NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 36th AUTHORITY MEETING

6th January, 2016

Venue

Conference Hall,
National Biodiversity Authority,
5th Floor, Ticel Biopark, CSIR Road, Taramani,
Chennai, Tel: 044 2254 2777/ 1075

Proceedings of the 36th Authority Meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority

The thirty sixth meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was held on 6th January 2016 at 11.30 AM at the office of the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai under the chairmanship of Shri Hem Pande, IAS., Chairman, NBA to consider the agenda items circulated to the Members *vide* email dated 30th December, 2015 and hard copy by messenger on 31st December, 2015. The list of participants is placed as **Annex-1- pg.no.13**.

2. At the outset, Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Chairman, NBA welcomed all the members and the special invitees to the meeting. The members held a brief review of the year 2015 and highlighted important events they had participated in, including various expert committee meetings of the NBA, interaction meetings with other institution/ organizations such as ICAR, CSIR, ADMA, etc., consultations with SBBs and the Indian Science Congress.

3. In his remarks, Dr.R.S. Rana, Member, NBA underscored the importance of the ABS Regulations, 2014 and expressed that the guidelines was well received and resulted in positive dialogue between NBA and various stakeholders. Dr. S. Subramaniyan, Member, NBA stressed the importance of strengthening SBBs and BMCs, and also suggested that the NBA may look into the formation of BMCs at the appropriate level so as to ensure greater participation of the Biodiversity Management Committees.

4. Thereafter, the Secretary, NBA made a presentation on the activities carried out by the NBA since the last Authority meeting held on 13th October, 2015 and the status of the ABS applications. It was also informed that during the calendar year, the NBA received a sum of Rs.28.00 crores as benefit sharing through granting of approval for access to the Red Sanders wood by non-Indian entities. Further, he informed the members that the 9th meeting of the Ad Hoc open ended working group on Article 8j and related provisions on the Convention on Biological Diversity was held at Montreal, Canada. During the meeting a side event was organized with the support of UNEP-GEF ABS project, titled “Contextual Discussion on Article 8j and Indian Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules, 2005 – Experiences gained from UNEP-GEF-MoEFCC ABS Project”. Besides, the Secretary, NBA informed that the

NBA sponsored financially to various institute/ organization for creating awareness about the importance of biodiversity and the BD Act 2002. The members appreciated the activities carried out by the NBA.

5. Thereafter, the agenda items were considered and discussed as under:-

36.01: Confirmation of Proceedings of the 35th Authority meeting

The draft proceedings of the 35th Authority meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority held on 13th October, 2015 in New Delhi was circulated to the Members *vide* email dated 26th October, 2015 seeking their comments. In response, comments were received from Dr. R.S Rana, Member, NBA and Dr. Sujata Arora, Director, MoEFCC. The comments were incorporated appropriately and the approved Proceedings was placed before the Authority for confirmation. The Authority confirmed the same.

Decision:

The Authority confirmed the Proceedings of the 35th meeting.

36.02: Action taken report of the 35th Authority meeting

The Secretary, NBA apprised the Members about the actions taken on the decisions of the 35th Authority meeting. The Authority took note of the actions taken.

36.03: Compliance of the decisions taken in 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th Authority meetings

The Secretary, NBA informed the members that pursuant to the decision taken in the 16th Authority meeting, detailed matrices elucidating the follow up actions taken on the decisions of the 14th to 17th Authority meetings were prepared by the NBA Secretariat and placed for consideration. While the Secretary, NBA presented the action taken report, he pointed out that the issue of ABS guidelines, issue of normally traded commodities, issue of guidelines on PBR and BHS, issue on procedure for closing of application, notification of ITPGRFA, negotiation on ABS agreement with CSIR, etc., were repeatedly occurring in the decisions of the Authority meeting referred to above. He also informed that the notification of ABS guidelines, NTC, PBR, BHS, ITPGRFA etc were issued during the course of period. It was informed by the Secretary that the CSIR has submitted around 30 agreements

