



Proceedings of general body meeting (GBM) of Society for Advancement of Rice Research (SARR)

A general body meeting (GBM) of SARR was held in virtual mode on 22nd September 2020 from 2:30 to 4:30 PM. The meeting was chaired by the President - SARR and Director - IIRR, Dr SR Voleti. At the outset, Dr R Mahender Kumar, Secretary, SARR welcomed all the members of the society and briefed the agenda items. He also requested the members to suggest any other issues to be discussed in today's meeting. In his introductory remarks, the President Dr SR Voleti welcomed the members and gave a recap of the previous GBM proceedings (held on 2nd June 2019 at NRRI, Cuttack). He requested all the members to contribute manuscripts for the Journal of Rice Research (JRR). He also briefed about Dr SVS Shastry memorial lecture series and the amount donated by Dr Shastry's family for the SARR society. In this series, eminent rice scientists will be invited to deliver lectures on rice research and development. Dr VP Singh delivered a lecture during December 2019 and Dr DV Sheshu will be delivering a lecture in December 2020. This was followed by remarks by two veteran rice scientists of IIRR who are retiring this year, viz., Dr Gururaj Katti, Principal Scientist & Head, Entomology and Dr SM Balachandran, Principal Scientist & Head, Biotechnology.

In his remarks, **Dr Gururaj Katti** shared his experiences of working in rice for the last 25 years in general and working in AICRIP as PI, Entomology, in particular. He said that SARR society played a supportive role in rice research and development since its inception in 2005. He said that the pace of the society has to improve and advised for frequent conduct of conferences/ seminars and brain storming sessions on recent developments in rice research. He suggested starting "Handbook on Rice" similar to Handbook on Agriculture by ICAR that can be updated every two years. He also suggested starting an "International Rice Bulletin" with updates on important events on rice across the Globe on SARR website. He proposed to develop an "App on rice", bringing together the public and private sectors working on rice. He also suggested some focus areas in rice research which includes, increasing rice productivity but keeping in mind at what cost, bio-fortification to increase nutrition in rice, working on new plant type, precision farming and mechanization, research on cropping systems, cropping patterns keeping in view the climate change aspects, organic rice cultivation, impact of climate change on pests and diseases, role of AI in improving DSS and bio-intensive IPM.

Dr SM Balachandran shared his experiences of initiating biotechnology program at IIRR and in rice research. He emphasised the need to increase the rice productivity and to focus on Eastern India wherein the productivity is low at present. He also stressed on work related with water conservation and the need to use minimum water for rice production. He also urged scientists to publish and contribute to JRR.

Dr RM Kumar gave a brief presentation about action taken report (ATR) of last GBM proceedings that was accepted by all the members of the society. This was followed by the presentation of Editorial committee report by Dr Ch Padmavathi. She presented about the number of manuscripts received and published in Issues 1 & 2 of Volume 12, 2019 JRR. She also mentioned that June 2020 issue is due with five manuscripts and one review paper in hand. She requested all the members to submit papers for JRR. She also mentioned about issue of 'certification of appreciation' to all the reviewers who have rendered their services and improved the quality of the journal. This was followed by the presentation of treasurer's report by Dr B Nirmala. Dr.B.Nirmala, Treasurer, SARR made a presentation of the financial report for the period 2019-20. The details of the financial status of SARR as on date are:

- During the tenure, Fixed Deposit was renewed. FD value as on 17th May 2020 was Rs. 24,95,877/- and maturity value will be Rs.26,36,008/- on 17th May 2021
- The SARR accounts were audited for the period 26/05/2019 to 31/08/2020
- During 2019-20, total receipts were Rs.2,72,222/, which includes: Rs. 44,000/-(membership fees and donation), Rs.92,099/- interest on savings in bank, Rs.1,36,123/- (interest on FD)

- An amount of Rs. 1,28,413/- was spent towards printing of SARR journal, renewal of website and Auditor's fee
- Assets as on 31/08/2020: Rs.24,31,157/-(Bank balance)+ Rs.14,433/- (Cash) and Rs.24,95,877/-(FD)
- Net Surplus for the Current year Rs.1,43,809/-
- The above financial statements are as per the audited accounts as on 31/08/2020
- New initiatives taken up by Treasurer during 2019-20: Created corporate internet banking facility, renewed fixed deposit and undertaken registration of 16 new members (13 life+3 annual). The statement was approved by the General body.

Finally, the following activities were proposed by Dr RM Kumar for the year 2020-2021:

- SARR will be a part of the first National Rice Symposium being conducted by NRRI. SARR will conduct a half-day session in this symposium. Topics and other details will be discussed and finalised with NRRI. (*We express our thanks to ARRW – NRRI for consideration*)
- Second National Rice symposium will be conducted by SARR during 2021-2022.
- As per the suggestions from members, webinars, field visits to major rice-growing districts (Zona activity) ,Farmers days , one-day training on recent developments in rice and some zonal activities will be planned (All zonal coordinators to take responsibility)
- SARR Fellows to be declared. Modalities to be followed will be decided and circulated to all the members.(Guidelines will be circulated for suggestions)
- One "best paper award" to be given to the paper published in JRR each year and One "Best critique " award for the reviewer to be given
- One Gold medal for best rice workers to be issued. For this also guidelines will be prepared by the select committee
- A part of the fund given by Dr SVS Shastry's family will be used for SARR activities:
 1. Organising Regularly S.V.S Shastry memorial lecture on IIRR foundation day
 2. Recognition to IIRR field workers
 3. Best paper award
 4. Best innovation award
 5. Best Zonal activities awards;
 - Best student - rice research
 - Best farmer of the zone
 - Best student paper
 - Best rice researcher
 - Best Private industry
 - Best Zonal activity

A meeting with Executive committee will be organised to formulate the guidelines, score card and procedure for each Award (General criteria and specific criteria). The finalised guidelines will be circulated to all for suggestions before implementation.

- It was proposed to encourage the involvement of students and the private sector in SARR activities to enhance the visibility.

Finally, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Chandra Mohan, Vice-president, SARR.

Approved by President for circulation of all members

*Sd/-
(Secretary, SARR)*