

# **Agricultural Economics Research Association (India)**

## **Proceedings of 24<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting**

24<sup>th</sup> Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the Agricultural Economics Research Association (India) was held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 12.30 AM at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh.

Dr. P G Chengappa, President of the Association, chaired the meeting and welcomed the members present at the AGM.

Before taking up the Agenda for discussion, the house was informed about the sad and sudden demise of Dr P C Bansil and Dr. J P Dhaka. The members paid rich tributes to them for their contribution to AERA and the profession. The members observed two minute silence and prayed to the Almighty for giving peace to the departed souls.

The house was reconvened and the agenda items listed below were taken up for discussion.

**Agenda item 1: To approve the minutes of the previous Annual General Body Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai**

The minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Body meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai (Maharashtra) were read and confirmed by the GB without any amendments.

**Agenda item 2: To approve the Annual Report of AERA for the year 2015-16.**

Dr. Suresh Pal, Secretary of the Association, presented the Annual Report for the financial year ending 2015-16. Regarding the membership of AERA, Dr Pal informed that it stood at 1098 comprising of 850 life members, 108 ordinary members, 115 institutional members and 25 honorary life members.

Regarding publication of the Journal, the Secretary informed that Jan-June 2016 Issue was despatched in May 2016 and July-Dec 2016 will be ready by December 2016. There is no backlog of papers received for publication. Regarding conference issue, he informed that there was a tremendous response from the authors and a record number of 118 papers were received for discussion at this Conference. For selection of full-length papers for this issue, a Review Committee of Dr Mruthyunjaya, Dr PG Chengappa, Dr NP Singh and the Conference President Dr Praduman Kumar was constituted and the members were provided articles without the names and affiliations of authors for a fair evaluation. Based on the recommendations of this Review Committee and consent of Dr P Kumar, Conference President, 16 papers have been published as full length papers and the rest were published in abstract form.

The Secretary informed that full articles of AERR journal both of regular issues and conference number are being uploaded at the 'AgEcon search' which is a free, open access repository of full-text scholarly literature in agricultural and applied economics. It is managed by the University of Minnesota, USA and is linked to other international libraries. This has increased access to the journal and there has been significant increase in the citations. Online processing of journal articles has been started and distribution is being made through IndianJournals.com

The Secretary informed the house that all required information about AERR was submitted to NAAS for revision of the rating. The members expressed satisfaction about increase in downloads and citations of articles published in AERR. The number of articles submitted for publication in the journal is also rising fast.

The Association in partnership with ISAE and other organizations shall organize conference of IAAE in 2021. The conference will be held in NASC complex Delhi.

The Secretary thanked the Executive Committee, Editorial Board and all the members. He expressed gratefulness to all the learned referees who gave their valuable time in going through the articles submitted to AERR for publication and Dr BS Aggarwal for language editing of the journal.

The members applauded the work carried out by the AERA and approved the Report unanimously.

**Agenda item 3: To approve the audited account statement and Treasurer's Report of AERA for the year 2015-16.**

Dr. Anjani Kumar, Treasurer of the Association, presented the Audit Report of the Association for the year ending 31 March 2016. It was informed that the Association incurred an expenditure of Rs 22.70 lakh against a revenue of Rs 24.72 lakh in 2015-16. The reserve fund stands at Rs 29.80 lakh by the end of March 2016. The need to improve the revenue in the light of escalating costs was highlighted by the Treasurer. The members unanimously approved the report.

**Agenda item 4: To approve the auditor for AERA for the financial year 2016-17.**

The GB resolved to appoint M/s S Sukhija & Associates as auditors for auditing of the accounts of AERA for the financial year 2016-17.

**Agenda item 5: To approve Dr. R T Doshi Foundation Awards for 2015.**

Dr. R. T. Doshi Foundation, Mumbai, has instituted two awards for the best research articles published in *Agricultural Economics Research Review* and for two best paper presentations made during the AERA Conference. The prize money was revised since 2014 and the first prize for the best articles stands now at Rs 10,000/- and the second prize at Rs 5,000/- Similarly, first and second prizes for the conference presentations are Rs 10,000/- and Rs 5,000/- respectively. On the recommendations of the Committee under the chairmanship of Dr SS Acharya, the guidelines were formulated and implemented since 2014. The members thanked the Chairman and trustees of the Dr. R. T. Doshi Foundation for their continued support. The President distributed the certificates and prize money for the 2015 winners.

The President constituted a committee of Dr S.S Acharya and Dr M. Krishnan for evaluation of the articles published in *Agricultural Economics Research Review*, Volume 28 (2015) and the winners are as follows:

***a) Best papers 2015***

*First:* (Seema Bathla), Parmita Bhattacharya and Alwin D'Sousa, India's national food security act : food distribution through RPDS or food stamps and cash transfers.