and they are being examined by the secretariat. Further, the CSIR requested to waive the obligation to deposit the voucher specimens. Similarly, the M/s. Serum Institute has made a plea in revision of certain clauses in the draft agreement forwarded to them for execution. Members appreciated the efforts of the NBA on various issues pointed out. Authority decided that CSIR may be exempted from the deposition of bioresources for their Form-III applications, keeping in view of the Authority's decision under item 35.19.05 wherein it was decided that deposition of voucher specimen/sample is not required for Form-III, Form-II and Form-IV applications. While discussing the modification of arbitration clause in the agreement by the Serum institute, it was emphasized that the BD Act is a special Act and sovereign rights on the biological resources rests with the Government. The Authority discussed the actions taken in detail and made the following decisions:-

Decisions:

a) The Authority decided that CSIR may be exempted from depositing voucher specimen in designated repositories when executing agreements for their Form-III applications.

b) The Authority did not agree to the request of M/s. Serum Institute of India Ltd regarding modification in 'Arbitrator' clause of the ABS agreement for their Form-III application since the BD Act is a special Act and the sovereign rights on the biological resources rests with the Government.

c) The Authority directed the NBA Secretariat to obtain report from the Tariff Commission on "Quantum value of the NTC species (190) exported from India" for the year 2014-15.

Action: Secretary, NBA

36.04: To consider the Proceedings of the 35th meeting of Expert Committee on ABS held on 28th November, 2015

The Secretary, NBA apprised the members that the 35th meeting of the Expert Committee on ABS was held on 28th November, 2015 at the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai under the chairmanship of Dr.T.P.Rajendran, Co-Chair, EC on ABS and the EC considered a total of 57 applications and other issues. Dr. Shivendu Shrivastava, Member, EC on ABS was a special invitee to the Authority meeting and presented the recommendations of the EC to the Authority.

2. The Authority deliberated the recommendations of the EC on ABS and *inter alia* made the following observations:-

i. The Authority discussed the issue of violations under Sections 3 and 6 of the BD Act, 2002 and decided that the recommendations of the EC on ABS on imposing 3-10 times benefit sharing to the violators, issuing warning letter to research scholars/scientist who are committing offence first time, was not agreed to. The Authority noted that the EC on ABS being an advisory body to the NBA should ensure that their recommendations are within the purview of the BD Act, 2002.

ii. The Secretary, NBA informed the Authority that the secretariat took concerted efforts to lodge the complaint against the alleged violators in the court of law. In this regard, the Government advocates have been consulted and it was learnt that the BD Act is not only a special Act but it also need some technical analysis on the offence committed by the alleged violators.

iii. Further, the Secretary, NBA, Dr.R.S.Rana and NBA's legal team met the senior advocate in Bangalore on 5th Jan 2016 and the advocate suggested that NBA needs to segregate the cases sector wise and proceed further. The issue of jurisdiction was also discussed. It was also informed that the advocate needs a brief note about all the cases to provide his opinion on the above score.

iv. Authority directed the NBA Secretariat to initiate legal action against the applicants who have violated the provisions of the BD Act on the basis of advocate's opinion. In this connection, the Authority also suggested that the NBA Secretariat may employ the services of law firms to initiate prosecution on alleged violations.

3. The sub-committee report on issues raised by the DBT on certain provisions of the BD Act was considered in the Authority and Members deliberated the issues in detail. The observations of the Authority are detailed below:-

i. With regard to the inclusion of waste materials under definition of biological resources the Authority agreed to the recommendation of the EC that the waste from biological resources may form a raw material for another research/ product and hence it will be covered under BD Act.

ii. Similarly, the Authority agreed with the recommendation of the EC that the details of VAP and traditional breeding practices may be elaborated in the FAQ section of the NBA website.

iii. The recommendation on exempting Government agencies from the purview of Section 3(2) was not agreed to, as the BD Act states that "A body corporate, association or organization incorporated or registered in India under any law for the time being in force with has *any non-Indian participation in share capital or management*".

