



सत्यमेव जयते



Proceedings

78th AUTHORITY MEETING

Venue

IIFM, Bhopal

23rd May 2026

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
Chennai

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Proceedings of the 78th Authority Meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority held on 23rd May 2026 at IIFM, Bhopal

The 78th Authority meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was held on 23rd May 2026 at IIFM, Bhopal, under the Chairmanship of Shri Virendra R Tiwari, IFS (Retd.) Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The list of participants is given in the **Annexure-I**.

2. At the outset, Dr B. Balaji, Member Secretary, NBA, welcomed the Chairman and the Members of the Authority who joined in person and online including the Member Secretaries of the Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh who have been appointed as members of the Authority vide MoEFCC notification dated 15.05.2026. The Member Secretary further explained the constitution of the Authority members, their role and the meetings to the newly appointed members.

3. Chairman, NBA also welcomed the members and informed the grand celebration of the International day for Biological Diversity celebrated on 22nd May 2026. He further thanked the members who participated in it.

4. The Member Secretary then made a detailed presentation on the agenda items, which are as follows:

78.01: Confirmation of the Proceedings of the 77th Authority meeting

The draft Proceedings of the 77th meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) held on **23.03.2026** at National Biodiversity Authority Headquarters, Chennai were circulated to the members *via* e-mail dated 07.04.2026 to seek their comments. Comments were received from *ex officio* member Dr. Kousthubha Upadhyaya, Ministry of Ayush and Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta, ICFRE-IFGTB, which were incorporated accordingly. The members unanimously agreed to confirm the Proceedings of the 77th Authority meeting.

Decision: *The Proceedings of the 77th Authority Meeting were confirmed.*



78.02: Action Taken Report of the 77th Authority Meeting

The Member Secretary apprised and explained the members of the actions taken on the decisions taken of the 77th Authority meeting and the members deliberated the same. He further informed that Agenda Item No 77.03 (*To consider the report of the Expert Committee to devise modalities for utilization of the ABS amount earmarked to the NBA*), Agenda item no.77.05 (*To consider the proposal to designate the Natural History Museum and Research Centre as the Designated National repository under Section 39 of the BD Act, 2023*) and 77.06 (*To consider the determination of Sector– Specific Benefit Sharing percentage for IPR commercialisation by section 3(2) & Section 7 Persons*) have been placed as separate agenda for further discussion in the meeting.

2. Agenda item no. 77.03: To consider the report of the Expert Committee to devise modalities for utilization of the ABS amount earmarked to the NBA)

The members deliberated on the action taken by NBA. The members opined that it is a difficult task to get the required information from the institutions and hence suggested that NBA may develop its own baseline data using secondary sources to the extent possible

3. In continuation, the members opined that if the above-mentioned information is not provided by the institutions and the SBBs/UTBCs concerned, the NBA may adopt a standard allocation formula of 30% to institutions and 70% to SBBs/UTBCs . Further, the members deliberated that the NBA Secretariat may obtain accurate information including the geolocations of the source of the biological resources from the applicant, in future cases. This will ease out the process of identification of the benefit claimer/BMCs/ SBBs/UTBCs/community/ farmers for disbursing the ABS amount.

4. The members however opined that if the source/ geo-locations of the biological resources are not known, then the amount may be deposited in the NBF account of NBA and the funds can be utilized as per the provisions of section 27 of the Act read with regulation 12 of the ABS Regulations 2025.

5. Further, the members noted the action taken by NBA on the various decisions taken in the 77th Authority meeting.

Decision: a. *The Authority members decided that If the information on the source of the biological resources is not provided by the institutions concerned, the NBA may adopt a standard allocation formula of disbursing the ABS as 30% to institutions and 70% to SBB/UTBC .*

b. The Authority members directed the NBA Secretariat to develop a baseline data using secondary sources for identifying the source/ geo-locations of the biological resources based on the available information in the literature to disburse the ABS amount to the SBBs/UTBCs/BMCs/community/ farmers.

c. The Authority members decided that if the source/ geo-locations of the biological resources are not known, then the ABS amount may be used by the NBA as per the provisions of section 27 of the Act.

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

78.03: To consider the proposal to designate The Natural History Museum & Research Centre as the Designated National repository under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023

The Member Secretary informed that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in consultation with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), has designated 20 national institutions and other organisations as repositories for the safe custody of specimens of biological resources accessed under the Biological Diversity Act.

2. In this context, he iterated that a proposal was received from the Curator, Natural History Museum, Mizoram University, Aizawl, seeking designation of the Natural History Museum & Research Centre as a Designated National Repository, which was placed before the 77th Authority for consideration (Agenda 77.05).

