

The Constitution

Article-1 : Name of the Society:

The name of the Society shall be "**Society for Soybean Research and Development**".

Article-2 : Headquarters of the Society:

The Headquarters of the Society shall be Indore and the address-the "National Research Centre for Soybean, Khandwa Road, Indore-452001, M.P.

Article-3 : Objectives:

The objectives of the Society shall be to :-

- 3.1 Provide and promote opportunities for interaction and fellowship amongst scientists interested/engaged in different scientific pursuits.
- 3.2 Publish a journal in English which shall be called "**Soybean Research**" and Bulletins, Reports, Books and Newsletters as decided from time to time, for the advancement of aims of the Society.
- 3.3 Hold seminars, symposia, colloquia and provide forum for interaction of different scientific and educational organizations working in soybean production.
- 3.4 Discuss inter-disciplinary R&D Programmes relevant to Soybean production and utilization etc.
- 3.5 Undertake any activity that directly or indirectly serves the cause of the Society.

Article-4 : Membership and privileges of the Members :

The membership of the Society shall be open to all workers and Institutions in India and abroad engaged in research, teaching, extension and other scientific pursuits in different disciplines.

It shall consist of :

- (a) Annual Members
- (b) Life Members
- (c) Honorary Members
- (d) Student Members
- (e) Institutional Members
- (f) Corporate Members
- (g) Patrons

4.1 (a) Annual Members:

An Annual Member is a person engaged and interested in research, teaching or extension in soybean research and development and is admitted as a member of the Society by the Executive Council after *he/she* submits the membership form duly filled and pay the prescribed admission fee and annual subscriptions. The Annual Member shall be entitled to receive the Journal of the Society free of cost from the year for which subscription is paid. He will have rights to vote and hold office of the Society provided he had been a member of the Society for a minimum period of 3 years prior to the year of election.

4.1 (b) Life Members:

A Life Member is a person engaged and interested in research, teaching or extension in soybean research and development and is admitted by the Executive Council as a life member of the Society on payment of 10 years Annual subscription at current rates (subject to revision) payable in lump sum or three equal installments within six months of application for life membership. The Life Member shall enjoy all the privileges of the Annual Member. He shall be exempted from the payment of annual subscriptions. He shall, however, not be entitled to back issues of the journal that the Society had published before his enrolment.

4.1 (c) Honorary Members:

An Honorary Member shall be a person eminent for his contributions or services to the objectives of the Society. Honorary Members shall be elected for 5 years on the recommendation of the Executive Council at the General Body meeting by a 3/4th majority of the members present and voting at the meeting. Their number shall be limited to ten at any time and not more than 2 elected each year. They shall enjoy all the privileges of the Annual Members except that of voting or holding office and shall be exempted from the payment of the annual subscriptions.

4.1 (d) Student Member:

A Student Member is a person studying in colleges/Institutes and is admitted as Student Member by the Executive Council of the Society on payment of prescribed annual subscription.

The Student Member shall enjoy all the privileges of the Annual Members except voting and holding office in the Society.

4.1 (e) Institutional Members:

Scientific, Educational Institutions and Industry can become members of the Society by paying Rs.10,000/P.A. (subject to revision). They will be entitled to receive

the Journal of the Society free of cost. They will enjoy all the privileges of the Society except the voting rights and holding office in the Society.

4.1 (f) Corporate Member:

Corporate member shall be any Industrial or Voluntary Organizations with an active interest in promoting the objectives of the "Society of Soybean Research Workers". The Organization shall have to apply for corporate membership of the Society and pay the Society a lump sum amount of Rs.20,000 (US \$ 2000 for foreign organization). The Executive Council shall then consider the application for admitting such organization to the Society.

Each corporate member shall be entitled to nominate one representative to the Society, who shall enjoy all the privileges given to a Life Member.

4.1 (g) Patron:

The Executive Council may declare eminent persons as patron of the Society. The patron will enjoy all the privileges of the member except the right to vote at meetings or hold office to the Executive Council.

4.2 Any person (s) who become (s) a life member in the first year of the formation of the Society will be a founder member.

4.3 The Life, Annual and Student Members shall have, in addition, the privilege of introducing to the ordinary scientific meeting of the Society, visitor (s) whose name (s) together with the name (s) of the introducing member (s) shall be entered in a book kept for the purpose.

