NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 39TH AUTHORITY MEETING

14th October, 2016

Venue

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

Proceedings of the 39th Authority Meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority

The thirty ninth meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was held on 14th October, 2016 at office of the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai under the Chairmanship of Dr.B.Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA to consider the agenda items circulated to the Members *vide* email dated 07th October, 2016 and by hard copy on 13th October, 2016. The list of participants is placed as **Annex-I.**

2. At the outset, Dr.B.Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA welcomed the Members to the meeting. She also briefed the members about the activities which had taken place during the interregnum, such as holding of various ABS awareness programmes, 11th National Meet of State Biodiversity Boards, Celebration of NBA Foundation Day, activities related to GIZ-ABS project, Workshop held on Multilateral Environment Agreements, etc. She also mentioned that the tenure of four non-official members will be expiring in the month of October and expressed her gratitude to the Members of the Authority for their services and support extended to NBA during their tenure.

3. Thereafter, Shri T. Rabikumar, Secretary, NBA, in his remarks extended warm welcome to the members and also placed on record the sincere gratitude and appreciation to the service rendered by non-officials members and their contribution on various issues like notification of ABS guidelines, BMC related issues, NTC, etc, and for assisting the Authority in making appropriate decisions as well as representing the NBA on various forums. Subsequently, he also updated the members about the activities carried out since last meeting of the Authority, including the status of the ABS applications, Expert Committee meetings, re-constitution of the expert committee and Inception meet of the ASEAN project.

4. On behalf of the non-official members, Dr.S.Subramaniyan, Member, expressed thanks to the Members of the Authority as well as to Chairperson for their co-operation and thanked the NBA Secretariat for the assistance and support offered during their tenure.

5. Dr. S. Subramaniyan, Member also mentioned that in the past, a Special Train on Biodiversity was there which spread the message of biodiversity across the breadth and length of the country. He also added that as the special train had created ample awareness about the biodiversity to the public at large, such initiatives may be perused in future with the help of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Further he expressed hope that the newsletter on achievements of NBA and MOEFCC which is in the pipeline will be published soon. In this regard, Dr.Sujata Arora, Adviser, MOEFCC has informed that as brand Ambassador to CoP-11 during 2012, the Science Express Biodiversity Special, a 16 coach train exhibiting India's rich biodiversity was flagged off. Now, the special train is running on the theme “Climate Change”, of which one coach is allotted to exhibits on Biodiversity.

Thereafter, the agenda items were considered as under:

39.01: Confirmation of Proceedings of the 38th Authority meeting

The Secretary informed the Members that draft Proceedings of the 38th Authority meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority held on 4th July, 2016 in Chennai was circulated to the Members vide email dated 22nd July, 2016 seeking their comments. In response, the comments received from Dr.R.S.Rana and Dr.Sujata Arora were incorporated appropriately. Thereafter, the Members confirmed the proceedings of the 38th Authority meeting.

Decision

The Members confirmed the proceedings of the 38th Authority meeting.

Action: Secretary, NBA.

39.02: Action taken report of the 38th Authority meeting

It was informed that the action has been taken on few items and for the remaining items, action is in progress. The Authority noted the action taken report of its meeting. While discussing action taken report of the 38th Authority, the followings observation has been made by the Members.

2. With regard to the Agenda item no. 38.*03 (Proceedings of the 38th meeting of Expert Committee on ABS held on 18th May, 2016), while discussing the sub-committee to formulate policy on dealing with cases of violations of the BD Act,* Dr Sujata Arora has informed that the committee is to formulate recommendations, and not policy. She also emphasized that the sub-committee needs to expedite their work.

3. With regard to Agenda item no. 38.08 *(proposal for Awards and Fellowships to be given to various organizations for their outstanding contributions in the field of environment, plant and animals),* Dr Sujata Arora has suggested that India Biodiversity Award 2018 may be announced during the celebration of International Day for Biodiversity 2017. Further, she also added that once contours of the Award are developed by the Committee, a consolidated and detailed proposal has to be sent to the Ministry for approval of details.

