



ISWS News Letter

A publication of Indian Society of Weed Science

September, 2008

President's Message



Greetings to all the esteemed members of the Indian Society of weed Science. It gives me immense pleasure to bring out the first electronic version of the 'ISWS Newsletter' to promote better communication among the members. The new executive body of the Society has come into being after the due approval by the General Body meeting held on 27th February 2008 at Patna, coinciding the Biennial Conference of the Society.

The Biennial Conference with the theme, "Weed Management in Modern Agriculture: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities" turned out to be a huge success with about 200 delegates participating from all over the country and also from USA and Australia.

After taking over as President I have initiated steps to rejuvenate and strengthen the ISWS. The Bye laws of the society have been modified after approval from GB for involving greater partnership of members from all over the country. A website of our society also will be launched soon which will allow the members to submit their articles online for publication in the Indian Journal of Weed Science, which will result in saving of time and energy.

I look forward to serving you for the next two years and assure each one of you that no stone will be left unturned in transforming the 'Indian Society of Weed Science' into a vibrant and glorious scientific society in the service of the Indian farmer. It will be my endeavour to serve the weed science and the members of ISWS for its betterment without favour and fervour to an individual or a group. I assure the members that as long as I am President of ISWS, the society's accounts will be properly maintained and will be kept transparent.

If you have suggestions, announcements, or any other information that you think should be on our website, please send to me at varshneyjg@gmail.com. At the end, I wish all the members a very happy Vijaya Dashami and Deepawali.

Jay G. Varshney

New Executive of ISWS

The new executive for 2008-09, headed by Dr. Jay G. Varshney as President was elected in the recently held elections which was also ratified by the G.B. held on 27th February 2008 at Patna. The other members of the executive are:

Vice-President : Dr. A.N. Tewari, CSAUA&T, Kanpur
Secretary : Dr. Sushilkumar, NRCWS, Jabalpur
Joint Secretary : Dr. M.L. Kewat, JNKVV, Jabalpur
Treasurer : Dr. V.P. Singh, NRCWS, Jabalpur

Zonal Secretaries

North Zone 1. Dr. S.S.L. Tripathi, GBPUAT, Pantnagar
2. Dr. Jai Dev Sharma, NDUAA&T, Faizabad
South Zone 1. Dr. G.N. Dhanpal, UAS, Bangalore
2. Dr. C. Chinnusamy, TNAU, Coimbatore
East Zone 1. Dr. R.K. Ghosh, BCKVV, Mohanpur
2. Dr. Devendra Singh, RAU, Pusa
West Zone 1. Dr. R.B. Patel, AAU, Anand
2. Vacant
Central Zone 1. Dr. S.S. Kolhe, IGKVV, Raipur
2. Dr. Anil Dixit, NRCWS, Jabalpur



Dr. Mangala Rai is the new Chief Patron of ISWS

Dr. Mangala Rai, Secretary, DARE and D.G., ICAR, New Delhi has kindly agreed to be the Chief Patron of the Society. The ISWS expresses its indebtedness for his kind gesture.



Dr. C.D. Mayee, Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi, and Dr. A.K. Singh, DDG (NRM), ICAR, New Delhi also have conveyed their acceptance to be the



Patrons. The ISWS expresses its gratefulness to both of them.

Biennial Conference of ISWS held at Patna (27-28 Feb, 2008)

The Biennial Conference of ISWS on 'Weed Management in Modern Agriculture: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities' was organized at Patna from 27 - 28 Feb, 2008, jointly by Indian Society of Weed Science, National Research Centre for Weed Science, Jabalpur and Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa (Bihar).

Inaugural Ceremony



The Biennial Conference was ceremonially opened at the Bihar Veterinary College, Rajendra Agricultural University, Patna on 27th Feb, 2008. Shri. Ramadhar, Chairman, Farmers' Commission, Govt. of Bihar, Patna was the Chief Guest who inaugurated the Conference. Dr. N.L. Maurya, Vice-Chancellor, Rajendra Agricultural University, Patna was the Guest of Honour.

