



NABS

News Letter

Volume : 3

January, 2012

Founder President

Prof. Dr. S. Kannaiyan

Former Vice-Chancellor, TNAU &
Former Chairman, NAB, GOI, Chennai

Patron & President

Dr. V. A. Parthasarathy

Emeritus Scientist & Former Director
Indian Institute of Spices Research,
Calicut

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Dr. D. J. Bagyaraj

Former Professor, UAS-B, Bangalore

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Director, Indian Institute of Spices
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Dr. S. Nakkeeran, Tamil Nadu

Dr. B. Meena, Tamil Nadu

Dr. K. Natarajan, Tamil Nadu

Dr. M. Chinnadurai, Tamil Nadu

OUR VISION

Provide a common platform for the biologists to interact with each other for mutual benefit and to further the knowledge on areas of Biological Sciences

From President's Desk...

Dear NABS Colleagues,
Greetings

I am happy that I have been honored with the coveted post of President, NABS. I can understand that it may be difficult to fill the vacuum created due the sudden and premature demise of the Founder & President of NABS. With the able support of the Executive Council, I strongly believe that the dreams of the Founder could be realized and put in to action for the benefit of the Academy and the members of NABS and the country at large.

I take this opportunity to invite you all to the 6th Annual Meeting and the 5th Interactive Workshop jointly organized by World Noni Research Foundation scheduled 14 & 15 May, 2012 at Chemical Sciences Auditorium, University of Madras, Guindy Campus, Chennai.

I urge all the members to actively participate and contribute to the cause of the Academy which will go a long way to foster the objectives of the Academy.

President
NABS

From the Editors desk....

The curtains are down for the XI plan and we are approaching XII plan with lot of optimism and excitement. Our food grain production was a record 241 mt due to the staggering progress made in agriculture, animal and fisheries sectors. However, Indian Agriculture is still on shaky ground and hence will receive lot of attention in the XII plan as well. Cutting edge sciences like Nanotechnology and Bioinformatics are coming to the fore, while biotechnology in its various avatars continues to remain in the limelight. New research platforms and new research agendas are about to be unveiled. Frantic calls for new ideas, new challenges and new approaches to tackle emerging problems (like for instance climate change) are being made by research organizations in the country. It is here that the NABS can play a vital role by giving serious attention to these issues and considering this as an opportunity to participate in shaping the policy of the country with reference to scientific research. We have had many meetings and have submitted our views. But we need to do more by keeping a close watch on the recommendations of various organizations, by examining all the data they have assembled and the suggestions they have made for the XII plan. Our quest for discovering and developing scientific talent so that the continuing future of scientific research in this country may be assured on a level comparable to what is being done the world over needs to continue with renewed vigor. Science offers largely unexplored opportunities for the scientist and let us provide the tools for this task. The rewards of such partnerships for the academy, the nation and the individual are great. Our contribution towards scientific progress is one essential key to the nation's security, to our better health, to generate more jobs, to attain a higher standard of living, and to our cultural progress. This was the dream of Prof Dr S. Kannaiyan, our founder president whose pioneering spirit is still vigorous within the academy.

The New Executives of NABS

The 10th Executive Committee which met on 13th November, 2011 at Coimbatore unanimously elected Dr. V.A. Parthasarathy, Emeritus Scientist and Former Director, Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode, Kerala as President, Dr. D. J. Bagyaraj, Former Professor of Microbiology, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka as Vice-President and Dr. M. Anandaraj, Director, Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode, Kerala as Editor-NABS-Newsletter.

About our new President

The Second President of the Academy, Dr V. A. Parthasarathy was born on 17th June, 1949 in Srivilliputtur, Vridhunagar district, Tamil Nadu. He graduated from Coimbatore Agricultural College (Madras University, Chennai) and obtained his Ph.D from Annamalai University, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu in Horticulture. He did his Post Doctorate in UK on biotechnology of forest species and another Post doctorate in Biotechnology of horticulture crops from Tuskegee University in USA.

Dr. V.A. Parthasarathy, Formerly Director, Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut is a world renowned horticultural scientist, having vast experience in several horticultural crops such as fruits, vegetables, plantation crops and spices; experiences in hill and coastal horticulture and worked on breeding and biotechnology of horticultural crops. He is presently working as Emeritus Scientist at IISR. His dynamic leadership lead ICAR to recognize IISR as the best ICAR institute by conferring the Sardar Patel Award for the best ICAR institute. He has edited 33 books on horticulture; contributed over 60 invited chapters for edited books and 25 invited articles; published 184 research papers in peer reviewed journals; guided 11 Ph.D. students in biotechnology. As a team leader he won the ICAR best team award in 2002 for the contribution made in coconut biotechnology. He was also the COGENT Coordinator for India till 2002. He was the president of the Indian Society of spices. He is the executive councilor of Horticultural society of India and Indian Society of Citriculture. He is the Fellow of National Academy of Biological Sciences, Indian Society of Genetics, Indian Society of Citriculture and Horticultural society of India. He was the recipient of DBT's overseas Associateship. He is also the founder Editor of NABS Newsletter.

