

Proceedings of the ISST-GBM-2026 dated 13-05-2026

Dt: 23-05-2026

The Indian Society of Seed Technology (ISST) General Body Meeting (GBM) was held in the auditorium of SKUAST, on the sidelines of the 41st Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Seed (crops), on 13-05-2026 at 6:30 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 the maximum number of members could participate. In his inaugural address, the President of ISST welcomed the past presidents, previous and present EC members, and all ISST annual and life members who joined in person and online. Since the quorum was not met, the meeting was adjourned for 2 minutes and then resumed. A total of 67 members participated in the GBM.

The president thanked the past ECs for their efforts in building the society to its present state and promised to take it further with the cooperation of all members. The agenda items were circulated earlier to all members through individual emails, the WhatsApp group, and the ISST website. The agenda items are as follows,

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous General Body Meeting dated 14 May 2025
2. Presentation of the Progress Report by the previous Secretary
3. Presentation of the Audited Accounts for the preceding year by the previous Treasurer
4. Presentation of proposed activities by the present Secretary
5. Presentation of the Budget Proposal for 2026–27 by the present Treasurer
6. Any other matter, with the permission of the Chair

The former secretary, Dr Shiv Kumar Yadav, presented the minutes of the previous GBM, held online on 14-05-2025. He informed the house that details of previous EC members had been updated on the website, and that revised ISST award guidelines had been developed and posted as a PDF. The ISST office procured a printer, 2 heaters, 1 LED TV with a tabletop mic/speaker, and a webcam for online meetings under the permanent articles category during 2025-26. He further informed that the pending issues of Seed Research had been published, and the journal was up to date, with the last volume released on 31 December 2025. The DOI and ISSN registrations were completed. He informed that a total of 41 new individual life members and 3 associate life members were added to the society. He thanked the returning officer for smoothly conducting the ISST EC elections in time. The house approved them in full and congratulated the outgoing EC on their successful tenure. The past president, Dr HS Gupta, thanked the EC and life members for their support during the EC term 2023-2026. He indicated that society could play a tremendous role in improving the country's seed sector. He requested that the new EC take up the programs the previous EC had missed, such as conducting national and international seminars, regularising Seed Tech News, and improving the journal's rating. He emphasised taking up all the activities discussed during the EC meetings to benefit society.

Later, the past treasurer, Dr Sudipta Basu, presented the income and expenditure details of the year 2025-26. She has also shown the audited financial statement for the year 2025-26. In the year 2025-26, the income was 11,52,870.00. Which includes interest from the fixed deposit (FD) of ₹6,98,537.00 and a tax refund of ₹1,71,250.00. A total of 1.006 crores is in eight FDs, and the quarterly interest from them is being used for various societal expenditures.

The expenditure for the year 2025-26 was ₹ 6,96,379.82. The house approved the financial statement and audit report for 2025-26. Later, the treasurer presented the estimated expenditure of ₹ 7,10,650.00 for the year 2026-27, and the house approved it.

The current secretary, Dr D. Vijay, presented the society's activities over the past 1.5 months and proposed a course of action and a calendar of events for 2026-27. He informed the house that, to date, two EC meetings have taken place, and the proceedings of both have been uploaded to the website. Based on the EC meetings, the following issues were identified and presented in the GBM. The members unanimously agreed to all the following activities, both completed and proposed.

- i. *Shifting of ISST office:* Since the existing office space at NASC Complex was allotted to BISA (CIMMYT), the ISST will be shifted to the newly allotted space on the 2nd floor after renovation. Following discussions with the president, ISST, CIMMYT, and officials from the ICAR General Administration and Coordination (GAC) section, it was decided that the renovation costs would be borne by CIMMYT/GAC.
- ii. *Regularising the Seed Tech News:* The EC has appointed a new Seed Tech News Editor and Associate Editor to regularise the newsletter. They will first bring out the 2026 issues, followed by the pending issues (2022-2025). The secretary earnestly requested that members regularly provide information on news items related to Seed Science, awards and honours received by the members, and various activities undertaken by the members for inclusion in the Newsletter by emailing seedtechnews@gmail.com.
- iii. The house was informed that the Seed Research Journal will be included in various directories, and efforts will be made to increase its visibility and improve its rating. The ISST logo will be added to the published papers, and an Associate Editor will soon be nominated by the EC in consultation with the Chief Editor.
- iv. The past issues of the Seed Research were lost due to the crash of the Epubs website of ICAR, and again, the previous Seed Research issues up to 2005 were restored at <https://epubs.icar.org.in/index.php/SR/issue/archive>
- v. The society will be registered with national and international organisations to improve its visibility.
- vi. Nine new life members were added to the society from 01-04-2026 to 13-05-2026, and it was called upon to increase the memberships. The executive committee will launch a membership drive, with councillors playing an important role.
- vii. New registers were initiated, and payment of office space rent for 2025-26 was made in April 2026, along with salaries to the secretarial staff and the cleaner.
- viii. The National Seed Seminar will be organised by the end of this year. Since more than one member has expressed their institution's willingness to co-host the event, the secretary will circulate a proforma to obtain details of the facilities available at each institution. The issue will be discussed, and the venue will be finalised at the next EC meeting. Further, the Secretary informed that an international Seed Seminar will be organised in 2028 for crop improvement in collaboration with other societies.
- ix. New initiatives will be taken to start online one-day workshops, national seed lecture series, Industry-academia dialogues, Brainstorming sessions, and awareness campaigns for school children.