Second: Banti Debnath, (M Krishnan), Vishwajit Debnatha, Ananthan PS, Aprita Sharma and Rama Sharma, Gender perspectives in adoption of technological practices by fishers and fish farmers in Tripura

( ) *not eligible for award as per guidelines*

#### **b) Conference presentation 2016**

First: B. Nirmala, Linking agriculture and nutrition: a ex-ante analysis of zinc bio-fortification of rice in India

Second: Priyanka Upreti, Impact of regulation on sugar sector: the way forward on firms profitability and efficiency

#### **Agenda item 6: To elect conference president (AERA Conference 2017)**

The GB unanimously approved the name of Dr P.G Chengappa, ICAR National Professor and former President, AERA as the President–Elect for the 25<sup>th</sup> Conference in 2017.

#### **Agenda item 7: Nomination of Honorary Life Member of the AERA 2016.**

The GB approved unanimously to honour Dr RK Singh, Director and Vice-Chancellor, IVRI as Honorary Life Member of the Association for his outstanding services to agricultural science and livestock development.

#### **Agenda item 8: Institution of Young Agricultural Economists Award.**

The GB considered the recommendation of the Executive Committee and approved in principle guidelines of the ‘Young Scientist Award’. This shall be implemented from the year 2017. The application format and guidelines shall be finalized and put on the website.

#### **Agenda item 9: To elect office bearers of AERA Executive Committee, 2017.**

The item relating to election of Office Bearers of the Association was taken up Considering the recommendations of the Executive Committee and discussion in AGM, the following were unanimously elected as Office Bearers of the Executive Committee of AERA and Members of Editorial Board of AERR for the year 2017.

#### **Executive Committee for the year 2017**

President	Dr. P K Joshi
Vice Presidents	Dr. R K P Singh Dr D Bardhan Dr M Krishnan
Secretary	Dr. Suresh Pal
Treasurer	Dr. Anjani Kumar
Joint Secretaries	Dr. Raka Saxena

Dr. Suresh S Patil

Members

Dr. Madhusudan Bhattarai  
Dr. Subhash Chand  
Dr. N.R Kumar  
Dr. S.N Mishra  
Dr. K R Karunakaran  
Dr. A V Manjunath  
Dr. K J S Satyasai  
Dr. Sanjeev Kumar

**Agenda item 10: To elect the Editorial Board, 2017**

The item relating to election of the Members of Editorial Board for the *Agricultural Economics Research Review* was taken up. The GB unanimously elected the below indicated Editorial Board for the year 2017.

**Editorial Board**

Dr. Mruthyunjaya	Chairman
Dr. Pratap S. Birthal	Chief Editor
Dr. Naveen P Singh	Managing Editor
Dr. Suresh Babu	Member
Dr. P.Indira Devi	Member
Dr. Madhur Gautam	Member
Dr Girish K Jha	Member
Dr. P Kumar	Member
Dr. M.A. Sattar Mandal	Member
Dr. Niti Mehta	Member
Dr. Surabhi Mittal	Member
Dr. Gopinathan Munisamy	Member
Dr. N. Nagaraj	Member
Dr. Karl M. Rich	Member
Dr. Devesh Roy	Member
Dr. Seema Bathla	Member
Dr. N Chandrasekhara Rao	Member

**Agenda item11: Venue for the Next AERA Conference**

The offer of the Director, NAARM, to host the 25<sup>th</sup> AERA Conference was considered and the house decided to host the conference at NAARM, Hyderabad. The dates of conference will be finalized soon in consultation with NAARM. The topic of the conference shall be “Doubling Farm Income.”

**Agenda item 12: Acknowledgements**

- (i) The GB expressed grateful thanks to IVRI, Izatnagar for hosting the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, especially to Dr R.K Singh, Director, IVRI, and Dr. D. Bardhan, Organizing Secretary and other staff members for making excellent arrangements.

- (ii) The GB expressed thanks to Dr. P. Kumar, former Head, Division of Agricultural Economics, IARI presiding over the conference and for delivering the Presidential Address. Thanks are also due to Dr RB Singh, chief guest, for his inaugural address.
- (iii) The GB thanked IFPRI and IRRI for co-sponsoring the session on 'Strengthening Social Science Research in the NARS' and making the presentations.
- (iv) The Association thanked Dr Prabhu Pingali for delivering a special lecture and Tata Cornell India for organising a special session on gender and nutrition.
- (v) Thanks are also due to the jury members for judging the paper presentations and evaluating the papers published in AERR 2016.
- (vi) The GB thanked the ICAR for its continuous funding support for publishing regular issues of Agricultural Economics Research Review for the year 2016.
- (vii) The GB also thanked the NABARD for their continuing support by providing grant to AERA for publishing proceedings of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.
- (viii) The GB thanked the outgoing Members of both Executive Committee of AERA and Editorial Board of AERR for the year 2016. The GB also placed on record the excellent academic services rendered by the referees in reviewing the papers submitted to AERR for publication.
- (ix) The General Body resolved to thank all the chairpersons and rapporteurs of different technical sessions for ably conducting the proceedings and preparation of the recommendations.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



Secretary