt-II

Study in Telangana under Bt crop too resistance

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1, 2018

Bt cotton doubled production, minimised harm by pest

PTI | Feb 5, 2018, 16:32 IST



Cotton production in the country has doubled since the introduction of Bt cotton in 2002, the government told the Rajya Sabha today. In a written reply to a question, Union minister Mahesh Sharma also said the hybrids have helped to minimise the damages caused by pests like bollworm.

His remarks assume significance as they come amid a controversy over the use of GM crops. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has asked the government to restrict the use of GM mustard in a submission to the

Difficult to say Bt cotton crop yield loss due to pink bollworm attack: FSII

PTI | Jan 18, 2018, 04:37 PM IST



NEW DELHI: Seed industry body FSII today said it was "unfortunate" that the Maharashtra government has held seed firms responsible without any proper assessment for the losses suffered due to pink bollworm attack on Bt cotton crop this winter season.

It is "unfair" and "breach of principles of natural justice" to hold seed companies responsible based on "media reports", alleged the Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII) in a statement.

Bt cotton seeds effective, MMBL writes to Indian minister

23 Jan '18



After pink bollworm attack, Maharashtra to promote short duration varieties of cotton

The Maharashtra government has decided to promote short duration varieties of Bt cotton from the next season year following the severe pink bollworm attack on the crop this season.

Government slashes Bt cotton seed rates, royalties after farmers' protests

In a major relief to Indian cultivators, the Central government has slashed the prices of Bt cotton seeds to support distressed farmers struggling with an infestation which is affecting crops.

Published: 14th March 2018 02:12 AM

Burkina Faso abandons insect-resistant GMO cotton, suffers lower yields

Joseph Gpakpo Gakpo | Cornell Alliance for Science | January 18, 2018



As Burkina Faso farmers predicted, their nation has lost its standing as Africa's largest producer of cotton since halting the cultivation of genetically engineered, pest-resistant Bt cotton.

Mali has now emerged as the number one producer of cotton in Africa, edging Burkina Faso out of the place it held for more than a decade, according to a report from Radio France International (RFI), the French public radio service.



H. NEWS LINKS

- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/the-brakes-are-applied-on-the-bt-cotton-story/articleshow/62583116.cms>
- <http://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2018/jan/18/bt-cotton-seeds-effective-monsanto-to-government-1757850.html>
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I. AUDIT REPORT

NATIONAL SEED ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Regd. Office :- 309, SURYA KIRAN BUILDING, KASTURBA GANDHI MARG, NEW DELHI-110001.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2018

	<u>SCH.</u>	<u>CURRENT YEAR</u> <u>(Rs.)</u>	<u>PREVIOUS YEAR</u> <u>(Rs.)</u>
I SOURCES OF FUNDS			
FUND			
Corpus Fund	1	33,461,321	33,344,321
General Fund	2	76,242,930	67,123,200
TOTAL		109,704,251	100,467,521
II APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
Fixed Assets	3		
(a) Gross Block		16,483,480	18,104,799
(Cost Less Accumulated Depreciation)			
(b) Less : Depreciation		<u>1,817,200</u>	<u>1,880,119</u>
(c) Net Block		14,666,280	16,224,680
INVESTMENT			
Investment	3A	94,511,267	77,221,357
Current Assets, Loans and Advances	4		
(b) Cash & Bank Balances		295,508	8,151,631
(c) Loans and Advances		<u>1,748,798</u>	<u>1,393,817</u>
		2,044,306	9,545,448
Less :			
Current Liabilities and Provisions	5	-	-
(a) Current Liabilities		641,380	2,225,088
(b) Provisions		<u>876,222</u>	<u>298,876</u>
		1,517,602	2,523,964
Net Current Assets		526,704	7,021,484
TOTAL		109,704,251	100,467,521
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes Forming Part of Accounts	10		
As per our report of even date			
For A. K. Gupta & Associates (Prop.)		For National Seed Association of India	
A. K. GUPTA (Prop.) Mem. No. 80014 FRN 000776N	Sd (President)	Sd (Treasurer)	Sd (Director-Technical)
Place: New Delhi Date : 20.08.2018	Sd (General Secretary)		



NATIONAL SEED ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
Regd. Office :- 909, SURYA KIRAN BUILDING, KASTURBA GANDHI MARG, NEW DELHI-110001.
INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018

	<u>SCH.</u>	<u>CURRENT YEAR</u> <u>(Rs.)</u>	<u>PREVIOUS YEAR</u> <u>(Rs.)</u>
<u>INCOME :</u>			
Direct Income	6	22,687,022	26,770,400
Indirect Income	7	11,596,615	10,651,606
TOTAL		34,283,637	37,422,006
<u>EXPENDITURE :</u>			
Employees Remuneration & Benefits	8	8,166,756	7,105,244
Administrative & Other Expenses	9	15,179,951	18,934,932
Depreciation	3	1,817,200	1,880,119
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE CARRIED FORWARD TO GENERAL FUND		9,119,730	9,501,711
TOTAL		34,283,637	37,422,006

 Significant Account Policies
and Notes to Accounts

10

As per our report of even date

 For A. K. Gupta & Associates
(Prop.)