3. The Member Secretary reiterated that the Authority, after due deliberation, deferred the proposal for want of additional information and directed the NBA Secretariat to obtain an undertaking from the University with regard to the following:

- (i) Having a dedicated area or infrastructure to store the biological materials submitted as voucher specimens submitted by the applicants, based on the NBA approval
- (ii) Have manpower exclusively to keep voucher specimens in safe custody
- (iii) The University will take responsibility for maintaining the repository



4. In this regard, he informed that the NBA Secretariat sought the required details from the Natural History Museum, Mizoram University, Aizawl and the details are as follows:

- a. The Natural History Museum & Research Centre (NHM&RC) proposes to specialize in biological resources native to the biodiversity rich North-eastern region: Flora (Pteridophytes, Macro fungi) and Fauna (Reptiles, Amphibians, Moths, Beetles, Fishes, and Butterflies)
- b. NHM&RC has a dedicated, exclusive repository section equipped with the following facilities for long-term preservation of voucher specimens:
 - i. Cold storage units for wet and dry specimens
 - ii. Herbarium storage facility
 - iii. Laboratories for taxonomic identification and molecular analysis
 - iv. Digital archiving systems for cataloguing and access
 - v. Uninterrupted Power Supply
- c. NHM&RC possesses the required manpower comprising trained curators, taxonomists, and technical staff fully competent in specimen preservation, curation, and database management. Details of manpower available (number of individuals and their positions)

S. No.	Name	Taxonomical Expert Area	Department
1	Prof. John Zothanzama	Macro Fungi	Department of Biotechnology, MZU
2	Prof. H.T. Lalremsanga	Amphibians & Reptiles	Department of Zoology, MZU
3	Prof. Lalramliana	Fishes	Department of Zoology, PUC
4	Dr. Esther Lalhmingliani	Moths	Department of Zoology, MZU
5	Dr. R. Vanlalpeka	Pteridophytes	Natural History Museum & Research Centre
6	Dr. Lalchhandama	Beetles	Department of Zoology, MZU
7	Dr. Lalrotluanga	Butterflies	Natural History Museum & Research Centre

5. Further, the Member Secretary informed that the Mizoram University has given unequivocal assurance for the long-term maintenance and upkeep of all voucher specimens and has provided the undertaking by the University signed by the Registrar, which explicitly commits to:

- a. Continuous administrative oversight
- b. Sustained financial support (budgetary allocations for staff, infrastructure and operations)
- c. Technical expertise through faculty and research staff

- d. Provision and regular upgradation of infrastructure
- e. Focus on North eastern biodiversity as a regional hub.

6. In this regard, the members deliberated on the information provided by the Mizoram University and agreed that the proposal of Natural History Museum, Mizoram University as a Repository under section 39 of the Act to keep in safe custody of voucher specimens belongs to Flora (Pteridophytes-Macro fungi) and Fauna (Reptiles, Amphibians, Moths, Beetles, Fishes, and Butterflies) can be accepted.

Decision: (a) *The Authority members approved the proposal to designate the Natural History Museum, Mizoram University, as a Repository under section 39 of the Act to keep in safe custody of voucher specimens that belong to Flora (Pteridophytes-Macro fungi) and Fauna (Reptiles, Amphibians, Moths, Beetles, Fishes, and Butterflies).*

(b) *The NBA shall forward the proposal of Natural History Museum, Mizoram University to the MoEFCC for consideration and to notify the designation of these repositories under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023*

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

78.04: Reconsideration of the determination of sector-specific Benefit-Sharing percentage, Guidance on dealing with Pre-Grant Commercialisation of IPR & Guidance on dealing with Third-Party commercialisation of IPR

The Member Secretary informed the members that as per the decision of the 77th Authority meeting (agenda no. 77.06), the 72nd meeting of the Expert Committee (EC) on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) held its meeting on 28.04.2026 and 15.5.2026 to reconsider the determination of sector-specific benefit-sharing percentages for IPR commercialization by persons covered under Section 3(2) and Section 7. In addition, two further agenda items were also included to seek guidance of EC on handling pre-grant stages and third-party commercialization of IPR by such persons.

2. He informed that the EC on ABS deliberated on the proposed sector-specific ABS framework and the additional agenda items in its meetings and provided the following recommendations which were placed before the Authority members.



A. The Sector – Specific Benefit Sharing percentage for IPR commercialisation by Section 3(2) & Section 7 persons recommended by the EC on ABS is placed below:

	Annual Turnover	Category -1 Ayush (Traditional Medicine), Food, Agriculture, Environmentally friendly innovations, public health, bio-input, public interest sectors			Category -2 Nutraceutical, Textiles, Miscellaneous			Category -3 High value commercial sectors, Pharmaceuticals, Cosmetics, Fragrances, Industrial Biotechnology		
		Self - Commercialisation	Transfer/ License	Royalties	Self - Commercialisation	Transfer/ License	Royalties	Self - Commercialisation	Transfer/ License	Royalties
1	Up to 5 Crore	Nil	3	2	Nil	3	2	Nil	3	2
2	Above 5 crore to 50 crore	0.3	3	2	0.4	3	2	0.6	3	2
3	Above 50 crore to 250 crore	0.5	4	3	0.6	4	3	0.8	4	3
4	Above 250 crore	0.7	5	4	0.8	5	4	1	5	4

Note: If TK is involved in the above categories, 25% higher than the benefit sharing due (applicable only for the applicant himself commercializing).