4. The decisions of the Authority are detailed below:-

Decisions:

a) Authority approved the recommendations of the 35th meeting of EC on ABS on the 57 ABS applications including the upfront payment for M/s. L'Oreal India Pvt Ltd and M/s. E.I Du Pont.

b) The Authority did not approve the recommendation of the EC on ABS on applicants who have contravened the provisions of the BD Act, 2002.

c) The Authority directed the NBA Secretariat to initiate legal action against the applicants who have violated the provisions of the BD Act, 2002 in consultation with the Advocate and in this regard decided that the Secretariat may employ a law firm to prosecute such violators. The opinion to be placed before the Authority.

d) The Authority decided that a standardized format for approval under collaborative research may be drafted by the EC on Agro-biodiversity along with the revision of the collaborative research guidelines, if required.

e) The Authority approved the recommendation of the EC on the issues raised by the DBT regarding certain provisions of the BD Act, as detailed in para 3 above. The Authority did not agree to the exemption of Government companies from the purview of Section 3(2).

f) Authority decided that when the members approved the recommendations of the EC on ABS without any modification, the Secretariat may initiate further action on the concerned applications without awaiting the issuance of approved Proceedings of the Authority meeting.

Action: Secretary, NBA

36.05: To consider the decision of the Chairman, NBA on Form-B applications

The Members were informed of the decision of the Chairman, NBA on three Form-B applications viz., Appl no. B-02, B-04 and B-08. It was informed that all the applications were not approved due to not fulfilling the criteria of the provisions of the ABS Regulation.

Decision:

The Authority ratified the decision the Chairman, NBA on the three Form-B applications.

36.06: To consider the ABS applications for access to Red Sanders wood approved by the Chairman, NBA

The Secretary, NBA informed the Authority that following the second phase of auctioning of Red Sanders wood by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and also auction through DRI- STC/ MMTC, the NBA had received applications from 10 foreign buyers seeking access to auctioned Red Sanders wood. The details of the applications and approvals accorded by Chairman, NBA and benefit sharing component received were placed before the Authority for ratification.

Decision:

The Authority ratified the approvals accorded by the Chairman, NBA on the Form-I applications seeking access to auctioned Red Sanders wood.

36.07: To consider the Form-I application from M/s.Terviva Bio Energy Ltd

The Secretary, NBA apprised the members of the Form-I application from M/s. Terviva Bio Energy Ltd for access to *Pongamia pinnatta* from The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for research as well as commercial utilization. Since, the NBA executes two separate formats of agreements for granting approval for research and for commercial utilization, the NBA Secretariat merged the relevant clauses of both agreements and developed a new agreement format to grant approval. In the mean time, the applicant requested that they would prefer to execute the agreement to access the biological resources for research alone and apply a fresh application for commercial utilization in due course. The matter was placed for consideration.

Decision:

The Authority directed the NBA Secretariat to execute an agreement with M/s. Terviva only for research purpose with five years validity period for the agreement. The applicant may make a fresh application for commercial utilization.

Action: Secretary, NBA

36.08: To consider further action relating to non-receipt of response against notices issued u/s 19(3) for rejection of application in case of violations of BD Act, 2002

The Authority was informed that in the case of applications that have been rejected, the Secretariat issues notices to the applicants u/s 19(3) of the BD Act, giving an opportunity to the applicant to make representation against the proposal to reject the applications without prejudice to initiation of legal proceedings. It is clearly stated in the notice that if the representation is not received within the stipulated time, it would be presumed that the applicant has no representation to make against the said proposal and order of rejection will be passed. However, in a few cases, the applicants who received the notices have not submitted any representations to the NBA.

2. The issue was considered by the Authority and it was decided that in the case of applicants who have failed to make any representation in response to the notice issued u/s 19(3) of the BD Act, 2002, the corresponding application shall be rejected. In this regard, the Authority authorized the Chairman, NBA to reject such applications and the Chairman, NBA or his authorized officer shall initiate appropriate legal action, as required.

Decision:

The Authority authorized the Chairman, NBA to reject applications where the applicants have failed to make any representation in response to notice issued u/s 19(3) of the BD Act, 2002, and also he or his authorized officer shall initiate appropriate legal action, as required.