For National Seed Association of India

 A. K. GUPTA
(Prop.)
Mem. No. 80014
FRN 000776N

 Sd
(President)

 Sd
(Treasurer)

 Sd
(Director-Technical)

 Place: New Delhi
Date :- 20.08.2018

 Sd
(General Secretary)



NATIONAL SEED ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Regd. Office :- 909, SURYA KIRAN BUILDING, KASTURBA GANDHI MARG, NEW DELHI-110001.

Schedules forming part of the Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2018

	<u>CURRENT YEAR</u>		<u>PREVIOUS YEAR</u>	
	<u>RUPEES</u>	<u>RUPEES</u>	<u>RUPEES</u>	<u>RUPEES</u>
<u>SCHEDULE 1</u>				
<u>CORPUS FUND</u>				
Opening Balance		33,344,321		33,266,321
Add : Entrance Fees received During the year		117,000		78,000
		<u>33,461,321</u>		<u>33,344,321</u>
<u>SCHEDULE 2</u>				
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>				
Opening Balance	67,123,200		58,964,423	
Add : Additions during the year	-		(1,342,934)	
Add : Surplus during the year	9,119,730	76,242,930	<u>9,501,711</u>	67,123,200
		<u>76,242,930</u>		<u>67,123,200</u>





NATIONAL SEED ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
Regd. Office :- 909, SURYA KIRAN BUILDING, KASTURBA GANDHI MARG, NEW DELHI-110001.

Schedules forming part of the Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2018

SCHEDULE 3 A

	<u>CURRENT YEAR</u>		<u>PREVIOUS YEAR</u>	
	<u>RUPEES</u>	<u>RUPEES</u>	<u>RUPEES</u>	<u>RUPEES</u>
<u>INVESTMENT</u>				
(a) SBI Dynamic Bond Fund	-		2,39,48,806	
(b) UTI Bond Fund	-		5,32,72,751	
(c) HDFC Equity Saving Fund	61,13,054			
(d) SBI Mahatma Balanced Fund	1,28,37,136			
(e) SBI Magnum Multicap Fund	1,61,41,581			
(f) UTI Multi Asset Retail	5,93,79,497			
(g) Agriculture Skill Council of India	40,000	9,45,11,267	-	7,72,21,357





NATIONAL SEED ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Regd. Office :- 909, SURYA KIRAN BUILDING, KASTURBA GANDHI MARG, NEWDELHI-110001.

Fixed Assets

PARTICULARS OF DEPRECIATION AS PER THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018

SCHEDULE 3

Block of Asset	Rate of Dep.	Opening Balance as on 01/04/2017	Additions		Deletions	Total	Depreciation on Opening balance and additions made in first half as reduced by deletions	Depreciation on the additions made in the second half	Total Depreciation	Written down Value as on 31/03/2018
			More than 180 days	Less than 180 days						
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Amt Rs	Amt Rs	Amt Rs	Amt Rs	Amt Rs	Amt Rs	Amt Rs	Amt Rs	Amt Rs	Amt Rs	Amt Rs
Computers	60	47,306	-	71,000	-	1,16,306	26,384	21,300	47,684	68,622
Furniture & Fix.	10	3,83,368	-	-	-	3,83,368	38,337	-	38,337	3,45,031
Mobile Phone	15	18,748	-	-	-	18,748	2,812	-	2,812	15,936
Inverter	15	19,360	40,600	-	-	59,960	8,994	24,360	33,354	26,606
Digital Camera	15	8,369	-	-	-	8,369	1,254	-	1,254	7,105
Building	10	1,56,15,437	-	-	-	1,56,15,437	15,61,544	-	15,61,544	1,40,53,893
Room Heaters	15	11,499	-	-	-	11,499	1,725	-	1,725	9,774
LG Fridge	15	3,507	-	-	-	3,507	526	-	526	2,981
Xerox Machine	15	18,594	1,47,200	-	-	1,65,794	24,869	88,320	1,13,189	52,605
Airconditioner	15	98,502	-	-	-	98,502	14,775	-	14,775	83,727
		1,62,24,680	1,87,800	71,000	-	1,64,83,480	16,83,220	1,33,980	18,17,200	1,46,66,280
Previous Year		1,79,73,169	1,31,630	-	-	1,81,04,799	18,80,119	-	18,80,119	1,62,24,680



NATIONAL SEED ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
Regd. Office :- 909, SURYA KIRAN BUILDING, KASTURBA GANDHI MARG, NEW DELHI-110001.
Schedules forming part of the Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2018

	<u>CURRENT YEAR</u>		<u>PREVIOUS YEAR</u>	
	<u>(Rs.)</u>		<u>(Rs.)</u>	
<u>SCHEDULE 4</u>				
<u>Current Assets, Loans and Advances</u>				
<u>Cash and Bank Balances :</u>				
- Balance With scheduled Banks	2,47,805		80,51,994	
Cash in hand	47,703	2,95,508	<u>99,637</u>	81,51,631
<u>Loans and Advances :</u>				
Deposits	54,230		54,230	
Prepaid Expenses	-		71,724	
Advance	-		10,000	
Advance to Staff	96,000		55,000	
Sundry Debtors	7,03,751		4,10,000	
Tax Deducted at Source	8,94,817		7,92,863	
		17,48,798	<u></u>	13,93,817
	<u>20,44,306</u>		<u>95,45,448</u>	



NATIONAL SEED ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Regd. Office :- 909, SURYA KIRAN BUILDING, KASTURBA GANDHI MARG, NEW DELHI-110001.