About our New Vice President

Dr. D. J. Bagyaraj born in 1940 obtained his Ph. D. from University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore specializing in Agricultural Microbiology. He had his post-doctoral training at New Zealand, Australia, UK and USA. He started his career at UAS as Assistant Professor of Microbiology in 1966 and served this institute in various capacities such as Professor, Head of the Department, ICAR Emeritus Scientist and INSA Senior Scientist till 2008. Presently he is working as NASI Senior Scientist at Centre for Natural Biological Resources and Community Development (CNBRCD), Bangalore, the Institution for which he is also the Chairman.

His work on arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) gained him recognition in the scientific community all over the world and he was invited from all the continents to deliver lectures or to evaluate projects or to train scientists on AMF. Dr Bagyaraj has been elected as a Fellow of most of the National Academies in the country. He has served/is serving as a member of the

advisory committees on several national scientific organizations and also on international organizations like IFS (Sweden), IDRC (Canada), ACIAR (Australia), UNEP/TSBF/GEF (Kenya) and FAO.

As a teacher, he has been teaching Agricultural Microbiology for the past 45 yrs. He has guided 35 M.Sc., 5 M.Phil. and 22 Ph.D. students. As Principal Investigator/Co-Investigator, he has handled 25 national / international research projects. As a Director he has organized 8 training programmes/ summer institutes /conferences at national level. He has also organized international training course on mycorrhiza for participants from developing countries at Bangalore, India and Bogor, Indonesia. He has to his credit 8 books, 75 review articles and 350 research papers. He is on the editorial board of several national and international journals. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Soil Biology and Ecology.

His outstanding work in the field of Microbiology, has fetched him several national awards like Shome Memorial Award, S. R. Vyas Memorial Award, Rangaswami Memorial Award, Prof. T. S. Sadasivan Award, Dr. V. Agnihothrutu Award and S.N. Roy Lecture Award.

He has taken results of research to the society. Three forest tree species inoculated with “microbial consortia” developed by him grew vigorously in the nursery fetching a higher sale-price to farmers. Inoculated seedlings when planted in wastelands established and grew significantly better. His research clearly established that microbial inoculants not only improved productivity in plants important in agriculture, horticulture and forestry, but also reduced the use of fertilizers and pesticides, thus providing a cleaner environment. In recognition of his contributions, he has been honoured by naming an AMF as *Glomus bagyarajii*.

About our New Editor NABS News Letter

Dr. M. Anandaraj was born on 5th March, 1954 in Marikuppam of Kolar, Karnataka. He had graduated from University of Mysore and University of Calicut. He is a well known Plant Pathologist specialized in Biological Control of Plant Pathogens.

He served as a Coordinator, All India Coordinated Research Project on Spices. Currently, he holds the position of Director of Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut since July, 2011 onwards.

He is a Fellow of National Academy of Biological Sciences

News and Events



NABS deeply mourns the sudden demise of Prof. Dr. S. Kannaiyan

With great sadness, we share the news of the sudden demise of Prof. Dr. S. Kannaiyan, Founder President, National Academy of Biological Sciences, Chennai and Former Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, Chennai and Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

Prof. Kannaiyan while addressing an Advisory Committee meeting suddenly collapsed and attained eternal bliss on 20 October, 2011 at Thanjavur. His death has created a vacuum that will be hard to fill. It is a big loss not only for NABS but for the entire country. It is the end of an era. The sorrow is reflected in the minds of every Member of NABS and all the Scientific Communities of the country and abroad. He was a well known microbiologist of International repute, an educationist and an ardent researcher committed to the welfare of the farming community of the country. He will be remembered as an extremely pleasant, effective and affable scientist and human being. He will be cherished by all who knew or worked with him for his thoughtful stewardship of the numerous programmes of NABS and his genuine concern for fostering the next generation of young scientists. He will be greatly missed by all his friends and colleagues.