4. With regard to Agenda item no.38.13 *(Submission of Annual report),* Dr Sujata Arora informed that as the submission of the Annual Report 2013-2014 has been delayed by the NBA, the same has not been placed before both the houses of the Parliament. She also added that the Annual Report may be submitted along with a detailed report on delay to the Ministry, well in advance, so as to facilitate the Ministry to place the same in the upcoming session of both the houses of Parliament.

Decisions

a) The Authority noted the action taken report of the previous Authority meeting.

b) The Authority directed the NBA Secretariat to expedite sending the Annual reports with relevant details for the year 2014-15 and 2015-16 as well, since the next session of the Parliament is about to begin, for placing before both the houses. Also directed the secretariat to submit the reports on time in future.

Action: Secretary, NBA

39.03: To consider the revised Guidelines for operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committees

The Secretary, NBA apprised the members that the National Biodiversity Authority, after following due process, issued guidelines for operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committees in March 2013, during the 8th Annual Meeting of the State Biodiversity Boards and are being implemented by the SBBs and other stakeholders. Based on their experience, they have come out with suggestions and modifications to the existing guidelines.

2. He also added that Expert Committee on Biodiversity Management Committees was reconstituted to examine their suggestions of the stakeholders on the guidelines and to revise the existing guidelines for operationalization of BMCs. After ascertaining the views of different stakeholders and gathering inputs from several sources, the Committee has prepared their final report along with revised guidelines for operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committees and submitted to NBA.

3. Prof. M.K. Ramesh said that certain provisions of the draft revised guidelines does not have flexibility especially Constitution of BMC at various level of local bodies and opined that guidelines need not prescribe the level at which BMC has to be constituted. He also added that formation of BMC and documentation of PBR at various levels may be left to the State Biodiversity Boards as the areas are very diverse in nature.

4. Dr. Subramaniyan informed that District level administration *and Panchayati Committees which are already in place may be asked to involve in the process of constitution of BMC at local bodies.* The Secretary, NBA apprised the members about the communication sent by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to the Principal Secretaries of Panchayati Raj Department of all the States/UTs regarding the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the exercise of Constitution of BMCs and providing technical assistance for preparation of PBRs.

5. Dr Sujata Arora pointed out that the report is not much different from its 2013 version; still requires lot of modification and draft guidelines do not have background / introduction, some of its text is not in line with the Act and also certain elements of

the draft needs language revision for better clarity. Hence, it was suggested that a small group may be formed to look into the draft guidelines and revise suitably as the guidelines on BMC will have major impact on implementation of the BD Act at grass root level.

Decisions:

a) The Authority authorized the Chairperson, NBA to form a small group to modify the draft revised Guidelines for operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committees.

b) The revised Guidelines may be hosted in the NBA website for inviting the comments of the Public. And also comments of the State Biodiversity Boards may be obtained before finalizing the draft revised guidelines. The final draft may be placed before the Authority for its consideration.

Action: Secretary, NBA

39.04: To consider the proposal of digitalization of Peoples' Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)

The Secretary, NBA informed that in the Review Meeting on the activities of NBA held on 12th and 13th February, 2014 under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, MOEFCC, it was decided to develop a National Information Network for PBRs' with the help of an expert, for the use of all stakeholders, keeping in view the protection of traditional knowledge and bioresources. He also added that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide their letter dated 17th June, 2014 advised the NBA to explore the possibilities of expanding the proposal developed and submitted by Wild Life Institute of India (WII) on a conceptual framework for "National Information Infrastructure for PBRs" in line with the "Establishment of a National Biodiversity Grid", which will be implemented by the NBA with the financial assistance from C-DAC.

2. It was informed that the Authority in its 31st meeting under agenda item no.31.08 considered the conceptual framework for the development of National Information Infrastructure for People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) submitted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and directed the NBA Secretariat to develop a database on PBR on a pilot basis involving Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand SBBs as the WII did not properly address the issues in their proposal. Accordingly, Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand State Biodiversity Boards have submitted their proposal

for digitilization of the PBR, as requested by the NBA; however, they have proposed different formats/ software with a high tune of financial assistance.