Schedules forming part of the Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2018

	<u>Current year</u> <u>(Rs.)</u>	<u>Previous year</u> <u>(Rs.)</u>
<u>SCHEDULE 5</u>		
<u>Current Liabilities & Provisions</u>		
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
TDS Payable	20,839	-
Incentive Payable	-	4,36,085
S. Creditors	6,20,541	17,89,003
	<u>6,41,380</u>	<u>22,25,088</u>
<u>Provisions</u>		
P.F Payable	-	-
Payable to Staff	3,78,974	2,48,876
Expenses Payable	4,97,248	50,000
	<u>8,76,222</u>	<u>2,98,876</u>



NATIONAL SEED ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
Regd. Office :- 909, SURYA KIRAN BUILDING, KASTURBA GANDHI MARG, NEW DELHI-110001.
Schedule forming part of the Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March, 2018

	<u>Current Year</u> <u>(Rs.)</u>	<u>Previous year</u> <u>(Rs.)</u>
<u>SCHEDULE 6</u>		
<u>Direct Income</u>		
Membership Fee Received	1,23,35,500	1,12,52,000
Delegate Registration Fee	48,19,272	63,67,000
Contribution for Magazines / Hand Book / Website	4,88,250	6,31,400
Exhibition & Trading Table	10,44,000	6,00,000
Seminar & Workshop Receipts	-	-
Processing Fee	4,00,000	4,20,000
Sponsorship Fee	36,00,000	75,00,000
	<u>2,26,87,022</u>	<u>2,67,70,400</u>

SCHEDULE 7

<u>Other Income</u>		
Interest on Deposits-Gross (Including Sweep - in A/c)	3,42,405	3,03,014
Income From Investment	1,12,49,910	42,73,972
Credit Balance Return off	-	1,60,810
Other Income	4,300	-
Share of Income from ASC	-	59,13,810
	<u>1,15,96,615</u>	<u>1,06,51,606</u>



NATIONAL SEED ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Regd. Office :- 909, SURYA KIRAN BUILDING, KASTURBA GANDHI MARG, NEW DELHI-1

Schedule forming part of the Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st Ma

SCHEDULE 8

Employees Remuneration & Benefits

	<u>Current Year</u> <u>(Rs.)</u>	<u>Previous year</u> <u>(Rs.)</u>
Salary	80,53,585	69,71,697
Staff Welfare	1,13,171	1,33,547
	<u>81,66,756</u>	<u>71,05,244</u>

SCHEDULE 9

Administrative & Other Expenses

	<u>Current Year</u> <u>(Rs.)</u>	<u>Previous year</u> <u>(Rs.)</u>
Payment to Auditors	30,000	30,000
Bank Charges	26,025	7,621
Books & Periodicals	1,28,453	1,11,765
Communication	4,32,420	3,16,700
Conference Expenses	85,49,325	1,19,39,063
Computer Maintenance	45,978	38,655
Contribution to Seed Association	3,76,000	7,85,500
Entertainment	1,30,701	1,25,098
Event Management Charges	2,73,378	3,45,000
Event Promotion Charges	-	40,250
Festival Expenses	2,14,451	1,99,948
Legal & Professional Charges	14,53,900	9,62,425
Membership & Subscription	11,48,397	20,80,174
Misc. Expenses	17,697	-
Insurance	22,951	-
Office Maintenance	1,22,257	2,56,638
Printing & Stationery	3,93,236	91,384
Property Tax	62,234	62,097
Publications Expenses	4,98,477	6,49,553
Rate & Tax	-	-
Travelling Expenses	8,51,794	7,21,854
Advertisement Expenses	2,18,258	-
Website	78,545	60,232
Water & Electricity	1,05,473	1,10,975
	<u>1,51,79,951</u>	<u>1,89,34,932</u>



The poster features a decorative border of tropical plants. On the left, there are green monstera leaves, a white plumeria flower with a yellow center, and green berries. On the right, there are green monstera leaves, a Bird of Paradise flower with orange and blue petals, and green berries. At the top, a branch with green berries hangs down. At the bottom, there are more green berries and foliage.

UPCOMING EVENT

INDIAN SEED CONGRESS 2019

BLOCK YOUR CALENDAR

ISC 2019, Hyderabad

4th-5th February 2019



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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