Dr. Jay G. Varshney, President of the Indian Society of Weed Science, delivered the welcome address and also presented the inaugural lecture on Weed Management – Challenges and Opportunities.

Dr. Devendra Singh, Organizing Secretary of the Conference proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Conference Proceedings

- The sessions of the Conference were held at the Auditorium of the Bihar Veterinary College, Patna, India during 27th - 28th Feb, 2008.
- There were three technical sessions and four concurrent poster sessions besides the Plenary Session.
- A Scientist-Extension officers-Farmer Interface was also held under the chairmanship of Dr. Jay G. Varshney, President, ISWS.
- About 200 delegates from all over India and two from outside the country (one each from USA and Australia) attended the Conference.
- A total of about 35 oral (including 12 invited) and 195 poster presentations were made. Dr. Nimal Chandrasena, Australia made a presentation on 'Weeds and weed management under a changing climate' and Dr. Prasanta C. Bhowmik, USA on 'Spread and management of quarantine and invasive weeds'.

Awards and fellowships

During the inaugural ceremony various awards as proposed in the circulars of ISWS Biennial Conference were announced. Two renowned weed scientists of the country viz., Dr. S. Sankaran, Former Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore and Dr. V.M. Bhan, Founder Director, National Research Centre for Weed Science, Jabalpur were honoured with Life Time Achievement Award in recognition of their significant contribution to the field of weed science.



The following are the other awards/ fellowships that were announced.

ISWS Gold Medal:

1. Dr. A.N. Tewari, CSAUA& T, Kanpur.
2. Dr. T.V. Ramachandra Prasad, UAS, Bengaluru.

ISWS Fellowships:

Dr. R.K. Ghosh, BCKVV, Mohanpur (WB)
Dr. C. Chinnusamy, TNAU, Coimbatore.

ISWS Honorary Fellow:

Dr. (Mrs.) P.N. Ganga Visalakshi, IIHR, Bengaluru.

ISWS Recognition Award:

Dr. Sushilkumar, NRCWS, Jabalpur for his significant work on biological control of *Parthenium*.

ISWS Best M.Sc. Thesis Award :

Ms. V.S. Mynavathi, TNAU, Coimbatore for her work on "Evaluation of manually operated weeders in irrigated maize".

ISWS Best Ph.D. Thesis Award:

Dr. Puja Ray, NRCWS, Jabalpur for her thesis on "Management of Water hyacinth employing some Insects and Fungi"

ISWS Best Book Award:

1. Dr. V.S.G.R. Naidu and Dr. Jay G. Varshney for their book in English titled 'Weed Seed Atlas'.
2. Dr. Sushilkumar and Dr. Jay G. Varshney for their Book in Hindi titled '*Gajar Ghas ka Jaivikiya Niyantran: Vartman Sthithi and Sambhavanaien*'.

General Body Meeting

The General Body Meeting of the ISWS was held in the evening of 27th Feb, 2008 which approved the new executive council members elected in the recently concluded elections. The need for modifications in the bye laws of the society to make it stronger and fulfill the objectives in a broader perspective was thoroughly discussed in the GB which authorized the newly elected executive body to take necessary action in this regard. There was a detailed discussion about the publication of Society's Journal. The General Body unanimously approved the publication of the Journal henceforth at Jabalpur, the Head Quarters and also authorized the newly elected executive body of the society to constitute a new editorial board for the purpose.

Dr. Varshney, President of ISWS proposed to hold an International Conference by the Society which was unanimously approved by the General Body.

It was also unanimously decided that efforts be initiated for fresh registration of the society so that it becomes eligible for financial assistance from government organizations to conduct any conference/ symposia etc. in future.