NABS joins the Science Community in mourning the demise
of Prof. S. Kannaiyan

Announcement

The 5th Interactive Workshop
in collaboration with

World Noni Research Foundation

on

“Prospects of Medicinal Plants in Promoting Wellness”

scheduled on

14-15 May, 2012

at

University of Madras, Maraimalai Campus, Guindy, Chennai

Prof. S. Kannaiyan Memorial Award

to be conferred on

Dr. R. S. Paroda

Chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences & Former DG, ICAR & Secretary,
DARE, GOI, New Delhi

during 6th Annual Meeting of NABS

on 14May, 2012

at University of Madras, Maraimalai Campus, Guindy, Chennai

Prof. S. Kannaiyan Memorial Award

The Executive Council which met under the new President, Dr. V.A. Parthasarathy decided to create an Award in memory of our beloved Founder President, Prof. Dr. S. Kannaiyan. The Award shall be called "Prof. S. Kannaiyan Memorial Award" and shall be given every year in the Annual meeting of NABS to a biological scientist of most eminence in the country. The Executive Council shall nominate a Scientist for this award. The nominated Scientist shall be invited to deliver "Prof. S. Kannaiyan Memorial Oration" on a topic of his choice. The Award shall also be conferred on him during the function. Institution of this prestigious award shows the respect and honor we bestow on our beloved Founder President of NABS. To sustain this, NABS has decided to create a Corpus Fund and the expenditure related to this activity shall be met from the interest earned from the deposit of the Corpus Fund.

Best Woman Scientist Award

Women members of NABS are eligible to compete for the award. Applications are invited during December every year and the selected Woman member is bestowed with this award. As on date two women Life Members were given this award during 5th Annual Meeting of NABS held at PRIST University, Thanjavur.

Interactive Workshops held

The Interactive Workshop on "Biotechnological Applications for Sustainable Development" was successfully organized at PRIST University, Thanjavur for two days from 12 to 13 March, 2011. The summary proceedings were sent to ICAR and other scientific institutions and also uploaded in the website

Release of publications

Seven publications made by NABS Fellows and members were released during the 5th Annual Meeting held on 13 March, 2011 at PRIST University, Thanjavur. Vide website.

Elected Fellows / Associate Fellows

Eight elected fellows for the year 2009; seven elected fellows for the year 2010 and two Honorary Fellows [Dr. R. S. Paroda and Dr. P.L.Gautam]; one Associate Fellow for 2009 and two for 2010 were bestowed with Fellowship during the 5th Annual Meeting held at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

Admission of Corporate Members

Two corporate members- PRIST University, Thanjavur and SKYWIN BIOTECH, Kumbakonam- were admitted and the membership certificate handed over during 5th Annual Meeting held at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

Best Scientific Publisher Award

Shri S. K. Dutta of Associated Publishing Company, New Delhi was awarded with "Best Scientific Publisher Award" during the 5th Annual Meeting held at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

Net working Biotechnological groups in India

It is decided to form a net work of biotechnologists, to start with southern parts of India, for sharing knowledge and skill in the upcoming areas of biotechnology. However, the action needs to be initiated.

An Appeal

The awardee of "Prof. S. Kannaiyan Memorial Award" shall be given air fare for his travel, accommodation and other local hospitalities. The oration will also be printed and circulated to all the participants. Therefore, we earnestly appeal to all the Life members, NABS Fellows / Associate Fellows, Corporate Life Members, Corporate Fellows and well wishers to contribute to this noble cause. The amount may be paid as Cash directly or through a Demand Draft drawn in favour of National Academy of Biological Sciences payable at Chennai.

The fund can also be electronically transferred to the Savings Bank account of the Academy.

The details:

The SB Account No. of the Academy:
104 9697 8637

Bank : State Bank of India

Branch : Valmiki Nagar,
Chennai-600 041 /Branch code:11721
IFS code: SBIN0011721.

Address for Communication:

**Secretariat
National Academy of Biological Sciences**

C/o World Noni Research Foundation
12, Rajiv Gandhi Road, Perungudi
Chennai – 600 096, Tamil Nadu
E-mail: secretarynabs@gmail.com
Visit: www. Nabsindia.org

**Enroll yourself as a member and be a part of
National Academy of Biological Sciences**

Types of Membership available

a. Life Membership (one time)	: ₹1,500/-	or	US\$ 50/-
b. Sustaining Life Membership (one time)	: ₹25,000/-	or	US\$ 850/-
c. Corporate Life Membership (one time)	: ₹10,000/-	or	US\$ 400/-
d. Corporate Fellow (one time)	: ₹1,00,000/-	or	US\$ 4000/-

- Details of Payment - ₹ / US\$ either as Cash or DD drawn in favor of “**National Academy of Biological Sciences**” payable at Chennai.
- E-transfer to Acct. No.: 10496978637 - IFS code No: SBIN0011721
- State Bank of India, Valmikinagar branch, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai- 600 041.
- Down load your application from www.nabsindia.org

Mail your filled in application to :

Prof. T. Marimuthu, Ph.D., FNABS
Secretary, NABS
C/o World Noni Research Foundation
12, Rajiv Gandhi Road, Perungudi
Chennai - 600 096, India
E-mail: secretarynabs@gmail.com