

Proceedings of the ISST-EC meeting dated 09-05-2026

Dt: 10-05-2026

The Indian Society of Seed Technology (ISST) Executive Council meeting was held at the ISST New Delhi office at NASc Complex on 09-05-2026 at 3:30 PM, under the chairmanship of Dr D. K. Yadava, the President of ISST. The meeting took place in both in-person and online formats so that all EC members could participate. Past president and ex officio member, Dr H. S. Gupta; Secretary, Dr D. Vijay; Treasurer, Dr Satish Kumar Yadav; and Delhi Councillor Dr L. K. Pandey attended in person, while the remaining EC members joined online.

The President, Dr D. K. Yadava, extended a warm welcome to all Executive Committee members, outlined the meeting's objectives, and encouraged open discussion of the agenda items to benefit the society. Dr H. S. Gupta emphasised the significance of seeds and expressed his hope that ISST would contribute substantially to the development of the country's seed sector. Later, Secretary Dr D Vijay initiated the discussion on the agenda points already circulated to the members. The EC has taken the following unanimous decisions on each agenda item, as detailed below.

1. Course of Action of EC with targeted timelines of various activities

The EC has agreed to prepare the Annual Calendar of events with timelines. The points discussed below will be included in the Events Calendar, with specific responsibilities. The Annual calendar of events will be presented in the GB meeting.

(Action: Secretary, ISST)

2. Existing issues regarding the space allotted by ICAR for the society and its status

The secretary apprised the Executive Committee that the ICAR, via electronic mail and written correspondence, had requested that the current premises be vacated and that the ISST office be relocated to the second floor, as the premises had been allotted to CIMMYT. However, the designated area is currently unsuitable for immediate relocation. It requires complete renovation.

The President has informed the EC that he had a one-to-one meeting with CIMMYT and GAC officials, and that CIMMYT, in principle, agreed to provide around 10 lakhs for the renovation of ISST's newly allotted space, and GAC will provide it in an organised manner. The past president, Dr H S Gupta, suggested retaining the space till the renovation of the ISST office is completed. The president assured the members that the issue would be resolved amicably with CIMMYT and GAC.

Further, once renovation work at ISST's new premises begins, the President will form a committee to regularly monitor the renovation activities.

(Action: President and Secretary, ISST)

3. Agenda points for GB meeting

The agenda points for the GB meeting were already communicated broadly. However, the present decisions taken by the EC will be put up for GB approval, and certain issues, such as the location and date of the National Seminar, will be finalised at the GB meeting.

(Action: Secretary, ISST)

4. Pending issues of Seed Tech News

The quarterly newsletter of ISST, Seed Tech News, was published up to June 2022 (Vol. 52, issue 1&2). From 2022 (issues 3 & 4) to 2025, it wasn't published. Even though the previous EC had assigned responsibility to a few members, it was not materialised.

The EC unanimously decided that the first two issues of volume 56 of 2026 shall be published at the earliest and regularise the quarterly publication. It was also decided that only a PDF version of the newsletter will be published, with the number of pages per issue determined by the available information. This will reduce printing costs and the fixed-page issue when compiling the information. The published newsletter will be posted on the Society Website and the WhatsApp group, shared on Social Media platforms, and emailed to members and the NARES institutes.

The EC has nominated Dr Manjunath Prasad from ICAR-IARI as Editor and Dr Sanjay Kumar from ICAR-NRCSS as Associate Editor for the Newsletter. A formal letter will be sent to them by the ISST Secretary.

The new Editors shall bring up the first two issues of the Newsletter before the end of July 2026 and regularise the newsletter publication.

(Action: Editor & Assoc. Editor, STN)

5. Discussion reg. Seed Research Journal and its editorial board

The EC expressed its appreciation to Dr Sherry R. Jacob, Chief Editor of Seed Research, for her unwavering dedication to the journal's consistent publication. The EC unanimously agreed to continue her as the Chief Editor of Seed Research. To help her with the editorial work, initially, an Associate Editor will be nominated in consultation with her. Further, a new Editorial Board will be proposed in consultation with the Chief Editor, and due care will be taken to have members from different specialisations related to seed science, including a few foreign nationals, on the board.

Even though the Seed Research is an open-access journal, it was not included in the directory of open-access journals or other directories. A small team consisting of the Chief Editor, the Secretary, and the Editor of STN will meet to outline possible changes to the journal's publication policy to increase visibility and enhance citations.

It was decided that the society's logo will be added to the published papers, and that figures will be in colour in the online version and in black and white in the print version. Efforts will be made to include review/opinion/perspective articles in every issue. The EC strongly agreed to make every effort to enhance the journal's rating and appealed to all ISST members to submit high-quality articles.

(Action: Chief Editor, Secretary and Editor of STN)

6. National and International Seminars/Symposia and other activities

The last seed congress was held in 2023. The EC unanimously agreed to conduct a national seminar/symposium before the end of this year and an international seminar/symposium in 2028. The date and location of the National Seminar will be finalised in the GBM. The EC opined that a request letter may be sent to the Ministry of Agriculture for funds to conduct the National Seed Seminar.

The secretary proposed conducting online or in-person one-day workshops/webinars, and the EC agreed unanimously.

As discussed in the charge handover ceremony, a series of online guest lectures will be organised by the ISST. The president asked about the possibility of having one guest lecture this quarter (Apr-Jun) or at least in the next quarter (Jul-Sep).

The possibility of forming regional chapters will be discussed at the GBM, based on members' interest. Councillors are requested to take the initiative in this regard.

Brainstorming sessions with industry and other stakeholders, academic dialogues, awareness campaigns, and membership drives shall be organised by the Society headquarters and, if formed, by the chapters.

The EC decided to renew the celebration of the ISST Foundation Day.