Action: Secretary, NBA

36.09: To consider the minutes of the discussion meeting of EC on Red Sanders held on 20th November, 2015

The Secretary, NBA informed the Authority that a meeting of the Chairpersons of the sub-committees of the EC on Red Sanders was held on 20th November, 2015 at the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai to discuss the reports of the sub-committees on the defined terms of reference. The Authority took note of the minutes of the meeting. It was also informed that the 6th meeting of the EC on Red Sanders was held on 3rd and 4th December, 2015 at Hyderabad.

36.10: To consider the augmented list of Normally Traded Commodities

The Secretary, NBA apprised the members that in the 35th Authority meeting under agenda item no. 35.19.02, the Authority considered the minutes of the 11th Meeting of EC on NTC as well as the final draft notification of 426 species/biological resources/items as NTCs and directed the Secretariat to exclude the species (from wild) suggested by the SBBs from the list and forward the notification to the Ministry for notification.

2. Accordingly, the revised list of NTAC containing 385 species was placed before the Authority for consideration. Dr. D.K Ved IFS (Retd.) Chairman, EC on NTC was a special invitee to the Authority meeting and presented the list. He opined that the species/ biological resources/ items proposed by the SBBs for exclusion from the original 426 species/ biological resource/ items may be agreed to for only those obtained from the wild and the cultivated species may be retained in the list of NTACs. The Authority deliberated the issue in detail and made the following decisions:-

Decisions:

a) The Authority directed the NBA Secretariat to forward the draft notification with the list of 385 species to the Ministry for notification. Further, the Authority directed the Secretariat to initiate further action without awaiting the issuance of approved Proceedings of the Authority meeting.

b) The Authority decided that the list of species/ biological resources excluded as proposed by the SBBs may be re-examined by the EC on NTC.

Action: Secretary, NBA

36.11: To consider the final report submitted by the Academy of Business Studies, New Delhi on the NBA sponsored study titled "Development of a Trade Database on Indian Bioresources utilizing Customs and Port Data, Coding of Traded Bioresources and Standardization of Nomenclature."

The Authority was informed that the EC on NTC had reviewed and assessed the progress of the project study titled "*Development of a Trade Database on Indian Bioresources utilizing Customs and Port Data, Coding of Traded Bioresources and Standardization of Nomenclature"* awarded by NBA to the Academy of Business Studies (ABS), New Delhi and the Final Report was considered in the 11th meeting of

EC on NTC held on 29th September, 2015. An executive summary of the report was placed before the Authority for consideration.

2. The Authority took note of the report and appreciated the effort of the EC on NTC. It was decided that as per the MoU entered between the NBA and ABS, the outstanding amount may be released to the Academy of Business Studies (ABS), New Delhi for conducting the study.

Decision:

The Authority took note of the report and directed the NBA Secretariat to release the outstanding amount to be paid to the Academy of Business Studies (ABS), New Delhi as per the MoU.

Action: Secretary, NBA

36.12: Constitution / re-constitution of Expert Committees, sub-committees and Core Expert Groups

The office orders for constitution/ re-constitution of (i) sub-committee under the EC on ABS to examine the discussion note sent by DBT on certain clauses and provisions of the BD Act, 2002, (ii) Sub-committee under the EC on ABS to discuss the issue of deposition of Indian bioresource in foreign repositories by Indian researchers for non-commercial purpose, (iii) Core Expert Group to examine the revised Access and Benefit Sharing application forms, (iv) Extension of tenure of the EC on Medicinal Plants and (v) extension of tenure of EC to revise the existing ABS agreements were placed before the Authority for ratification.

Decision:

The Authority ratified the constitution/ re-constitution and extension of tenure of the sub-committees, CEG and ECs.

36.13: Activities of UNEP-GEF-MoEFCC ABS Project

The Authority was informed of various activities of the UNEP-GEF-MoEFCC ABS Project including about the side event titled “Contextual Discussion on Article 8j and Indian Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules, 2005 – Experiences gained from UNEP-GEF-MoEFCC ABS Project” that was organised on 5th November, 2015 at the 9th Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Open ended working group on Article 8j and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity at Montreal, Canada. The Authority took note of the activities.