3. It was proposed that a centralized database may be developed for compiling the PBR data documented by the SBBs in a common format which may pave way for uniformity as well as using the data for various purposes with ease. He also informed that NBA has obtained the draft proposal from C-DAC in this regard, however the financial requirements has not been provided by C-DAC. He also added that the issue has been discussed in the recently held 11th SBB meeting and it is learnt that Assam and Goa SBB are in the process of digitization of the PBRs in their States.

4. The members considered the proposal and discussed in detail. Thereafter, the members have agreed to, *in principle,* the proposal to develop a uniform format for a centralized database for compiling the PBR data documented by the SBBs. The Authority directed the NBA secretariat to explore the possibilities to build up a detailed project in association with M/s C-DAC with full financial requirements as well and its *modus operandi*.

Decisions:

a) The Authority agreed to, *in principle,* to develop a uniform format for a centralized database for compiling the PBR data documented by the SBBs.

b) The Authority directed the NBA Secretariat to explore the possibilities to build up a detailed project in association M/s C-DAC with financial requirements and its *modus operandi* with detailed project containing technical and financial details.

c) The Authority also suggested for UNEP-GEF Project may undertake this task subject to requisite approvals under that project, if the project gets no cost extension from December, 2016.

d) The Authority directed NBA to advise Goa and Assam to put their activities on hold till NBA develops the proposal, to avoid duplication of efforts.

Action: Secretary, NBA

39.05: To consider organizing training programme to the officials of the State Biodiversity Boards and State Governments

The members were informed that during discussion with the Additional Secretary, MoEFCC and the Chairperson, NBA in the first week of June 2016, certain key issues were discussed for effective implementation of the BD Act and some actionable points were chalked out. One of the actionable points is to organize 2-3 days training programmes in consultation with the National Law School, Bangalore for Chairmen and Member Secretaries of State Biodiversity Boards and Principal Secretaries of Environment and Forests on the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002.

2. It was also informed that NBA is in dialogue with the National Law School to conduct a training programme or workshop for the officials of the State Biodiversity Boards in the last week of October, 2016 at Bangalore on the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002. He also added that the said workshop can be organized under the CEBPOL project as the project component of CEBPOL will fit into it.

3. While discussing the issue, Dr. Lalit Narayan, Deputy Director (MPs), National Medicinal Plant Board expressed that officials of the State Medicinal Plant Board may also be engaged in the training programme. Dr Subramaniyan also observed that the members of the district level administration may also be included in the said training programme. In this regard, it was clarified that presently the training programme is being organized to the officials of the SBBs only with special focus on the legal provisions of the BD Act for effective implementation of the Act as per the direction of the Ministry. The Chairperson informed that further training programmes can be arranged for various target groups, similar kind of programmes may be extended later to other stakeholders in a phased manner.

4. After discussing, the members agreed to hold a training programme to the officials of the State Biodiversity Boards in association with National Law School, Bangalore under the CEBPOL project.

Decisions:

The Authority agreed for organizing two days' training programme in consultation with the National Law School, Bangalore for Chairmen and Member Secretaries of the State Biodiversity Boards on the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 under the CEBPOL project.

Action: Secretary, NBA

39.06: Termination of the ABS Agreements

The Secretary informed that the NBA Secretariat enters into agreement with applicants which will be the approval to undertake certain activities on the accessed biological resources and / or associated knowledge. The agreement contains different clauses such as validity period, benefit sharing components, do's and don'ts, etc. The agreements executed may require a clause on termination - on situations such as expiry of validity period, completion of task, fulfilment of terms and conditions, patent not granted, ceased patent, etc., and there is no procedure in place to deal with such matters. Therefore, the issue was placed before the 34th Authority meeting under Agenda item no. 34.06 for guidance. The Authority after deliberations on the subject decided as follows:-

"*The Authority authorized the Chairperson, NBA to consign those files to records which do not require further action. Subsequently the details of such files/applications may be placed in the Authority for information*."

2. Accordingly, as per the decision taken in the Authority, the applications shall be consigned to keep in records as they do not require any further action. Further, it also informed that such cases will be brought up before the Authority in next meeting.