(Action: Secretary, ISST)

7. Vacancy of North Zone Councillor

No nomination form for the North zone councillor was received during the election process, leaving the post vacant. As per the Memorandum of Rules and Regulations, 9(e), the interim vacancies can be filled by EC through nomination.

An email dated 8 Apr 2026 was received from Dr Prashant Goel, Director (R&D) at Indigo Seeds Pvt. Ltd., expressing his keen interest in serving as a North Zone Councillor of ISST.

Since he is a life member of the society (L/13870/2018), the EC agreed to nominate him as North Zone Councillor and requested that the secretary convey this information to him.

(Action: Secretary, ISST)

8. Registration of society with National and international organisations

The secretary has proposed registering the ISST with NITI Aayog to obtain a Darpan ID, which is essential for receiving funds from ICAR. When checked on the website (ngodarpan.gov.in), the society name was not found. The president indicated a need to consult the previous secretary regarding the registration and to follow up if it had not yet been completed.

Also, the secretary proposed registering the society with FAO AGRIS. The EC unanimously agreed on both registrations.

(Action: Secretary, ISST)

9. Website-related issues

The secretary informed the EC that the process of updating the website information had been initiated. The secretary proposed adding pages to the website on the List of Awardees, List of Fellows, List of Life Members, and revamping the awards page, publications page, Activities page, etc. He also proposed having a dedicated professional email address in the Google/Zoho workspaces with the society's domain name (isst-india.com). He further informed that within the next few months, the domain name and web space renewals are required, and the website shall also be redesigned to be mobile-friendly. The EC has unanimously agreed to all these proposals.

(Action: Secretary, ISST)

10. Membership drive for both individuals and organisations

The EC unanimously agreed to initiate a vigorous membership drive of individuals as well as the industry. It was decided that each councillor shall be responsible for adding at least 15 life members to the society during their three-year tenure. Similarly, members from the private sector shall help expand the society's corporate membership. The president assured that he will help in getting more life members.

It was decided that special membership drives shall be conducted at different meetings, SAUs, and ICAR institutes, and that awareness campaigns for students and other stakeholders shall be conducted to increase the society's membership.

The EC decided to increase the Annual Membership fee from ₹ 500/- to ₹ 1000/- to encourage people to take the life membership (₹ 6000/-). Approval for the same will be obtained in the GBM.

It was also decided that for students, payment can be permitted in instalments.

It was also decided to apply for a QR code for the society's bank account, which shall be placed on the website to facilitate money transfers by new members. The treasurer and Secretary shall initiate this process.

The secretary informed the EC that during the last month, 4 new life members and one annual member were added to the existing members.

(Action: All EC members)

11. Social media presence

The secretary put forth a proposal to commence social media engagement across platforms including LinkedIn, Facebook, and X (Twitter) with the objective of increasing the society's visibility.

(Action: Secretary, ISST)

12. List of activities taken up in the last one month

The secretary has informed the EC of the activities undertaken over the last month for the EC's approval. In the last month, the Bank's signatures were updated by the new president, secretary, and treasurer. Registers were purchased to maintain the cash book, the meeting attendance register, the secretarial staff attendance register, the stock register, and the postage register. The website information was updated with the new EC details. Old issues of the journal (up to 2005) were uploaded to the journal site's archives because, due to a DKMA storage mishap, all the archives were lost. Payment of Rent for 2025-26, payments to the secretarial staff and the cleaning person. The EC unanimously approved all the above activities.

13. Any other issue with the permission of the chair

Reviving the funding from ICAR for the publication of the journal. The EC agreed that action shall be taken to revive funding from ICAR and requested that the necessary documents be prepared and sent to ICAR.

(Action: President and Secretary, ISST)

Inclusion of Seed Science and Technology in the SMS category so that seed production activities will be taken up under the supervision of qualified seed technologists. The president kindly agreed to put up a letter to the ICAR regarding this.

(Action: President and Secretary, ISST)

Heading of seed science departments by the qualified seed technologists at ICAR and SAUs. At present, most of the ICAR and SAUs seed science departments are headed by non-seed technologists. In many universities, PG and PhD seed science and technology courses are being taught by teachers from other disciplines with no experience/ knowledge of the subject. The president informed that the new ICAR recruitment guidelines award additional marks for the desired qualification, and he further agreed to submit a request letter to ICAR/SAs regarding this issue.

(Action: President and Secretary, ISST)

The secretary informed that the current laptop used in the secretariat was very old and that the staff required a new one for the smooth operation of various societal activities. The EC agreed to the purchase of a new laptop for the society.

(Action: Secretary and Treasurer)

Subscription to Seed Research by KVKs. The past president, Dr H S Gupta, asked to explore the possibility of increasing subscriptions to the Seed Research journal by writing a letter to the DDG (Extension). At present, each printed copy of Seed Research costs ₹ 5000/- for non-members. He requested checking whether it could be reduced by half. The EC agreed to his proposal, and the issue will be discussed in the upcoming GBM.

(Action: President and Secretary, ISST)

Pursuance of the declaration of National Seed Day. The past president, Dr H S Gupta, raised this issue, and all the EC members agreed. Attention was drawn to Dr Shankaran's persistent efforts on this issue over an extended period. The president stated that the file had been submitted, but due to changes within the ministry, it could not be processed. However, a new file was submitted to the ministry again, and the process is ongoing. He assured that he will pursue it.

(Action: President, ISST)

The secretary conveyed that a new letterhead would be printed bearing the names of all EC members, a proposal to which the EC assented.

(Action: Secretary, ISST)

At the end, the secretary proposed a vote of thanks to all EC members for sparing their valuable time, joining the meeting, and engaging in fruitful discussions.



D. Vijay
Secretary, ISST



D. K. Yadava
President, ISST