Scientist-Extension Worker-Farmer Interface

A Scientist - Extension Worker - Farmer Interface was held on 28th Feb, 2008 which was chaired by Dr. Jay G. Varshney, President, ISWS and coordinated by Dr. P.K. Singh, Sr. Scientist, NRCWS, Jabalpur. Dr. B.C. Chaudhary, Director (Research), RAU, Pusa, Dr. S.P. Verma, Dean, RAU, Pusa; Dr. R.K. Sohana, Director, Bihar Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute, Patna; Dr. Devendra Singh, Local Organizing Secretary of the Conference and many Scientists from RAU, Pusa and NRCWS, Jabalpur took also part. The interface was attended by more than 50 progressive farmers of Patna and adjoining districts.

Plenary Session:



The 2-day Conference after successful deliberations concluded with the Plenary Session on 28th Feb, 2008 which was Chaired by Dr. S. Sankaran, Former Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore and Co-chaired by Dr. Prasanta C. Bhowmik, Professor and Head, Department of Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA. The salient recommendations that have emerged in various sessions were presented. During the plenary session, awards were also distributed to best poster presentations.

Biennial Workshop of AICRP-Weed Control held at Patna (25 - 26 Feb, 2008)

Inaugural Ceremony:

The XVIII Biennial Workshop of AICRP-Weed Control was inaugurated by Shri Narendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of Bihar at Rajendra Agricultural University (Bihar Veterinary College), Patna on 25th Feb, 2008. Dr. N.L. Maurya, Vice-Chancellor, Rajendra Agricultural University (RAU), Patna; Dr. A.K. Gogoi, ADG (Agronomy), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr. B.C. Choudhary, Director of Research, RAU, Patna and a large number of dignitaries also graced the ceremony. Dr. Jay G. Varshney, Director, National Research Centre for Weed Science, Jabalpur and Coordinator, AICRP-WC delivered the welcome address and also presented the salient research achievements under the project during 2007.



Workshop Proceedings:

- The sessions of the Workshop were held at the Auditorium of the Bihar Veterinary College, Patna, India during 25th - 26th Feb, 2008.
- There were four technical sessions, one each on salient findings of network trials, research highlights of station trials, formulation of network technical programme for 2008-09 & 2009-10 and interaction with herbicide industry.
- About 100 scientists working on weed management in the 22 cooperating centres of the project spread all over India attended the Workshop.
- The salient findings of network as well as station trials for the past two years were presented which were thoroughly discussed and reviewed. The technical programme to be taken up for the coming two years (2008-09 and 2009-10) was finalized after extensive discussions.

Publications released:

1. Methods in Weed Science authored by Dr. C.T. Abraham, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur.
2. Research Techniques in Weed Science authored by C. Chinnusamy, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

Awards:

AICRP-WC Best Centre
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore

AICRP-WC Best Annual Report
Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat

NIWS Launched (22 April, 2008)



The National Invasive Weed Surveillance (NIWS) programme was launched in India at Jabalpur on the occasion of the 19th foundation day of National Research Centre for Weed Science on 22 April, 2008. The programme was ceremonially inaugurated by Dr. W.R. Reddy, Former Joint Secretary (Plant Protection), Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Government of India. Dr. O.M. Bambawale, Director, National Centre for Integrated Pest Management (NCIPM), New Delhi; Dr. Jay G. Varshney, Director, NRCWS, Jabalpur; Dr. Ravi Prakash Joint Director, Department of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (DPPQS), Faridabad also graced the occasion. In addition, Area coordinators of the NIWS centres from ten states as well as scientists from NRCWS also attended the launching ceremony.