1. Appl. No: NBA/Tech Appl/9/219/08/ & Name of the Applicant Name: Dr.Vidya Gupta.
2. Appl. No: NBA/Tech Appl/9/373/09/ & Name of the Applicant Name: Shri Nilanjan Guha.

3. The members took note of the decision taken by the Chairperson, NBA on two applications which have been consigned to records.

39.07: To consider the decision of the Chairperson on Form-B applications

The Secretary informed the Members about the details of approval accorded by the Chairman NBA on three Form–B applications which are given below.

S. no	Appl. No	Date on which application complete in all respects	Name of the Applicant	Purpose	Recipient / Collaborator	Decision
1	B/13	25.05.2016	Shri. Gaurav Agavekar, Post Graduate Programme in Wildlife Biology and Conservation, National Center for Biological Science (NCBS),GKVK, Bellary Road, Bengaluru-560 065.	Sending 200 vials contains 45 genus of Ants belongs to family of Formicidae (approximately 20 individual per vial) for Community assembly of ants on Andaman Islands; taxonomy, biodiversity and species description of ants on Andaman Island	Dr. Evan Economo, Assistant Professor, Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology,(OIST), 1919-1, Tancha, Onna-son, Kunigami-gun, Okinawa, Japan 904-0495	Approval granted on 05.07.16
2	B/16	21.06.2016	Dr. Dipanwita Banik, Scientist, Medicinal Aromatic & Economic Plant Group, CSIR-North East Institute of Science & Technology, Jorhat – 785006, Assam	The study of molecular phylogeny of an ethno-medicinally important plant taxon (Ericaceae) for developing models of evolutionary history for various applications in biology viz., molecular biology, genetics, evolution (patterns and processes), cladistics (primitive traits vs derived traits), conservation biology, developmental biology, biological variation and make prediction of biomolecular structure and discovery of new medicinal plants etc	Professor Adrian Slater, Biomolecular Technology Group, School of Allied Health Sciences, Hawthorn Building HB1. 12, De Montfort University, The Gateway, Leicester, LE1 9BH, UK	Approval granted on 08.07.16
3	B/19	26.07.2016	Ms. Pritha Dey, Senior Research Fellow, Wildlife Institute of India, Chandrabani, Dehradun-248 001	Carrying 264 moth specimens (180 species) for taxonomic research	Dr. Axel Hausmann, Zoologische Staatssammlung Munchen, Bavarian State Collection of Zoology, Section Lepidoptera Munchhausenstr, 21 D-81247 Munch, Germany	Approval granted on 17.08.16

Decisions:

The Authority ratified the action taken on the three Form B applications by the NBA Secretariat.

39.08: Details of Form-C applications received by the NBA

It was informed that the Authority, in its 37th meeting, held on 22nd March 2016 under agenda item 37.14.02, decided that the Indian researchers / scientists shall provide prior intimation to the NBA in the prescribed format *viz.,* Form – C for deposition of micro-organisms in other country's repository for claim of novel species for publication in journals. However, if any non-Indian person / entity intend to access the deposited Indian biological resource from the foreign repository, he/she should obtain the prior approval of NBA as per Section 3 of the BD Act, 2002. Accordingly, 15 researchers / scientists have provided their prior intimation to NBA in Form-C from July, 2016 to 12th October, 2016.

2. The Authority took note of this item and suggested that NBA may takeup some kind of study/analysis of how other countries are dealing with the situation which may help us for developing arguments on this issue relating to Form-C.

Decisions:

The Authority advised the NBA to undertake a study/analysis of how other countries are dealing with these issues.

Action: Secretary, NBA

39.09: To consider the Constitution / extension of tenure of Expert Committees, Sub-committees and Core Expert Groups

The Members were informed about the reconstitution of the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing, Expert Committee on Agro-biodiversity, Expert Committee on Normally Traded Commodities and extension of the tenure of the Sub-committee to recommend dealing with issues related to violations of the provisions of the BD Act.