The Authority members deliberated on the categorization and mentioned that the flavours related to the food should be under the category 1 along with Food and should not be considered under the category 3. The members further deliberated on the sectors found in each of the category and mentioned that sector such as “Nutraceutical” in category 2 can be shifted to the category 1 and Textiles from category 2 to category 3. The members also suggested that the NBA will follow Regulation 11(2) on a case-to-case

basis, and that this may also be included in the note of the benefit-sharing categorisation table.

2. In this regard, the members discussed the categories and the sectors in detail and revised the table as follows:

Sl. No	Annual Turnover	Category -1 Ayush (Traditional Medicine), Food including Nutraceutical, Agriculture, Environmentally friendly innovations			Category - 2 High conservation and commercial value, Pharmaceuticals, Cosmetics, Fragrances*, Industrial Biotechnology, Textiles		
		Self - Commercialisation	Transfer/ License	Royalties	Self - Commercialisation	Transfer/ License	Royalties
1	Up to 5 Crore	Nil	3	2	Nil	3	2
2	Above 5 crore to 50 crore	0.3	3	2	0.6	3	2
3	Above 50 crore to 250 crore	0.5	4	3	0.8	4	3
4	Above 250 crore	0.7	5	4	1	5	4

Note: a. If TK is involved in the above categories, 25% higher than the benefit sharing due (applicable only for the applicant himself commercializing).
b*. Food flavours are included in category I
c. **Regulation 11 (2) shall be considered on a case-by-case basis**

The members further discussed on the other items recommended by the EC on ABS which are as follows:

B. Guidance on dealing with Pre-Grant Commercialisation of IPR by Section 3(2) & Section 7 Applicants under the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023

The Member Secretary informed that the ABS agreements of Form 6, Form 7 & Form 9 under the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Rules, 2024 provide that the agreement shall remain in force from the effective date of the agreement until the subsistence of the IPR for which approval was granted.

2. He mentioned that these provisions indicate that the enforceability of ABS obligations is linked to the existence and subsistence of the granted IPR, thereby excluding the period of “pre-grant commercialisation” from the scope of benefit-sharing obligations.

3. In this context, Member Secretary explained that the Clause 2.3.1 of the ABS Agreement under Form 6, Form 7 & Form 9 provides that the agreement shall remain in force from the effective date of the agreement until the subsistence of the IPR for which approval was granted. In view of the above, the existing framework does not adequately address the issue of ABS liability for pre-grant commercialisation of IPR for Form 6,7 & 9. Hence, the EC on ABS recommended that the clause 3.1 of the ABS agreements under Form 6,7 & 9 of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 may be amended to be read as follows:

“The Applicant shall share the benefits as stipulated in Schedule A.

However, when the applicant commercialises the invention before the grant of IPR, he/she shall pay ABS based on bio resources used as per Regulation 4 or 5 and after the grant of IPR, the applicant shall pay the ABS, as per Regulation 8 or 9.”

4. The members deliberated on the issue and agreed to the recommendation of the EC on ABS in this regard.

C. Guidance on dealing with Third-Party commercialisation of IPR Applications filed under Form III of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Forms 6, 7 & 9 under the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023.

The Member Secretary apprised the members that guidance was sought from the EC on ABS for appropriate legal and procedural course of action to ensure that third-party commercialisation of IPR is brought within the compliance framework of the Act and the relevant ABS Agreement.

2. In this regard, he explained that the relevant clauses in the Form III agreement and the agreement for Form 6, 7 & 9 were as follows:

- **Clause 2.4 read with clause 13 of the Form – III ABS Agreements** executed under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 stipulates that where IPR is transferred by assignment, licensing, or operation of law, all rights and obligations under the ABS Agreement are binding upon the assignee or licensee.
- **Clause 2.4.1 of Form 6, 7 & 9 Agreements** under the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 expressly includes the licensee/assignee within the definition of “applicant,” thereby automatically extending all rights and obligations under the ABS Agreement to the third party.

3. The Member Secretary explained to the members that the EC on ABS recommended the following:

a. The cases relating to Form III applications under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the NBA may execute supplementary agreements with third parties under Clause 13 of the ABS Agreement for third-party commercialisation.

b. In cases where the original applicant fails to respond or declines to execute the supplementary agreement, the NBA may consider executing the supplementary agreement directly with the third party, with prior intimation to the applicant and formal communication of the executed supplementary agreement to ensure transparency and procedural fairness.

c. The Committee further recommended that in cases relating to Forms 6, 7, and 9 under the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, the NBA may execute a fresh ABS Agreement with the third party under the same application number for ensuring compliance in cases of third-party commercialisation and close the applications if necessary.