- x. The date of the foundation day celebration was discussed, and it was unanimously agreed to conduct it on 25 March of every year, as on this day in 1971, the society was registered by the Registrar of Societies, Delhi.
- xi. The secretary informed about the changes that are being made to the website to make the site more informative, particularly in the Awards and Meetings & Events pages. The new changes will be available on the website within a month.
- xii. The society's social media presence will be established through engagement with diverse social media platforms.
- xiii. Following deliberation, a consensus was reached to formally request the relevant authorities to include post-graduates from seed science disciplines in considerations for positions within KVKs, DPPQ&S, and other institutions offering seed-related services.
- xiv. It was further resolved that correspondence be directed to the ICAR and SAU authorities concerning the preferential treatment or exclusivity of seed science personnel within direct recruitment processes for Seed Science departments engaged in both teaching and research activities.
- xv. It was decided that a letter shall be submitted to DDG (Extension) for the subscription of the Seed Research journal by KVKs.
- xvi. It was unanimously agreed that the declaration of National Seed Day shall be pursued with the Government of India.
- xvii. The following calendar of events proposed by the secretary, ISST, was approved by the GBM in toto.

Proposed Calendar of Events:

Time period	Event	Responsible person (s)
Jun 2026	Seed Research Vol 53, Issue 1	Chief Editor, SR
Jul 2026	Seed Tech News Vol 56, issue 1 & 2	Editor & Assoc. Editor, STN
Jul 2026	Submission of representation letters	President & Secretary, ISST
Jun-Jul 2026	National Seed Lecture Series, No.1	Secretary & EC, ISST
Aug 2026	Registration of ISST with National & International bodies	Secretary, ISST
Aug-Oct 2026	Online one-day seed workshop	Secretary & EC, ISST
Oct 2026	Shifting of ISST to a new location	President & EC, ISST
Nov 2026	Seed Tech News Vol 56, Issue 3	Editor & Assoc. Editor, STN
Nov-Dec 2026	XV National Seed Seminar	Secretary & EC, ISST
Dec 2026	Seed Research Vol 53, Issue 2	Chief Editor, SR
Dec 2026	Updated ISST website	Secretary & EC, ISST
Jan 2027	Seed Tech News Vol 56, Issue 4	Editor & Assoc. Editor, STN
Feb-Mar 2027	Stakeholders' interaction meeting/ Guest Lecture	Secretary & EC, ISST
Apr 2027	Seed Tech News Vol 57, Issue 1	Editor & Assoc. Editor, STN

Further, the following items/ changes were approved by the GBM.

1. Compulsory use of the “National Seed Seminar” series when the ISST seminar is combined with any other seminar, symposia, or congress.
2. Increase in the annual membership fee from ₹ 500 to ₹ 1000/- to discourage annual members and to promote life members. Accordingly, rules 6a and 6c will be modified, and the modified memorandum will be circulated.

3. Students' or other life membership payments can be made in 3-4 instalments within a year.
4. Since no one has submitted the North Zone Councillor, the EC, upon receipt of the email communication, agreed to nominate Dr Prashant Goel, Director (R&D), Indigo Seeds Pvt. Ltd., as North Zone Councillor.
5. The subscription price of Seed Research is to be reduced to ₹ 2500.00 per issue from the existing ₹ 5000.00 per issue.
6. Updating the website so that it can be accessed on all types of devices, including mobile phones.
7. Increase in the space for the website and purchase of workspace for society's own email IDs.
8. Regarding the initiation of regional chapters, the members expressed the view that the establishment of regional chapters at this juncture is a little too early, and it was decided that the society should be consolidated prior to such expansion.

The veteran life member Dr V Sankaran has requested that society shall take strides in the following issues, i) making a uniform syllabus for PG and PhD Seed Science and Technology courses throughout the country, ii) bring out the proceedings of seminars and distribute them to various stakeholders and policymakers, iii) bring out a special session on medicinal and aromatic plants during national/ international seminar, iv) sending the birthday greetings to the members by the society secretariat and v) cataloguing the articles published in the seed research journal for ease of accessibility.

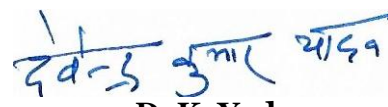
At the end, the chairman of the meeting, Dr D KYadava, president of ISST, in his remarks, explained the discussion during EC meetings and thanked the past ECs for their contributions. He requested the DSST, IARI, NISST, Mau, and various SAUs to help the society bridge the gap among academia, industry, and other stakeholders. Regarding the uniform PG and PhD syllabus, he informed the house that the Education Division of ICAR has issued restructured and revised syllabi for postgraduate programmes in agriculture and allied courses, prepared by the Broad Subject Matter Areas Committees based on the recommendations of the National Core Group. Regarding corporate sector membership, he stated that a sincere attempt will be made to associate at least 10 seed companies with the society during the three-year tenure. He asked all members who serve as research guides to PG and PhD students to publish their students' good papers in the Seed Research journal and to encourage their students to apply for the prestigious Padma Bhushan Dr R S Paroda Award for the best thesis. He also informed that the issue of declaring National Seed Day will be pursued sincerely. He assured that the various new initiatives proposed above will be undertaken, and the entire EC will do its best to improve the visibility of this important society.

The Secretary, ISST, provided a vote of thanks to all the esteemed members of ISST at the end, and the meeting was concluded.



D. Vijay

Secretary, ISST



D. K. Yadava

President, ISST

Glimpses of GBM meeting



Glimpses of GBM meeting



Glimpses of GBM meeting