2. Dr R.K. Mishra has pointed out that a representative of Department of Agriculture Co-operation, Government of India may also needs to be included in the reconstituted Expert Committee on ABS.

Decisions:

a) The Authority ratified the reconstitution of EC on ABS, EC on Agro-biodiversity and EC on NTC, and extension of the tenure of the Sub-committee to deal with violation of the BD Act.

b) The Authority suggested that a representative of Department of Agriculture Co-operation, Government of India may be included in the reconstituted Expert Committee on ABS.

Action: Secretary, NBA

39.10: Issuance of Rejection Order to the applicants

The Secretary informed that the Authority in its 38th meeting, under agenda item no. 38.0,3 directed the NBA Secretariat to communicate the decision of the Authority on the applications where violations of the provisions of the BD Act have been identified, so far, without waiting for the guidelines which are under development by the sub-committee. Accordingly, so far, the NBA Secretariat has issued Rejection Orders to eleven applicants by exercising the powers conferred under section 19(3) of the Act. The Authority took note of details of Rejection Order issued to the applicants and directed the Secretariat to issue orders for remaining applications as well.

Decisions:

The Authority took note of the details of Rejection orders issued to 11 cases and directed the secretariat to issue orders to remaining cases.

Action: Secretary, NBA

39.11: Celebration of Hindi Diwas

It was informed that the Hindi Diwas was celebrated by the National Biodiversity Authority at O/o NBA, Chennai on 14th September 2016 in which Shri. Ranbir Singh, Additional Director, Department of Official Language was invited as Chief Guest. All the Officials and Staff of the NBA actively participated. The members has taken note of it and appreciated the initiative on the part of the Secretariat.

39.12: Eleventh National Meeting of State Biodiversity Boards held on 30th September & 1st October 2016 at Chennai

The Members were informed about the 11th National Meeting of State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) held on 30th September and 01st October, 2016 at Chennai. The two-day meeting of the SBBs, reviewed various issues relating to implementation of the Biological Diversity Act more particularly on Processing of

Access and Benefit Sharing applications by the State Biodiversity Boards, sharing of information on approvals granted by the State Biodiversity Boards, Normally Traded Commodities vis-a-vis ABS / applicability of law, linking activities with Panchayati Raj Institutions with regard to BMCs, etc. SBBs were requested to take necessary action as per discussion held in the meet.

2. It was informed that the NBA celebrated its 13th Foundation Day in the afternoon on 01st October, 2016 at the premises of the NBA, Chennai. Dr. Amita Prasad, IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change presided over the programme. Prof P.Vanangamudi, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University, Chennai was the Chief Guest of the ceremony. During this occasion, the Compendium of the Biodiversity Rules of States prepared by the NBA Secretariat, the Manual on PBR prepared by the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board and Watershed Organization Trust, Pune and the Brochure on achievements of the NBA during the year 2015- 16 were released.

3. The Members took note of it and appreciated the efforts of the NBA Secretariat for conducting the event successfully. It was recommended by the Members that incentive at the rate of Rs.2,000/- may be given to each of the officers and staff including outsourced persons of the NBA Secretariat for their efforts to support the administration effectively.

Decisions:

The Members, taking note of efforts put in the successful conduct of the events and other activities, decided that an incentive of Rs.2000/- to each of the officers and staff including outsourced employees of the NBA Secretariat.

Action: Secretary, NBA

39.13: Awareness creation/ capacity building activities undertaken by NBA for sensitizing the different stakeholders about the provisions of the BD Act

The Secretary, NBA informed the members that as a part of initiatives for creating awareness amongst various stakeholders on the provisions of the BD Act, a brainstorming session on harmonization of Regulations on Access to Biological Resources and Seed movement under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was organized by the CABI South Asia, India with the Support of M/s Crop Life Asia and ABLE–*ag* on 22nd September, 2016 at NBA, Chennai for understanding the

provisions of the BD Act. The programme was well attended by around 25 delegates representing the seed companies and they have actively interacted with the resource persons and also expressed their willingness to pay the access and benefit sharing component, while requesting to clarify certain terminologies in the Act. The members took note of it as information.