Background of NIWS

To meet the food scarcity in the country, Government of India has permitted import of wheat with relaxed phytosanitary conditions. Consequently Ministry of Food imported 6.2 million tonnes of wheat during 2006-07 from various countries. The import was mainly meant for Public Distribution System (PDS). During the import, large numbers of seeds of five regulated weed species, viz., *Cenchrus tribuloides*, *Solanum carolinense*, *Viola arvensis*, *Cynoglossum officinale* and *Ambrosia trifida* have been intercepted by the Plant Quarantine Officials. To assess the full potential of likely risk due to the introduction of these quarantine weeds, it is necessary to conduct regular surveys for weed detection, monitoring and their surveillance. Accordingly, a National Invasive Weed Surveillance (NIWS) programme was sanctioned by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi with a budget support of Rs. 666.45 lakhs for a period of two years (2008-10).

Implementation Authority & Area to be covered

National Research Centre for Weed Science, Jabalpur is the implementation authority at National level in joint collaboration with the State Agricultural Universities and some general universities in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh. These are the states in which the imported wheat has been distributed under PDS. The NIWS will cover 267 districts in these ten states.

Report on the 5th International Weed Science Congress, Vancouver

The 5th International Weed Science Congress was held from 23-27 June 2008 at the Westin Bayshore Resort, Vancouver, Canada with the cooperative efforts of the International Weed Science Society, Canadian Weed Science Society and Weed Science Society of America. The main focus of the Congress was on the impact of weeds on agricultural systems, the environment and the global economy. More than 500 weed scientists and students from about 48 countries around the globe participated in the congress. There were about 700 oral and poster presentations in the five-day program. Several professional workshops were also organized on the preceding day of the Congress on 22nd June along with a trade exhibition to highlight the latest developments in weed science technology, products and services. From India, about 10 scientists and students have participated. Travel grants were given to 27 students selected by a team of referees on the basis of the papers communicated. Two students from India viz., Dr. Puja Ray from NRCWS, Jabalpur and Dr. Irfan Rashid, University of Kashmir were among the top five recipients. The delegates also had an opportunity to explore the biological diversity of the Vancouver region, with visits to working farms and orchards, greenhouses, botanical gardens and forests.

Dr. Jay G. Varshney, President, ISWS participates in 5th IWSS Congress

Dr Jay G. Varshney, Director, NRCWS, Jabalpur participated in the 5th International Weed Science Congress held at Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada during 22 - 27 June, 2008 and presented



a lead paper on the invitation of FAO, Rome on the topic, "Current status, distribution and management of *Parthenium* at global level". He also had interactions with the eminent scientists of different international organizations and universities and exchanged ideas on research of mutual interest. Informal discussions were also held with different eminent personalities on research collaboration in weedy rice, HTGM crops and bio-Security.

Dr. Puja Ray bags Graduate Student Award in 5th International Weed Science Congress



Dr. Puja Ray, Former SRF, NRCWS, Jabalpur received the graduate student award and travel grant to attend the 5th International Weed Science Congress. She presented a paper on "Possibilities of activity enhancement of *Zygogramma bicolorata*, a biocontrol agent of *Parthenium hysterophorus*, by temperature regulated diapause aversion".

Honours

Dr. Jay G. Varshney, President, ISWS has been nominated as a Member of Core Group of Experts on Bio-Security, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

He has also been nominated as a Member of the Policy Planning Committee on Science and Technology, Government of Chattisgarh, Raipur.

Parthenium Awareness Week (6-12 Sept, 2008) Celebrated in the country

Under the leadership of National research centre for Weed Science, the "Parthenium Awareness Week" was successfully organized all over the country from 6th to 12th September, 2008 to create public awareness on the ill effects of this weed and ways to manage it. The "Parthenium Awareness Week" was inaugurated at Bangalore by Sri S. Suresh Kumar, Hon'ble Minister for Law & Parliamentary Affairs & Urban Development, Govt. of Karnataka in the presence of Padamshree Dr. M. Mahadevappa, Dr. Jay G. Varshney, Director, NRCWS, Dr. Chengappa, Vice-Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore; Dr. B.V. Patil, Director of Research, UAS, Bangalore. The inaugural ceremony was attended by about 500 persons. Various extension folders developed by AICRP-WC, Bangalore center and NRCWS were released by the dignitaries.