36.14: Details of Upfront payments received by the NBA

The Authority was informed that pursuant to the decision of the 32nd Authority, wherein the guidelines for levying of upfront payment was finalized, the NBA had received upfront payment from four applicants. The details of upfront payment received were placed before the Authority. The Authority took note of the upfront payment received.

36.15: To consider the Guidelines for Designated Repositories developed by the Core Expert Group

The Secretary, NBA apprised the Authority that the Core Expert Group on Designated Repositories under the chairmanship of Dr. R.S Rana, Member, NBA had circulated the draft guidelines for Designated Repositories to the Heads of all the designated repositories for their comments. The finalized draft guidelines along with few comments received from the Department of Biotechnology were placed before the Authority for consideration.

Decision:

The Authority approved the draft guidelines on designated repositories incorporating the suggestions provided by the DBT. The Authority directed the secretariat to issue the guidelines and inform the concerned repositories and also place the guidelines in the website of NBA.

Action: Secretary, NBA

36.16.01: To consider the Access to threatened species of *Aconitum heterophyllum* notified u/s 38 of the BD Act from cultivated sources by M/s Dabur India Limited in the Himachal Pradesh

The Authority was informed that the NBA Secretariat received a communication from the Himachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board raising issues relating to the collection and utilisation of *Aconitum heterophyllum (Indian Atees) from* cultivated sources by M/s Dabur India Limited. It was informed that M/s Dabur India Limited had submitted an application in Form-I to Himachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board for procuring 23 biological resources (inclusive of this species) native to/ known to occur in the State of Himachal Pradesh both from wild and cultivated sources.

2. *Aconitum heterophyllum* Wall ex. Royle (Family *Ranunculaceae)* is a notified threatened species under section 38 of the BD Act vide notification no SO. 783(E)

dated 17.03.2009. Therefore, collection of this species for commercial purposes is prohibited. The notification of threatened species in the State of Himachal Pradesh dated 17th March 2009 issued by the MoEFCC under section 38 BD Act states that '*no plant or animal species as notified above shall be collected in live or dead condition by any, except for purposes mentioned below, with the approval of the concerned SBB, viz. scientific research; herbarium and museum of scientific academic institutions; propagation and any other scientific investigation'*.

3. Based on the representation made by the applicant and the Himachal Pradesh SBB, the Authority discussed the issue and opined that the term 'propagation' may include cultivation of the species. The Authority made the following decisions:-

Decisions:

a) For the present case, the Authority directed the Secretariat to convey the HP SBB that as there is no provision for commercial utilization of the threatened species notified, the access shall not be permitted. It was also pointed out that the company status as per BD Act may be verified by the SBB and act accordingly.

b) Authority also alive to the concern expressed by the HP SBB, directed the secretariat to place the matter before the EC on medicinal plants for their recommendation on whether commercial utilization of threated species from cultivated sources can be permitted or not. The recommendation of the EC may be placed before the forthcoming meeting of the Authority for its consideration.

Action: Secretary, NBA

36.16.02: To consider the plea of M/s Hindustan Unilever Ltd for reduction of benefit sharing.

The Secretary, NBA informed the Authority that M/s. Hindustan Unilever Ltd had made a request for reduction of the quantum of upfront payment approved by the 33rd Authority for their two Form-I applications. The Authority considered the request and made the following decisions:-

Decisions:

a) The Authority approved the appl no. 508 with an upfront payment of Rs.80,000/-.
b) The Authority approved the appl no. 509 with an upfront payment of Rs.20,000/-.

Action: Secretary, NBA

36.16.03: Grant of Special leave to the officials/ Staff of the NBA

The Authority was informed that NBA secretariat had granted a Special Casual Leave to the officials/ staff of the NBA who could not attend the office on 2nd, 3rd and 4th December 2015 owing to the incessant rain and water logging of Chennai and absence of transport facilities. The Authority took note of the matter.