4. In this regard, the members deliberated on the issue and agreed to the recommendation of the EC on ABS.

Decision: a. The Authority members decided that Sector – Specific Benefit Sharing percentage for IPR commercialisation by Section 3(2) & Section 7 persons shall be as follows:



Sl. No	Annual Turnover	Category -1 Ayush (Traditional Medicine), Food including Nutraceutical, Agriculture, Environmentally friendly innovations			Category - 2 High conservation and commercial value, Pharmaceuticals, Cosmetics, Fragrances*, Industrial Biotechnology, Textiles		
		Self - Commercialisation	Transfer/ License	Royalties	Self - Commercialisation	Transfer/ License	Royalties
1	Up to 5 Crore	Nil	3	2	Nil	3	2
2	Above 5 crore to 50 crore	0.3	3	2	0.6	3	2
3	Above 50 crore to 250 crore	0.5	4	3	0.8	4	3
4	Above 250 crore	0.7	5	4	1	5	4

Note: a. If TK is involved in the above categories, 25% higher than the benefit sharing due (applicable only for the applicant himself commercializing).
b*. Food flavours are included in category I
c. Regulation 11 (2) will be considered on a case-by-case basis

b. The Authority members decided that in cases where the Pre-Grant Commercialisation of IPR by Section 3(2) & Section 7 Applicants under the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, the clause 3.1 of the ABS agreements under Form 6,7 & 9 of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 shall be amended to be read as follows:

"The Applicant shall share the benefits as stipulated in Schedule A.

However, when the applicant commercializes the invention before the grant of IPR, he/she shall pay ABS based on bio resources used as per Regulation 4 or 5 and after the grant of IPR, the applicant shall pay the ABS, as per the Regulation 8 or 9."

c. The Authority members also decided the following in the case of Third-Party commercialisation of IPR Applications filed under Form III of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Forms 6, 7 & 9 under the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023:

i. The NBA may execute supplementary agreements with third parties under Clause 13 of the Form III- ABS Agreement for third-party commercialisation

ii. In cases relating to Forms 6, 7, and 9 under the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, the NBA may execute a fresh ABS Agreement with the third party under the same application number for ensuring compliance in cases of third-party commercialisation and close the applications if necessary.

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

78.05 To consider the reconstitution of the Expert Committee to suggest modifications to the existing notifications, to develop model guidelines for framing Rules by the State Government for the conservation and management of the Biodiversity Heritage Sites and other matters

The Member Secretary explained that as Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 -11(v), model guidelines to be formulated for framing Rules by the State Governments for the conservation and management of areas of biodiversity importance notified as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) .

3. In view of the above, the Member Secretary informed that an Expert Committee was reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Shri AK Goyal, IFS (Retd.) vide Office Order No. NBA/Tech/EC/9/14/35/19/25-26/3125 dated 17.03.2026, to develop model guidelines for framing Rules by the State Governments for the conservation and management of areas notified as BHS, and to examine the existing notifications issued under the erstwhile Biological Diversity Act in the light of the amended Act, Rules, and ABS Regulations, and to suggest necessary modifications.

4. In this regard, the members deliberated that the model rules may be framed that there may be flexibility and leverage for the SBBs to frame their State rules according to their landscapes.

5. The Chairman, NBA further informed that the model guidelines for framing Rules by the State Governments for the conservation and management of areas notified as BHS developed by the Expert Committee may be placed in the forthcoming Authority meeting.

Decision: The Authority ratified the re-constitution of the Expert Committee to develop model guidelines for framing Rules by the State Governments for the conservation and management of areas notified as BHS, and to examine the existing notifications issued under the erstwhile Biological Diversity Act in the light of the amended Act, Rules, and ABS Regulations, and to suggest necessary modifications.

Action: Member Secretary, NBA



78.06 Delegation of Powers to sign the Certificate of Registration (CoR) in respect of Technical Application of TO(IPR) Section

The Member Secretary informed the members that applicants who seek approval for obtaining IPR have to apply in Form 8 for registration with NBA before grant of IPR by person under section 7 of the BD Act. He mentioned that the NBA is receiving more than hundred applications per month seeking approval for obtaining IPR i.e. Form 8. If the applicant has provided all the required information in the Form and after the scrutiny of the application, if the applicant fulfils the required conditions prescribed in the Form, the certificate of Registration (CoR) is issued for section 7 individual/entity as per Section 6 of BD (Amendment) Act, 2023.

3. In the present practice, he apprised the members that the application received by NBA is initiated and processed in the Technical Officer(IPR) Section, after scrutiny it will be submitted to the Chairperson, NBA through Member Secretary for obtaining the approval from the competent authority. After obtaining approval, the CoR is signed by the Member Secretary, NBA, digitally, which is then forwarded to Technical Officer(IPR) for issuing the CoR to the applicant.

4. The Member Secretary further explained that as he is dealing various subjects in NBA and in order to speed up the process of issuing the CoR to the applicant, the power of signing and issuing the CoR has been delegated to the Technical Officer (IPR) *vide* Office Order dated 07.05.2026. The members deliberated on speeding up of the processes of issuing the CoR to the applicant and approved the decision taken by the NBA Secretariat.

Decision: *The Authority ratified the delegation of power of signing and issuing the Certificate of Registration to the Technical Officer(IPR) by the Member Secretary, NBA*

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

78.07 Ratification of Grants released during the Financial Year 2025–26

The Member Secretary informed the members that the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) extends financial assistance to the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) for undertaking various activities relating to implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 at the State/UT level.

2. In this regard, he informed that the 61st Authority meeting, under Agenda 61.07, approved the revised allocation of financial assistance under various components such as preparation/upgradation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), public awareness



programmes, outsourcing of staff, strengthening and capacity building of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), translation and dissemination activities, thematic expert committees, exchange visits and website development.

3. Further, he mentioned that the 67th Authority meeting, under Agenda 67.04, approved enhancement of the financial assistance towards engaging outsourced/contractual staff at SBBs/UTBCs from Rs.13.50 lakhs per annum to Rs.14.50 lakhs per annum in view of the increased workload relating to implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, strengthening of BMCs, quality improvement of PBRs and ABS-related activities.

4. The Member Secretary informed that during the financial year 2025–26, financial assistance was released to various SBBs/UTBCs under different approved components, based on the proposals received from SBBs/UTBCs and subject to the availability of funds and administrative approval. The grants were released for implementation of activities such as celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), awareness generation programmes, strengthening of institutional infrastructure, engagement of outsourced personnel, preparation/upgradation of PBRs, and capacity building programmes.

5. He apprised the members about the component-wise details of grants sanctioned during the financial year 2025–26 as given below:

Sl. No.	Component	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)
1	Awareness Programmes	24,21,954
2	International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)	1,26,12,539
3	Infrastructure	5,00,000
4	Others	6,34,300
5	Outsourcing of Contractual Staff	2,54,09,913
6	PBR	1,00,000
7	Training and Capacity Building	1,20,000
	Grand Total	4,17,98,706

6. Since the grants were released with the approval of the competent authority in accordance with the approved financial assistance framework and operational requirements of SBBs/UTBCs, the matter is placed before the Authority for ratification.

7. The members further deliberated that the financial assistance for SBBs/UTBCs may be enhanced for strengthening the BMCs, quality improvement of PBRs and ABS-related activities etc. In this regard, the Chairman, NBA informed that a proposal may be placed by the NBA Secretariat for the enhancement of financial assistance for SBBs/UTBCs for consideration in the forthcoming Authority meeting.

Decision: (a). *The Authority considered and ratified the release of Rs 4,17,98,706 to the SBBs/UTBCs during the financial Year 2025–26 for the approved financial assistance framework and operational requirements.*

(b) *The Authority members decided that the NBA Secretariat shall place a proposal on the enhancement of the financial assistance for SBBs/UTBCs for consideration in the forthcoming Authority meeting*

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

78.08 To Consider the Decision taken on Form-13 (formerly Form B) applications

The Member Secretary informed that according to Regulation 13(3) of the Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and associated knowledge and benefits sharing Regulations, 2014, NBA has to accord approval within a period of 45 days for Form -B applications received from Indian researcher/ Government institution who intends to carry/ send the biological resources outside India to undertake basic research or carry our certain urgent studies to avert emergencies like epidemics etc.

2. Under agenda item 32.06 of 32nd Authority meeting, it was decided as follows:

a) *The Chairman, NBA is authorized to accord approval or otherwise for Form- 13 applications, without referring to the SBB and the EC on ABS.*

b) *The approval or otherwise on the applications accorded shall be placed in the subsequent authority meetings for ratification.*

3. Further, he mentioned that the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 came into force from 21st December 2024. Rule 20 of the BD Rules, 2024 has introduced Form-13 which will replace Form B application in vogue prior to the amendment..

4. The Member Secretary informed that the NBA granted approval to four (4) applications and closed two (2) applications of Form-13 (formerly Form B) between 1st March 2026– 30th April, 2026.

Decision: *The Authority considered and ratified the decisions taken on approval to four (4) applications and closure of two (2) applications of Form-13 (formerly Form B).*

Action: Member Secretary, NBA



78.09 Details of Form-E (formerly Form C) applications received by the NBA

The Authority in its 37th meeting held in March 2016 (agenda item 37.14.02) decided that the Indian researchers / scientists should provide prior intimation to the NBA in the prescribed Form- C for deposition of microorganisms in other country's repository for the claim of novel species for publication in journals. Accordingly, since 2016, NBA is receiving such forms from Indian scientist / researcher. Now, the Form-C is replaced with Form-E in the Biological Diversity (ABS) Regulations, 2025. As on date, NBA has received 346 intimations since March 2016 – 30th April 2026, and the same has been reported to the Authority from time to time. Since 01st March, 2026 to 30th April 2026 the Secretariat has received three **(03)** Form-E application.

Decision: The Authority members noted the information on the three (3) Form-C applications (Form-E in Biological Diversity (ABS) Regulations, 2025).

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

78.10 To Consider the Decision on ABS Applications Dealt by the Secretariat

The Member Secretary apprised the members of the recommendations made by the Expert Committee (EC) constituted by the NBA to streamline the approval process, as per its 54th and 55th meeting, vide agenda no. 54.20.03 considered and endorsed the recommendations of the EC that NBA Secretariat may deal with the applications based on the set precedent. Accordingly, NBA vide O/o dated 19th March 2020 issued an order for processing ABS application in NBA without referring to the Expert Committee on ABS. However, in case of any contravention/ complexity, such cases alone to be placed in the EC on ABS for examination.

2. Accordingly he mentioned that the NBA secretariat so far has cleared **15** applications, agreement signed for **33** applications and closed **8** applications in Form-I, Form III, Form 1, 2, 7 and 8 between from 01st March, 2026 – 30th April, 2026. Since the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 came into force from 1st April 2024, NBA has issued **1846** Certificate of Registration (CoR) to the old Form III and Form 8 applications. Accordingly, the NBA secretariat has issued **256** Certificates of Registration, from 01st March, 2026 – 30th April, 2026.

Decision: The applications processed, agreements executed and the CoR issued by the NBA Secretariat were ratified by the Authority.

Action: Member Secretary, NBA



78.11 Consultation meeting with Repositories/Institutions to discuss the source of biological resources accessed for research/commercial utilisation and the modalities for distribution of ABS funds

The Member Secretary mentioned that NBA constituted an expert committee to devise modalities for utilisation of the ABS amount earmarked to the NBA in cases of access to biological resources from traders, institutions or intermediaries, in accordance with the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 and the ABS Regulations, 2005 vide Office Order No. NBA/Tech Gen/22/150/25/25-26/2451 dated 17.12.2025 under the Chairmanship of Shri. A.K. Goyal IFS (Retd.), Former Special Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, New Delhi.

2. He explained that the Expert Committee submitted its recommendations and the same was approved by the 77th Authority vide agenda no. 77.03. As per the report submitted by EC, in cases where the biological resources are accessed by the applicant from Institutions/Repositories, NBA may request the institution to provide provenance records, including the date of access of the biological resources. The institutions may be requested to respond within a period of 45 days.

3. In this regard, he apprised the members that NBA had sent over 250 communications to 104 institutions seeking the details of the biological resources for disbursement of ABS fund. Further, an online consultative meeting with institutions/repositories to discuss the source of biological resources was organised by NBA on 10th April, 2026. The meeting deliberated on key issues such as identifying the source of biological resources, including parental lines and to facilitate equitable distribution of accumulated ABS funds to concerned beneficiaries in accordance with the provisions of the BD Act. He informed that around 115 officers, scientists & others from 66 institutions participated in the meeting.

4. Based on the above, the Member Secretary informed the following recommendations taken in the meeting:

- a) All institutions were requested to submit complete details of the source of biological resources, geographical origin, and access details, in the prescribed format to enable timely distribution of ABS funds to beneficiaries.
- b) Based on the request from institutes, it was decided to grant more time to furnish the necessary information to NBA on a case by case basis.
- c) For old germplasm collections and varieties with complex pedigrees, institutions may focus on identifying major parental contributors instead of tracing every pedigree level.



- d) Cases where the claims made by companies do not align with institutional records (e.g., instances where the institution has not supplied the biological resources) shall be examined by the NBA Secretariat based on the documents submitted by the concerned institutions.
 - e) Where biological resources supplied for research purposes may have been commercially used without institutional authorization, institutions may seek clarification from the concerned companies.
 - f) NBA agreed to share available information such as the purpose of use and year of access of biological resources, wherever possible, to help institutions to verify their records, on request.
 - g) For old biological resources/materials with no traceable source records, institutions may submit available information along with proper justification to NBA.
 - h) NBA requested the institutions / repositories to furnish the required details within the timeline given to them.
 - i) It was also requested to comply with the provisions of the BD Act in a letter and spirit. It was also informed that the institutes while supplying the biological resources to the entities / companies shall ensure proper compliance of the BD Act.
5. In this regard, the members deliberated and agreed to the recommendations provided by the expert committee on identifying the source of biological resources. The members further decided that the Chairman, NBA shall be authorized to take decisions on the disbursal of the ABS amount accrued from the access of biological resources from traders, institutions or intermediaries to the benefit claimers/ SBBs/UTBCs/BMCs/community/ farmers.

Decision: a. *The Authority members approved the recommendations of EC constituted to devise modalities for utilisation of the ABS amount earmarked to the NBA in cases of access to biological resources from traders, institutions or intermediaries, in accordance with the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 and the ABS Regulations, 2025 on the identification of the source of biological resources, including parental lines by the institutions.*

b. *The Authority members decided that the Chairman, NBA shall be authorized to take decisions on the disbursal of the ABS amount accrued from the access of biological resources from traders, institutions or intermediaries to the benefit claimers/SBBs/UTBCs/BMCs/community/ farmers.*

Submitted for information



78.12 To consider the ABS amount collected from 1st March to 30th April 2026

The Member Secretary, informed the members that in accordance with Section 21 of the BD Act 2002, the NBA received a sum of Rs. 52,51,696/- (Rupees Fifty-Two Lakhs Fifty-One Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-Six Only) as benefit-sharing component in the National Biodiversity Fund after execution of agreements in twelve (12) applications.

Decision: *The Authority members noted the information in this regard.*

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

78.13 To consider the Update on the Development of E-PBR GIZ Project implementation

The Member Secretary informed the members that NBA in coordination with the National Informatics Centre, Tamil Nadu & Kerala is developing the electronic People's Biodiversity Register (e-PBR) in 12 Pilot States. The e-PBR portal aims to maintain uniformity in documentation of PBR across the country and also to establish a repository of biodiversity and its related information in one place.

2. He further explained that the Indo-German technical cooperation project is being jointly developed by MoEFCC, NBA and GIZ with the objective of preparation of e-PBR in selected States. The scope of collaboration may include: 1. Capacity & training needs assessment for e-PBR. 2. Developing PBR and e-PBR specific training material, working aids and training plans for target groups (e.g. TSGs, SBBs, BMCs) 3. Implementation of pilot training programme in selected states using a clustered approach, including documentation of feedback and case studies.

3. In this regard, he apprised the members that a meeting was held between officials of MoEFCC, NBA & the GIZ on 21st January, 2026 wherein it was decided to implement the project in 14 States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. It was also discussed with the GIZ team on inclusion of Madhya Pradesh.

4. In this connection, he informed that the NBA Secretariat sought the above said SBBs to provide their consent for implementing the project in their State and is in process. Further, the training manual for the BMC is also under the preparation by the GiZ and NBA.

Decision: *The Authority members noted the information in this regard.*

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA



78.14 Update on the Capacity Building Programmes on the implementation of BD Act to different stakeholders.

The Member Secretary informed the members that the following Workshop / training / capacity building programs were conducted by NBA:

Sl. no.	Date	Stakeholders to whom the workshop / training / capacity building programme conducted	Mode of workshop	Number of participations
1.	25.03.2026	One-Day Session for Forest Probationary Officers held at IGNFA, Dehradun. Attended by probationary officers	Physical	130
2.	10.04.2024	Meeting with Institutes/ Repositories	Virtual	123
3.	11.04.2026	Vellore Institute of Technology, Graduates and professionals from legal and professional IPR background	Physical	95
4.	29.04.2026	Marine ABS, Vijayawada, Andhra SBB, forest officials, marine traders etc.	Physical	40
Total				280

Note: After the amendment to the BD Act, Rules, Regulations, NBA secretariat has given awareness through workshop/training/capacity building programme to **3,091 participants.**

2. In this regard, Dr. Alka Rao, non official member suggested that NBA may jointly organize capacity building programs with the FSSAI to enhance the awareness on the provisions of the BD Act, Rules, Regulations to the food sector stakeholders including the regional centres of FSSAI. To this, the members agreed that NBA to join hands with FSSAI for training and capacity building of stakeholders involved in the food sector.

Decision: a. The Authority members noted the information in this regard.

b. The Authority members decided that NBA shall jointly organize capacity building programs with the FSSAI to enhance the awareness on the provisions of the BD Act, Rules, Regulations to the food sector.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

78.15 To consider the Techno -Legal and Administrative inputs offered by NBA to the MoEFCC on International Instruments including Multilateral/ Bilateral matters

The Member Secretary, NBA informed the members that NBA has provided inputs to MoEFCC for various international instruments including multilateral/bilateral discussions, cabinet notes which are as follows:

Sl. No	Section	Particular	Details
1	Inputs on MoUs	MoU between India and Indonesia	MoEFCC forwarded Draft Cabinet Note along with O.M. from Ministry of

			Agriculture & Farmers Welfare with a request to examine the draft Cabinet Note and provide inputs/comments. In this connection this office had previously provided inputs to draft MoU vide email dated 21.07.2025. On perusal of the draft Cabinet Note, it is observed that the comments of NBA have duly been incorporated in the MoU. Hence Nil comments were sent to MoEFCC.
2	Expenditure Finance Committee	Final EFC memo on the scheme "PRADHAN MANTRI-PASHUPALAK SAMRUDDHI YOJANA @ Viksit Bharat" Draft Memorandum for EFC for Green Energy Corridor Phase- III Scheme Draft Memorandum for Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for continuation of the umbrella scheme 'Vigyan Dhara' a Central Sector Scheme	MoEFCC forwarded the various draft Expenditure Finance Committee from time to time and sought inputs. Accordingly, NBA examined the EFC in the light of Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, Rules and Regulations and Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and provided inputs to MoEFCC for further course of action.
5	Meeting notice for Exim Facilitation Committee (EFC) Meeting No. 10/2025-26 dated 30.03.2026	---	The Export Cell, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, organises Exim Facilitation Committee (EFC) meeting under the Chairmanship of Addl. Director General Foreign Trade every month vide hybrid mode. NBA provides inputs and participates in the meeting online every month.
7	Draft BBNJ bill and 3rd meeting of the Drafting Committee for preparation of the National legislation on BBNJ regarding	---	Pursuant to India signing the BBNJ Agreement (high seas treaty) on September 25, 2024, Ministry of Earth Sciences conducted Inter-Ministerial Group Meeting for framing BBNJ Bill. MoES Technical Advisory Committee to frame the draft BBNJ Bill. Technical officer NBA was nominated as a member of Technical Advisory Committee and gave inputs regarding