4.4 No member shall have the privilege to vote the proxy.

Article-5 : Withdrawal / discontinuance / expulsion of Members:

5.1 A member may withdraw from the Society signifying his/her wish to do so in a letter addressed to the General Secretary to the Society. He/she shall, however, not be entitled for the refund of any fees paid by him/her. Any member so resigning may, however, apply for re-admission subsequently if he/she so desires.

5.2 A member who has withdrawn and whose subscription is not in arrears shall automatically recover the privileges of membership without any prejudice to the continuance of his/her membership, if he/she rejoins the Society within the period for which his/her subscriptions are paid.

5.3 Members who do not pay their annual subscription by 31st July will cease to be the members of the Society. On re-application for membership they will not normally be entitled for the issues of the journal for the concerned year published prior to the date of

re-enrolment. A request for the back issues of the year for which the payment of the membership is delayed after 31st July, can, however, be made to the Executive Council, which if considered in the interest of the Society, may accept such requests. However, he/she shall lose his/her rights to hold an office and/or right to nominate and vote.

5.4 Any member indulging in such activities, which are considered to be against the interest of the Society or hinder the functioning of the Society shall cease to be a member of the Society. The Executive Council of the Society will discuss such case on merit and in case the majority decision is for expelling a member, it will refer the matter to the General Body of the Society, which may be convened for this purpose, if necessary. In case the matter is urgent and the General Body meeting likely to be delayed, the Executive Council may resort to opinion poll among the members of the Society through secret postal ballot. The members who do not communicate their negative opinion through ballot will be considered to have agreed to the proposal of the Executive Council. The expulsion will be effected if two-third or more of the members on rolls on the date of the opinion poll, vote for it. The general body can expel a member from the Society for a fixed term of two or more years or the entire life period, if it finds that the damage caused by the member to the Society is irreparable. The expulsion orders by General Body shall also apply to the Life Members. The expelled members will have neither right to nominate and vote nor can they contest for any office of the Society.

Article-6 Admission fee and subscription :

6.1 The subscription rates for different categories of members are as follows. The subscription rates are subject to revision from time to time.

(a) Annual member	Annual subscription
Indian	Rs.500.00
Foreign	US \$ 125.00
(b) Student member	
Indian	Rs. 250.00
Foreign	US \$ 100.00
(c) Institution member	
Indian	Rs.2,000.00
Foreign	US \$ 200.00
(d) Life member	
Indian	Rs.3,000.00
	(1 or in 3 equal instt. in a year)
Foreign	US \$ 1,000.00
(e) Corporate member	
Indian	Rs.20,000.00
Foreign	US \$ 2,000.00

6.2 An admission fee of Rs.50/- for Indian citizen and US \$ 5.00 for Foreign National shall be paid at the time of enrollment.

Article-7 Executive Council:

7.1 There shall be an **Executive Council**, which shall carry on all the affairs of the Society. The Executive Council shall consist of : **A President, two-Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, a Joint Secretary, a Treasurer and the Councilors elected by the General Body.** The Executive Council so formed will nominate an **Editor-in-Chief** of the Society's Journal who will be **the Ex-Officio member of the Executive Council and will be from the Headquarter of the Society.** The President, the Vice-President, the General Secretary, the Joint Secretary, the Treasurer and at least one Councilor will be from the Headquarter of the Society.

7.2 **The term of all the office bearers of the Executive Council including the Councilors shall be for a period of three years. An Executive Council member shall be eligible for re-election for the next term.**

7.3 The President shall ensure that the policies of the Society are executed in the right direction. The Vice-Presidents shall generally assist the President in all matters concerning the Society. **The President shall preside at the General Body, Extraordinary and Special meetings of the Society and the meetings of the Executive Council.** In his absence one of the Vice-President or the General Secretary shall preside over the said meeting. The seniority of the Vice-President will be decided by number of votes secured by the incumbents, at the time of election. In case of a tie the person older in age will become senior. The President or the Vice-President/General Secretary shall present written address at the General Body meeting at which he presides which shall be published in the Journal of the Society. In case President's post falls vacant due to any reason, senior-most elected Vice-President will automatically become President for the remaining term.

7.4 **The General Secretary shall have overall responsibility for the conduct of affairs of the Society under the directive of the Executive Council.** He shall prepare the agenda for all meetings, convene the meetings of the Executive Council and the General Body and shall be responsible for recording and maintaining the proceedings and other record. The General Secretary shall, on behalf of the Executive Council, present a report on the activities of the Society at the Annual General Meeting, which shall be printed in the Journal of the Society. The Joint Secretary shall act as General Secretary in the absence of the latter. He/she, shall execute the duties of the General Secretary in case the post falls vacant, till the Executive Council elect a regular General Secretary.

7.5 **The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the accounts of the Society and receive deposits/subscriptions/membership fees etc. and disburse the authorized payments on behalf of the Society according to the direction of the Executive Council.** He shall submit in the General Body Meeting, a statement of accounts of the Society each year. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the Society. He shall manage the funds as approved by the Executive Council

and shall operate the funds of the Society jointly with the General Secretary of the Society.

7.6 The Editor-in-Chief will work according to the broad principles, concerning all publications, decided upon by the Executive Council. He shall be responsible for the editing of the journal and all other publications brought out on behalf of the Society. The Editor-in-Chief, in his responsibility, will be assisted by a duly constituted Editorial Board and reputed referees in different disciplines. In the event of any disagreement between the Editor-in-Chief and the referees and/or the author(s) of scientific papers, the decision of the Editorial Board will be final.

7.7 The Councilors shall be responsible for assisting the President and other office bearers of the Society in evolving a broad policy of guidelines for the Society.

7.8 The main duties of the Executive Council are :

- (i) To execute the policies of the Society as approved by the General Body.
- (ii) To manage the affairs of the Society, frame such regulations and appoint such committees as may appear to them conducive to its better administration and growth.
- (iii) To recommend the place and date of the General Body Meeting.
- (iv) To prepare year-wise budget during the term of office of the Executive Council and authorise necessary expenditure in writing.
- (v) To appoint auditor(s) to audit the accounts of the Society.
- (vi) To submit additions and alterations to the constitution and the rules of the Society for the approval of the General Body.
- (vii) To file a list of the names, addresses and occupations of the members of the Executive Council with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies within fourteen days of the Annual General Body Meeting of the Society following the election of the Executive Council.
- (viii) To fix prices of all publications including the journal of the Society.
- (ix) To authorise an imprest amount of Rs.1,000/- to the Treasurer of the Society to meet unforeseen contingent expenditures.
- (x) To fill up posts of the Executive Committee as per last para of 10.2.
- (xi) To admit members of different categories to the Society and scrutiny of the application forms.

Article-8 Funds and Accounts:

8.1 The **funds** of the Society shall **consist of (a) admission free, (b) subscriptions from members of all categories, (c) donations, (d) grant-in-aids, (e) charges for publishing advertisements in the publications of the Society, (f) sale of publications, (g) interest on securities and (h) other sources determined by the Executive Council.**

8.2 All securities and money which are the property of the Society shall be lodged for safe custody in the name of the Society in such scheduled bank as may be approved by the Executive Council for the purpose. The Executive Council may also make rules for fixing the limit for the cash to be kept with the treasurer, the imprest advance that may be given to the Editor-in-Chief.

8.3 The Executive Council shall be empowered to incur necessary expenditure for publication and other activities of the Society, for maintaining an office and necessary staff etc. but an estimate of the proposed expenditure to be incurred under the above heads during the year shall be shown in the budget placed before the Annual General Body Meeting. The Council may also authorise any publisher to undertake publishing of Society publications on suitable terms and conditions.

Article-9 Meeting of the Society:

9.1 Executive Council:

The Executive Council Meetings shall be held periodically (at least once in six months) at the discretion of the President or at the request of one-third of the members of the Executive Council. The date, time and place of holding each meeting of the Council shall be notified by the General Secretary to each member of the Council at least two weeks in advance of the date on which such meetings are to be held. Non-receipt of such notice by any member of the Council shall in no way invalidate the proceedings of the meeting. Six members of the Council shall form a quorum. If in the first instance the requisite quorum is not obtained, the General Secretary shall issue another 15 days notice for the meeting of the Executive Council. The meeting so called will be held and its decisions applicable to the Society even if it failed to attract the needed quorum.

9.2 Extra-ordinary Meeting:

An extra-ordinary meeting of the Executive Council shall be called by the President on a requisition signed by three members of the Council or at his own discretion when he shall direct the General Secretary to issue notices for the purpose. In this case also the needed quorum shall be decided as in 9.1.

9.3 The decision in the Executive Council Meetings shall generally be arrived at by consensus failing which by a majority of votes by show of hands. In the event of an equity of votes the President shall have the right of the second vote.

9.4 Annual General Body Meeting:

All members of the Society shall constitute the General Body of the Society. Each year the **Annual General Body Meeting shall be held along with AICRPS workshop**. However, in extra-ordinary circumstances, it can be postponed for a period of not more than one calendar month. The date of the Annual General Body meeting of

the Society shall normally be announced by the Council about two months before the meeting and all notices of motions shall be received by the General Secretary at least one month before the meeting. The President will address the meeting. The quorum will be 20 or 1/3rd of the members whichever is less.

9.5 Extra-ordinary Meeting:

An Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Society will be called by the General Secretary on the directive of the President or if one-third of the members of the Society send a signed requisition to the General Secretary for such a meeting. In this case also 20 or 1/3rd of the members whichever is less, will form a quorum. No business other than the one for which the meeting was requisitioned shall be transacted at such a meeting nor shall any non-member be permitted to be present.

Article-10 Election of Office Bearers:

10.1 Election for the Offices of the Society shall be held every three years, at the time of the Annual General Body Meeting. The new Council will, however, take office from the first day of the next calendar year.

10.2 Interim vacancies caused by death/resignation and transfer from the Headquarter of the Society (in case of the one of the Vice-Presidents, General Secretary and Treasurer) shall be filled in by the Executive Council from amongst the local members of the Executive till the next election is held. If the number of vacancies is more, then cooption from local members will be made in the second round.

10.3 For the purpose of election of the office bearers the Executive Council will constitute a three man "Election Committee" from among the members stationed at the Society Headquarters with their consent to conduct the election. One of them will act as the Returning Officer by the decision, of the Executive Council. The members of the Election Committee shall not propose a candidate for election or canvass in any way for the contesting candidates or appear to be partial to any candidate by any of their act or conduct. The Returning Officer shall be provided with necessary secretarial assistance and material and/or funds by the Society for a smooth and impartial conduct of the election.

10.4 The Election Committee shall invite proposals on prescribed form for different posts of office bearers. For contesting any of the posts of the office bearers, one should be nominated by one eligible member and seconded by an eligible member along with the written consent of the candidate. The nominations should be sent to the Returning Office for scrutiny of the Election Committee and conduct of election. A candidate can contest for only one post after final withdrawals.

10.5 A nomination will not be valid if it is not received on the prescribed form or received after the due date or the proposers and the contestant do not possess voting right.

10.6 After scrutinizing the nominations the Election Committee will declare the list of eligible contestants along with date for withdrawals. Withdrawals, if conditional, will not be considered as withdrawals. After the withdrawals, the Election Committee will declare the final list of contestants and the unopposed elects. In the event of withdrawals of all candidates from the contest for a particular post, the Election Committee shall intimate the same to the Executive Council, and shall call fresh proposals again as per prescribed procedures, and the election held separately. For the positions for which no nominations are received, the post shall be filled up in the immediately following General Body Meeting on the proposal of the Executive Council of the Society and the approval of the Society by a majority of votes by show of hand.

10.7 The Election Committee will conduct the election by secret ballot and the Returning Officer will declare the results in the immediately following Annual General Body Meeting. The ballot papers will be authenticated by the Election Committee.

10.8 The Members can cast their votes in person/by postal ballot.

10.9 The last date of cast of the ballot will be upto 12.00 hrs. on the date of the General Body Meeting.

10.10 The ballot papers which are not filled strictly as per the guidelines will become invalid.

10.11 A contestant, if he so desires, may be present at the time of counting the votes or may depute his nominee who will be a member of the Society, as his representative. Prior written intimation of deputing a representative should be sent to the Returning Officer. In case two contestants secure equal number of votes for a particular post, a decision may be arrived at by the General Body Meeting through consensus.

10.12 Recounting of votes is permissible subject to the approval of the Election Committee.

10.13 In all matters pertaining to the election of office bearers, the decision of the Election Committee is final.

10.14 In addition to all Life Members, and such Annual Members who have paid their annual subscription by 31st July of the concerned year and have been members of the society for a minimum period of one year prior to the year of election will have the voting and nominating right and will be eligible to contest the Election.

10.15 Unless elections are delayed the newly elected Executive Council shall take charge from the 1st January of the new term.

10.16 In the event of any dispute on the conduct of election the Executive Council will take the final decision.

Article-11 Society Journal and Editorial Board:

11.1 The Society shall publish in English a journal named " **Soybean Research** ", half yearly in the first instance. An Editorial Board for the said Journal shall be constituted as follows :

The Board shall consist of a maximum number of 7 members with the Editor-in-Chief as its Chairman. The Executive Council will nominate the Editor-in-Chief and 4 members of the Editorial Board. The remaining 2 members will be nominated by the Editor-in-Chief from the disciplines not already represented. All the members of the Board shall be members of the Society including Annual Members, Life Members and Honorary Members. However, this restriction shall not apply to non-member foreign specialists with the provision that their number does not exceed three. Interim vacancies in the Editorial Board be filled through nomination by Editor-in-Chief with the approval of the Executive Council. The Editor-in-Chief shall be responsible for the publication and circulation of the journal. He may also be entrusted by the Executive Council with the task of publishing other publications on behalf of the Society. The tenure of the Editorial Board shall be for three years.

11.2 The price of Society journal will be fixed by the Executive Council from time to time.

Article-12 Property of the Society:

12.1 The property, movable and immovable, belonging to the Society shall be deemed to be vested in the Executive Council and in all proceedings, civil and criminal, shall be described as the property of the Executive Council of the Society by their property title.

12.2 The income and property of the Society from wheresoever derived, shall solely be spent in promoting its objects and no portion thereof shall be distributed among its members by way of dividend, bonus etc.

12.3 There will be an advisory Board for the Journal. The advisors will be eminent scientists from different discipline and selected by the Executive Council. They will receive the journal free of cost.

12.4 If at any time Society is dissolved and if there shall remain upon such dissolution after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any property, whatsoever, the same shall not be paid or distributed among the members of the Society but shall be given to some other organisation to be determined by the votes of not less the three-fifth of the members present personally at the time of dissolution.

Article-13 Alteration, Extension or Abridgement of the purpose of the Society:

Whenever, it shall appear to the Executive Council that it is advisable to alter, extend or abridge the aims and objectives of the Society, for other purposes of to amalgamate the Society, either wholly or partly with any other Society etc., the Executive Council may submit the proposal to the members of the Society in a written or printed report and may convene a special meeting for consideration thereof. But no such proposal shall be carried into effect unless;

- (i) Such a report shall have been delivered or sent by post to every member of the Society 20 days prior to the special meeting convened by the Executive Council for consideration thereof and,
- (ii) Such proposals have been agreed to by the votes of three-fifth of the members present in person at the special meeting convened by the Executive Council.

Article-14 Amendments to the Constitution:

14.1 The Constitution may be amended at an Annual General Body Meeting or at an Extra-ordinary General Body Meeting of the Society called for the purpose, by a three-fourth majority of the members present.

14.2 A proposal for the amendment of the Constitution may be made either by the Executive Council or by any member. In the latter case, it must reach the General Secretary in writing, in time for circulation to all members of the Society at least two months before the Annual or Extra-ordinary General Body Meeting.

14.3 The Executive Council may frame or alter rule (s) for the conduct of the functions of the Society, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution, by a simple two-third majority of the Executive Council, except for matters relating to finances of the Society, which will require the approval of the General Body of the Society.

Article-15 Legal suits by and against the Society:

The Society may be sued for or sue in the name of the General Secretary to the Society or any other person (s) authorised by the Executive Council, within the jurisdiction of Indore.

Article-16 Interpretation of the provisions of the Constitution:

In the event of any dispute/disagreement with regard to the interpretations of the provisions of the constitution of the Society, the interpretation of the President of the Society shall be final. With regard to any matter(s) not provided for in the Constitution of the Society, the decision of the General Body shall be final.