39.14: Any other item(s) with the permission of the Chair

39.14.01: To consider initiating action under Section 66 of the Patent Act, 1970 for revocation of Patent in public interest

The members were informed that the Authority in its 37th Meeting held on 22nd March 2016 under Agenda item no.37.03 & 37.14.01 considered four cases in which applicants had obtained patents in India, without obtaining the prior approval of NBA. The Authority confirmed these cases as violation of Section 6 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and directed the NBA secretariat to initiate proceedings under Sec. 66 of Patent Act, 1970 through MoEF&CC. In compliance to the Authority's decision, NBA Secretariat communicated the same to MoEF&CC seeking opinion to initiate action for revocation of patents. The MoEFCC vide email dated 23.09.2016 has informed that the issue was discussed with DIPP in a meeting held on 23.08.2016. The JS, DIPP has clarified in the meeting that Section 66 of Patent Act may not cover such cases. Further it was agreed that such instances as noticed by NBA may be shared with IPO for scrutiny of such cases and chalking out further course of action. In this regard, it was proposed that Authority may consider appropriate measures to be taken in such cases for intimating DIPP about this.

2. While discussing the issue, Dr Sujata Arora has expressed that the stand of the MOEFCC has been conveyed to the NBA, which was mentioned in the text of the Agenda. She also added that as the DIPP has identified a nodal officer to coordinate all issues relating to NBA, the details of such cases may be shared with them, under intimation to the Ministry, for chalking out the further course of action.

3. After having detailed discussion, the members agreed to the proposal of the NBA secretariat to communicate the details of such cases which require action under Section 66 of the Patent Act to the DIPP directly by NBA endorsing the copy to the MOEFCC.

Decision:

The Authority agreed to the proposal of the NBA secretariat to communicate the details of the cases under Section 66 of the Patent Act to the DIPP directly by NBA endorsing the copy to the MOEFCC.

Action: Secretary, NBA

39.14.02: Implementation of 7th Pay Commission to Officers/Staff of NBA

It was informed that the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India vide notification dt. 25th July 2016 had promulgated the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2016 w.e.f. 1st January 2016. Based on the notification, the pay was revised and implemented in all the Central Government Offices. The revised pay based on Seventh Pay Commission is yet to be implemented in NBA. It was further informed that as per Section 17 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002, "The salaries and allowances payable to the members and the administrative expenses of the National Biodiversity Authority including salaries, allowances and pension payable to, or in respect of, the officers and other employees of the National Biodiversity Authority shall be defrayed out of the Consolidated Fund of India."

2. It was further informed that as per Clause 5 of NBA Recruitment Rules dt. 20th June, 2006 in, "Conditions of Service", it is mentioned that "The conditions of service of the officers and other employees of the National Biodiversity Authority in matters of Allowances, Leave, Provident Fund, Age of superannuation, pension and retirement benefits, medical facilities and other conditions of service, shall be regulated in accordance with such rules and regulations as are for the time being applicable to the officers and employee of the Central Government belonging to Group A, Group B, Group C and Group D posts, as the case may be, of the corresponding scales of pay stationed at those places.

3. It was mentioned that The Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2016 notified vide Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, GoI vide notification dt. 25th July 2016 is applicable to all Central Govt. employees and as such, in terms of the above Biological Diversity Act and Recruitment Rules provisions, the CCS (RP) Rules 2016 is applicable to the Officers/Staff of the NBA. In this regard, it was proposed that the revised pay as per VII CPC is to be extended to the Officers/Staff of the NBA.

4. After having detailed discussion on various Rules and Regulations of the Govt of India in association with BD Act and existing Recruitment Rules of NBA, Members agreed to the proposal for implementation of 7th Pay Commission to Officers / Staff of NBA as applicable to the employees of the Central Government. The members recommended that the Secretariat may take action to amend the existing Recruitment Rules according to the 7th Pay Commission. Further, Members also decided that routine administrative issues which are general in nature need not be placed before the Authority.