36.16.04: To consider the report of sub-committee examined the deposition of microorganisms in foreign repositories for claim of novel species by Indians

The Authority considered the report of the sub-committee constituted in the 33rd meeting of EC on ABS consisting of Dr. A.K.Gosh, Dr. Ramakrishna, Dr. M.Sanjappa, Dr.G.S. Prasad and Dr.D.J. Bagyaraj to examine the issue of Indian researchers depositing Indian bioresource in foreign repositories for non-commercial research purpose. The authority also noted the legal opinions on this issue. It was deliberated whether the deposition of micro-organism in foreign repository will fall under the ambit of BD Act in terms of research / bio-survey and bio-utilization / commercial utilization etc. It was decided that the mere deposition in the repository will not fall under any category referred to above. Further, the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, Art. 15 insists that the party should ensure that the access to genetic resources have been in accordance with prior informed consent and that mutually agreed terms have been established, as required by the domestic legislation in the other party. Hence the following decisions have been made:-

Decisions:

a) The Authority decided that the depositing of micro-organisms by Indian researchers/scientist in other country repositories for claim of his novel species for publication in journals, as required under the International Bacteriological code of Nomenclature, does not come under the purview of the BD Act 2002.

b) The Authority further decided that the depositor should provide intimation to the NBA including the details such as name of the species, purpose of deposition, name of the foreign repository.

c) Any non-Indian person/ entity accessing the Indian biological resource deposited in foreign repositories should obtain the prior approval of NBA as per Section 3 of the BD Act, 2002.

d) The Authority directed the Secretariat to elaborate on the above decisions in the FAQ section of the NBA website.

Action: Secretary, NBA

36.16.05: To consider the proposal submitted by Dr.S.Subramaniyan, Member, Assessment of Loss of Biodiversity due to floods during November-December 2015 in Tamil Nadu and restorative measures using

remote sensing and GIS techniques

Dr. S.Subramaniyan, Member, NBA explained a proposal on assessment of loss of biodiversity due to floods during November-December 2015 in Tamil Nadu and restorative measures using remote sensing and GIS techniques. The Authority considered the proposal and decided that the activity does not fall under the core mandate of the NBA.

Decision:

The Authority did not approve the proposal on assessment of loss of biodiversity due to floods during November-December 2015 in Tamil Nadu and restorative measures using remote sensing and GIS techniques'.

Action: Secretary, NBA

36.16.06: Notifications/ Orders for implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing

The Secretary, NBA informed the Authority that in the 30th Authority meeting under agenda item no. 30.03, the Authority decided that the two notifications/ orders viz., user country measures and designation of check points may be examined by the Core Expert Group under the chairmanship of Dr. R.S Rana, Member, NBA. Subsequently, in the 32nd Authority meeting, under agenda item no. 32.26.01, the Authority approved with a few modifications the merged draft notification/ order on designation of check points and user country measures.

2. Accordingly, NBA forwarded the notification on Designation of Check Points and User Country Measures to implement Nagoya Protocol on ABS to MOEFCC with request to issue the said notification as an executive order. In response, MOEFCC has informed that since the issue is considered under CEBPOL's work plan, the draft notification communicated to this Ministry may be reconsidered and revised if required, in the light of the outcome of the work under CEBPOL.

3. The Authority was informed that the report of user country measure and implementation in India has been submitted by the CEBPOL. In this regard, the Authority decided that the finalized version of the notification/ order of the user country measure/ check points may be re-examined in the light of above said report by the Core Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.S Rana.

Decision:

The Authority decided that the Core Expert Group under the chairmanship of Dr. R.S Rana may re-examine and fine tune the draft notification on designation of check points and user country measures to implement the Nagoya protocol in India, in the light of the report submitted by the CEBPOL.

Action: Secretary, NBA

36.16.07: Providing opportunity for interns

The Secretary, NBA informed the members that NBA has received few requests for internship from students. It was also pointed out that in the 25th Authority meeting under item no. 25.10, the decision of the Authority is as follows:

> A detailed note on providing opportunities for interns at NBA was presented to the members. The members on detailed analysis opined that NBA may be given flexibility for accepting interns. Further, the members expressed concern over accepting students as interns owing to confidentiality issues but agreed on accepting postgraduates, Ph.D scholars and junior officers from services. Finally, the Authority decided that interns may be taken in as consultants to assist NBA as per the provisions of Rule 12(vi) of the BD Rules, 2004.

2. Prof. M.K Ramesh, Member, NBA opined that recruiting interns from law Universities (4th year students on 6 weeks internship) may benefit the NBA by augmenting the Secretariat's work capacity and the students will also benefit from such exposure. The Authority agreed that the NBA may look into engage interns.

Decision:

The Authority decided that the NBA Secretariat may engage interns by creating internship opportunities for life science and law students and students from relevant fields. The Authority also decided that the NBA Secretariat may seek the help of Prof. M.K Ramesh, Member, NBA to develop the ToR/ procedure for engagement, etc.

Action: Secretary, NBA

36.16.08: Participation of NBA in the International Agro-Biodiversity Congress organized by ICAR in 2016

The Secretary, NBA informed the Members that ICAR is organizing an International Agro-Biodiversity Congress in 2016. In this connection, ICAR requested the NBA to serve as a co-sponsor of the event which would entail a contribution of Rs.10.00 lakhs (Rupees Ten Lakhs). The Members opined that the said Congress will provide a platform to create awareness of the BD Act, 2002 and to engage with various stakeholders. It was decided that the NBA shall co-sponsor the event and also convene a session of the BD Act, 2002.

Decision:

The Authority decided that the NBA shall co-sponsor the International Agro-Biodiversity Congress to be organized by ICAR and approved the contribution of Rs.10.00 lakhs in this regard. It is also decided that Dr.R.S.Rana, Member, NBA may act as the co-ordinator on behalf of the NBA.

Action: Secretary, NBA

Annex-I

List of Participants

Official Members who participated			
1	Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Chairman, NBA and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Vayu Block, Fifth Floor, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi	2	Shri Anil Sant, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Vayu Block, Fifth Floor, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi
3	Dr. Jeet Singh Sandhu Deputy Director General(Crop Science), Division of Crop Science, ICAR, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi -110 001.	4	Dr.Manoj Kumar Modi Scientist C, Department of Biotechnology, CGO Complex, Block No. 2, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. *(Represented Dr. Renu Swarup)*
5	Dr. R. Kirubagaran Scientist G, National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Velachery-Thambaram Main Road, Narayanapuram, Pallikaranai, Chennai – 600 100	6	Shri T. Rabikumar, IFS., Secretary to the Authority
Official Members who did not participate			
1	Dr. Anil Kumar, IFS Additional Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Vayu Block, Fifth Floor, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi	2	Smt. Shomita Biswas CEO, National Medicinal Plant Board, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, 3rd Floor, AYUSH Bhawan, B Block, G.P.O. Complex, I.N.A., New Delhi
3	Dr. R.K Singh, IAS., Joint Secretary (Seeds), Dept. of Agriculture and Cooperation, Room no. 244, Krishi Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi -110 001.	4	Dr.Renu Swarup Senior Advisor, Department of Biotechnology, CGO Complex, Block No. 2, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. (represented by Dr. Manoj Kumar Modi)
5	Dr. B.K Shukla Scientist G & Head Planning, coordination & Performance Management Department of Science & Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi – 110 016.	6	Shri. Sushilesh Mohan Sahai, Director, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Room no. 736, A-Wing, 7th Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110001.
Non-Official Members who participated			
1	Dr.R.S.Rana Chairman, Bio-Link, D-43, Indraprastha Apartments, Sector 14, Rohini, New Delhi	2	Dr. S. Subramaniyan 54, VGP, Golden Sea View, Part-II, 2nd Main Road, 5th Cross Street, Palavakkam, Chennai.
3	Prof.M.K.Ramesh Professor of Law, National Law School, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore		

	Non-Official Members who did not participate		
1	Dr.Biswajit Dhar Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, I Block, 1796A,Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi.		
Special Invitees			
1	Shri. D.K. Ved, IFS (Retd.) Chair of the EC on NTC Advisor, Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, No.. 74/2, Jarkabande Kaval, Post Attur, Via Yelahanka, Bangalore – 560106.	2	Shri Shivendu K. Srivastava, IFS., (Retd.) Member, EC on ABS Bhopal