A Kisan Goshti on 9th September at village Singuad and a one-day special training programme for farmers on *Parthenium* management at NRCWS, Jabalpur on 10th September were also organized. The farmers were taught the mass multiplication methods of *Zygogramma bicolorata*. Mexican beetles were also distributed for release in their respective areas.

During the week, the Centre also conducted a nationwide publicity campaign through print and electronic mass media like news papers, All India Radio (AIR) and national as well as regional television channels, seeking the active participation of all the stakeholders in the control of *Parthenium*.

Several pamphlets, posters, handouts in English, Hindi and different vernacular languages on the subject were also distributed. All the Centres of the All India Coordinated Research Programme on Weed Control (AICRP-WC) located in different state agricultural universities organized several activities like lectures by experts through mass media, demonstration of available technologies on *Parthenium* management, release of publications and distribution of Mexican beetles.

The 'Parthenium Awareness Week' concluded on 12 September 2008. On this occasion, a quiz competition was conducted on *Parthenium* for children of different schools in Jabalpur. At the end cash awards along with certificates were distributed to the winners of the quiz competition.

To join the Indian Society of Weed Science

Complete the following information and send along with your subscription to Dr. Sushilkumar, Secretary, Indian Society of Weed Science, NRCWS, Maharajpur, Jabalpur – 482 004, M.P.

Name : _____

Designation: _____

Address : _____

Fax : _____

Phone : _____

Email : _____

Signature: _____

Membership fee:

Admission fee : Rs. 50

Annual Membership : Rs. 200

Life Membership : Rs. 2000

Institutional/Libraries : Rs. 1000

Student affiliate : Rs. 100

Sustaining Industry (Annual): Rs. 15000

The membership fee is to be paid in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of Indian Society of Weed Science and payable at Jabalpur.

Executive Council of ISWS (2008-2009)

Chief Patron	:	Dr. Mangala Rai, Secretary, DARE and D.G., ICAR, New Delhi
Patrons	:	Dr. C.D. Mayee, Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi, and Dr. A.K. Singh, DDG (NRM), ICAR, New Delhi
President	:	Dr. Jay G. Varshney, NRCWS, Jabalpur
Vice-President	:	Dr. A.N. Tewari, CSAUA&T, Kanpur
Secretary	:	Dr. Sushilkumar, NRCWS, Jabalpur
Joint Secretary	:	Dr. M.L. Kewat, JNKVV, Jabalpur
Treasurer	:	Dr. V.P. Singh, NRCWS, Jabalpur

Zonal Secretaries

North Zone	1.	Dr. S.S.L. Tripathi, GBPUA&T, Pantnagar
	2.	Dr. Jai Dev Sharma, NDUAA&T, Faizabad
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	2.	Dr. Anil Dixit, NRCWS, Jabalpur

Chief Editor, Indian Journal of Weed Science

Dr. R.S. Sharma, Prof. & Head
Department of Agronomy, JNKVV, Jabalpur

ISWS Newsletter Editor

Dr. M.B.B. Prasad Babu, NRCWS, Jabalpur - 482 004, M.P.

NOTIFICATION

As decided in the General Body meeting held on 27th Feb, 2008 at Patna, henceforth the Indian Journal of Weed Science shall be published from Jabalpur which is the Headquarters of the Society. Therefore, research papers for publication in the Journal should only be sent to:

The Secretary,
Indian Society of Weed Science,
NRCWS, Jabalpur – 482 004, Madhya Pradesh

The **ISWS Newsletter** is an electronic quarterly publication, published in March, June, September and December to foster better communication among and give information to our members and others in the country interested in Weed Science. Information for publication in the ISWS Newsletter may be sent, preferably by e-mail to the Editor at the following address:

Dr. M.B.B. Prasad Babu, NRCWS, Jabalpur – 482 004, Madhya Pradesh.

E-mail: mbbprasadbabu@gmail.com