Decisions:

a) The Authority agreed to the proposal for implementation of 7th Pay Commission to Officers/ Staff of NBA as applicable to the employees of the Central Government.
b) The Authority directed the NBA secretariat to amend the existing Recruitment Rules according to the 7th Pay Commission.
c) The Authority decided that routine administrative issues which are general in nature need not be placed before the Authority.

Action: Secretary, NBA

39.14.03: To consider organizing a session on Biodiversity in the 104th Indian Science Congress from 03rd to 07th January, 2017

It was informed that 104th Indian Science Congress is scheduled to be held from 03rd to 07th January, 2017 at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. The theme for the event is "Science and Technology for National Development". It was proposed that UNEP-GEF project and CEBPOL project of NBA may take part in the event Pride of India Exhibition. It is also proposed to organize a special session on Biodiversity during the congress. After discussions, the members had agreed to the proposal of NBA to take part under the UNEP-GEF project and CEBPOL project in the upcoming ISC 2017.

Decisions:

The Authority acceded to the proposal of NBA participating in the 104th Indian Science Congress, 2017 at Tirupati.

Action: Secretary, NBA

39.14.04: A brief of the 6th Meeting of the EC on Agro-biodiversity

Secretary, NBA informed that the sixth meeting of the reconstituted EC on Agro-biodiversity was held on 28 September, 2016 at Chennai under the chairmanship of Dr. R. S. Rana. It was also informed that the EC discussed various issues including concerns regarding Guidelines for International Collaboration Research Projects, notified in 2006, Access to PGRs by Seed Companies, defined u/s 3(2), and Export of Seeds of Crop Varieties Registered under the PPV&FRA, Sending Information on Nucleotide or Protein Sequences to Internationally Recognized Depositories abroad for publication purpose, and providing Legal Protection to Registered Indian Breeds under BD Act. The members approved, in principle, EC's recommendation that the suggested approach to providing legal protection to locally adapted endemic breeds under the BD Act.

The Meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the members by the Secretary, NBA.

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Annex-I

Official Members who participated			
1	Dr (Mrs) B.Meenakumari Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai	4	Dr. Sujata Arora Adviser, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road,New Delhi - 110 003
2	Dr. Lalit Narayan, Deputy Director (MPs), National Medicinal Plant Board, Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy, Room No: 309, AYUSH Bhawan,B Block, G.P.O. Complex, I.N.A., New Delhi-110 023 *(Representing CEO, NMPB)*	5	Dr. R. Kirubagaran Scientist G, National Institute of Ocean Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Velachery-Thambaram Main Road, Narayanapuram, Pallikaranai, Chennai - 600100
3	Shri. Raman Kant Mishra Additional Commissioner (Seeds) 228- A, Krishi Bhawan, Department of Agriculture and Co – operation, Ministry of Agriculture, *(Representing Dr. R. K Singh, Joint Secretary (Seeds), DARE)*	6	Shri Uttam Kumar Kar, Under Secretary (FRA), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001 (Representing Director, Min. Tribal Affairs)
Non-Official Members who participated			
7	Dr.Subramaniyan, Chennai	8	Dr. R.S.Rana Chairman, Bio-Link, D-43, Indraprastha Apartments, Sector 14, Rohini, New Delhi
9	Prof. M.K.Ramesh, Professor of Law, National Law School, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore – 560 072.		
	Secretary to the Authority		
10	Shri T.Rabikumar, IFS., Secretary, NBA		
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	5	Dr. Sanjay Kumar Director, Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology P. O.no.6, Palampur (HP), Himachal Pradesh:176061
2	Dr. Jeet Singh Sandhu Deputy Director General (Crop Science), Division of Crop Science, ICAR, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi	6	Prof. Umesh Rai Director, Department of Zoology, South Campus, University of Delhi New Delhi- 110 007
3	Dr.Renu Swarup, Senior Advisor,Department of Biotechnology,CGO Complex, Block No. 2,Lodhi Road, New Delhi.	7	Dr.Biswajit Dhar, Professor of Economics,Jawaharlal Nehru University, I Block, 1796A Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi - 110019
4	Dr. B.K Shukla Scientist G & Head Planning, Coordination & Performance Management, Department of Science & Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi		