

Society for Promotion of Horticulture (SPH)
PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18th ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING (AGM)

Date: Friday, 17 October 2025 | Time: 11:00 AM

Venue: Dr. G. S. Randhawa Auditorium, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru (Hybrid Mode)

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting commenced at 11:00 AM under the chairmanship of Dr. S. D. Shikhamany, Founder President and Chief Patron. The General Secretary, Dr. G. Karunakaran, welcomed all members and outlined the agenda.

Dignitaries present:

- Dr. S. D. Shikhamany - Founder President, SPH
- Prof. Tusar Kanti Behera - President
- Prof. Sanjay Kumar Singh - Vice President
- Dr. T. H. Singh - Vice President
- Dr. G. Karunakaran - General Secretary
- Dr. Dhananjaya M. V. - Joint Secretary
- Dr. Sridhar Gutam - Joint Secretary
- Dr. Smitha G. R. - Treasurer
- Dr. Rajiv Kumar - Editor, JHS
- Life Members, Fellows, Awardees, and other participants (online & offline)

2. Condolences

The House observed a two-minute silence in memory of:

- Dr. Krishan Lal Chadha, Former DDG (Hort.), ICAR
- Dr. Subbanna Ayyappan, Former DG, ICAR

Their service to horticultural science was acknowledged with deep respect.

3. Confirmation of Previous AGM Proceedings & Action Taken Report

The proceedings of the 17th AGM held on 30 May 2024 were confirmed unanimously.

The Action Taken Report was presented, the House noted the report with appreciation.

4. Report of the General Secretary (2024-25)

4.1 Membership

Membership was reviewed, including Life, Corporate, and Institutional Members. Membership growth from Oct-Dec was noted, with updated figures recorded. The initiative to encourage authors of JHS papers to become SPH members was endorsed.

4.2 SPH Awards 2024-25

The House ratified the awardees already felicitated.

Honorary Fellowship:

- Prof. Sanjay Kumar Singh

Fellow of SPH:

- Dr. K. Dhinesh Babu
- Dr. G. Karunakaran



Associate Fellow of SPH:

- Dr. Ajit Arun Waman
- Dr. D. C. Manjunatha Gowda

Smt. Anne Shikhamany Memorial Best Paper Award:

- Lokesha, A.N. et al.

Dr. G. S. Randhawa Best Thesis Awards:

- Fruits & Plantation Crops: Dr. Amaresh Hadimani
- Vegetables & Tuber Crops: Dr. Harsha S. G.
- Flowers/Medicinal/Spices: Dr. Chandana S.

4.3 Foundation Day

A report on Foundation Day 2025 was presented.

The Foundation Lecture was delivered by Prof. Sanjay Kumar Singh, DDG (Hort.), ICAR.

5. Financial Report

The Treasurer, Dr. Smitha G. R., presented the audited financial statements for FY 2024–25.

Decisions:

- The House approved the audited statement.
- The Society will appoint a new Chartered Accountant; quotations (3 firms) received will be evaluated.
- Income Tax matters (exemptions, settlements) to be reviewed with the new CA.
- FCRA compliance will be undertaken with CA guidance.

5.1 New Financial Resolution

- Fresh Fixed Deposits will be created.

6. Report of the Editor-in-Chief, JHS

The Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, presented updates on review timelines, indexing, and enhancement strategies.

Publications and Outreach

The House noted progress on:

- Editorial improvements and policy tightening (discouraging honorary authorship)
- Raising manuscript word limits
- Proposal to launch an **SPH e-Newsletter** by the end of 2025 → **Approved**

Decisions:

- Editorial sections will be expanded to strengthen the review process. Section Editors may be increased with EC approval.
- Editor-in-Chief will be **NOMINATED** (not elected).
- Editor / Assistant Editor post will be filled through election. However detailed modalities for editor elections will be drafted by a committee.



7. Executive Committee (2025-2027)

The House recorded the EC election results declared on 12 June 2025. The new EC assumed office on 1 July 2025.

Office Bearers

- **President:** Dr. T. K. Behera
- **Vice Presidents:**
 - Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh
 - Dr. T. H. Singh
- **General Secretary:** Dr. G. Karunakaran
- **Joint Secretaries:**
 - Dr. M. V. Dhananjaya
 - Dr. Sridhar Gutam
- **Treasurer:** Dr. Smitha G. R.
- **Editor-in-Chief, JHS:** Dr. Rajiv Kumar
- **Zonal Councillor**
 - Dr. Anjani Kumar Jha, North Zone
 - Dr. Dinesh Babu, West Zone
 - Dr. Pooja Bohra, East Zone
 - Dr. Hemla Naik, South Zone

8. Governance Resolutions

- Minimum 50% of EC members must be retained in the next EC.
- No EC member shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same post.
- EC meetings shall be conducted periodically.
- Committees would be formulated for Arka Vyapar App, Awards & Scorecard and Elections. Detailed report / guidelines and modalities to be drafted and tabled before the EC

9. Forthcoming Events

The following events were announced:

- **3rd Global Summit on Diamond Open Access**
 - 2-6 February 2026, UAS Bengaluru
 - In collaboration with ICAR-IIHR, ICAR-DKMA, and UAS Bengaluru
 - SPH will be the lead host and provide seed money
- **PGR Conference**

10. Fellowship/Endowment Award Proposals:

- Contribution from Prof. Sanjay Kumar Singh (₹1,00,000) → Fruit Science Award
- Contribution from Dr. Madhavi Reddy → Prof. K. V. Peter Memorial Award (Vegetable Science)
- Contribution from Dr. R. B. Tiwari → S. B. Mani Award (Post Harvest Technology)
- Contribution from Dr. Sridhar Gutam → Award for Basic Sciences
- Contribution from Dr. Hima Bindu → Dr. Janaki Ammal Memorial Award (Medicinal/Aromatic)

- Dr. Sumangala to contact the Attavar Family regarding the Shri. Manmohan Attavar Floriculture Award.
- Letter to Dr. K. V. Peter's family seeking consent for the Memorial Award.
- Letters to all award sponsors who announced contributions in the AGM.

11. Any Other Matters


With permission of the Chair, the following matters were taken on record:

- Review of Society registration / renewal under **state rules**.
- Amendments to the bylaws

12. Vote of Thanks

Dr. M. V. Dhananjaya, Joint Secretary, proposed the vote of thanks.

The meeting concluded on a cordial note.


Dr. G. Karunakaran
General Secretary, SPH



Dr. Tusar Kanti Behera
President, SPH