			<p>experience of framing and implementing ABS Rules and also on the draft "THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION, BILL, 2025"</p> <p>Further, Ministry of Earth Sciences conducted BBNJ Bill Drafting Committee meetings in which Dr Sundeep, Scientist F, SCMD, MoEFCC participates in the meeting. NBA provides inputs to MoEFCC for each meeting.</p>
8	WHO Pandemic Treaty	---	<p>The text of Pandemic Agreement attained consensus during 78th WHA at WHO Headquarters, Geneva on 20th May 2025 and Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) was established in reference to the Resolution WHA 78.1 adopted during the same session, to draft and negotiate the Annex to the WHO Pandemic Agreement described in Article 12 of the WHO Pandemic Agreement.</p> <p>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organised inter-ministerial meeting in the month of February. Member Secretary, NBA participated in the meeting provide inputs.</p> <p>Further WHO secretariat conducted resumed session of 6th Intergovernmental working group held in hybrid format from 23–28 March 2026 and IGWG-6 resumed, 27 April – 1 May 2026 both IGWG meeting were participated online by Member Secretary, NBA.</p>

Decision: The members noted the information provided in this regard

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

78.16 Enhancing Transparency and Public Awareness: through Press Information Bureau and Social Media Platforms

The Member Secretary explained to the members that to have public outreach and create awareness on ABS framework, NBA publishes the ABS amount released to the

beneficiaries and other important information on the Press Information Bureau (PIB) and NBA social media accounts from time to time and showed the number of viewers for each article. He further mentioned that this press information has also been published in e-newspaper / journals, etc. He also highlighted that there is a rapid increase in the total number of viewers between this Authority and the previous, with an increase of about 27,636 viewers/likes count.

2. The Authority members appreciated the efforts taken by NBA in this regard

Decision: *The Authority members noted the information provided by the NBA Secretariat on the awareness creation of the ABS framework.*

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

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Annex-I

List of Members present

1. **Shri Virendra R Tiwari, IFS (Retd.)** Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai E-mail: chairman@nba.nic.in
2. **Shri. Raghu Kumar Kodali**, Advisor, CS-III Division, Ministry of Environment Forests Climate Change, New Delhi E-mail: kodali.rk@gov.in
3. **Dr. V. Clement Ben**, Inspector General of Forest, NAEB; Forest Protection Division, Ministry of Environment Forests Climate Change, New Delhi Email: igf.naeb@gov.in
4. **Dr. Koustubha Upadhyaya**, Advisor (Ayurveda) Ministry of Ayush, New Delhi E-mail: adviser-ayush@gov.in
5. **Dr Anil Kumar Vijayan**, Scientist E, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Prithvi Bhawan, opposite India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi Email: srivastava.pks@gov.in; anilkumar.v@gov.in
6. **Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta**, Scientist-G, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore E-mail: ghoshm@icfre.org
7. **Dr. B. Balaji, IFS**, Member Secretary, NBA, 5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113 Email: secretary@nba.nic.in

Member Secretaries, SBBs

8. **Shri Sudeep Singh, IFS**, Member Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Biodiversity Board, Wan Bhawan, Bhopal. E-mail: mpsbb@mp.gov.in
9. **Shri Chaitanya Murti, IFS**, Member Secretary, Tripura Biodiversity Board, Aranya Bhawan, Agartala, West Tripura. E-mail: c.murti@gov.in
10. **Shri P. Ramakrishna, IFS.**, CCF & Member Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh E-mail: apsbiodiversityboard@gmail.com
11. **Dr. Nihar Ranjan Nayak**, Senior Scientist, Odisha Biodiversity Board, Regional Plant Resource Centre Campus, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar. E-mail: msobb@rediffmail.com

Non official members

12. **Shri Hanchinal Rayappa Ramappa**, 142, MIG-II, KHB Colony, DN Koppa, Dharwad-581118 Email: rrhanchinal@rediffmail.com; rrhanchinal@gmail.com
13. **Dr. Joykumar Meitei Laishram**, Retired Professor and Dean, Keishamehong Longjam Leikai, 84C, Imphal, Manipur 795004 Email: jmlaishram@rediffmail.com
14. **Dr. Aditya Kumar Joshi**, Ex-PCCF, Manipur, House No. 6, Armadale Compound, Mallital, Nainital, Uttarakhand Email: adityai0185@gmail.com; adityaijifs@gmail.com
15. **Dr. Alka Rao**, Advisor (Regulation, Science & Standards), Food Safety and Standard Authority of India, New Delhi, Email: rao.alka@fssai.gov.in , & Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh-160036 Email: raoalka@imtech.res.in
16. **Dr. Gouri Joshi**, 401, Balwant ashram, Behind Nirmiti Elite, Law College Road, Erandwane, Pune, Maharashtra - 41 1004. Email: Bonjaee.envirolegal@gmail.com; bonjaee@gmail.com