





NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 62ND AUTHORITY MEETING

21st September 2021

Venue

Teesta Hall
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi110003

Proceedings of the 62nd Authority Meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority, held on 21st September, 2021

The 62nd Authority meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was held on 21st September, 2021 at the Teesta Hall of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.B. Mathur, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The list of participants is placed as Annexure-I.

- 2. Dr.V.B. Mathur, Chairperson, NBA welcomed all the Members for the meeting and requested all the members to introduce themselves as this was the first physical meeting after the new non-official members joined as the Authority members. He also welcomed Dr. Anamika Gambhir, Scientist F, Department of Biotechnology who joined virtually.
- 3. Thereafter, Shri. J. Justin Mohan, Secretary, NBA presented the agenda items as under:

62.01 Confirmation of the Proceedings of the 61st Authority meeting

The draft proceedings of the 61st Authority meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority held on 30th April, 2021 through virtual mode were confirmed by the Authority members.

Decision: The members confirmed the Proceedings of the 60th Authority meeting.

Action: NIL

62.02 Action Taken Report of the 61st Authority Meetings

The Secretary, NBA apprised the members about the actions taken and actions that are in progress on the decisions taken in the 61st Authority Meeting. Dr. Chaitra requested an update on the proposed Amendments to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 (Agenda No.61.18.9). To this, Dr. Kerketta, Advisor, MoEF&CC updated the members that the amendment process is in the final stages with the Ministry and would be communicated to the Authority members soon. He said that Ministry has held a series of consultation meetings before finalizing the amendments. The members opined that the proposed Draft Amendments to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 may be sent to all the NBA Authority members before being placed before the public. Chairman, NBA

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mentioned that the draft would be forwarded to the members, once NBA receives it officially from MoEF&CC.

Decision: Members noted the action taken on the decisions taken during the 61st Authority meeting.

Action: NIL

62.03: ABS applications dealt by the Secretariat

Based on the EC report, Authority in its 54th and 55th meeting vide agenda no. 54.20.03, endorsed the recommendation that NBA Secretariat may deal with the applications as per the recommendations of the Expert Committee chaired by Shri. A.K.Goyal. Accordingly, NBA vide O/o dated 19th March 2020 issued an order for processing ABS applications in NBA without referring to Expert Committee on ABS. However, in case of any Contravention/ difficulty such cases alone were to be placed before the EC on ABS for examination.

Accordingly, Secretary, NBA apprised the members that the NBA Secretariat has cleared 258 applications (Form I-38, Form II-1, Form III-218, Form IV-1) and signed agreement for 141 applications (Form I-10, Form III-131) between April 2021 and August 2021.

Dr. Alka Rao said that the increase in the ease of business could lead to an increase in the number of applications. She suggested that applicant (especially foreign applicants) should be given single window provisions to execute request for necessary regulatory approval and material transfer as mandated by the BD Act. As a pilot, NBA can have an approval pipeline for microbes wherein approval once granted is directly forwarded to Designated Repositories for material dispatch under intimation to NBA. This will consolidate the process at one national point (NBA) and further improve the visibility of NBA internationally. Dr. S.Kerketta informed that MoEF&CC has a portal named Parivesh whose second phase is being developed and would be including all the bodies under this portal including NBA for ease of doing business.

Secretary, NBA also informed that the Form I applications are being sent to SBBs as part of consultation for the access of bio resources and in order to reduce delay, the time period for SBBs to offer their consent or objection has been reduced to 15 days

Decision: The applications cleared and executed by NBA were noted by the Authority.

Action: NBA Secretariat

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62.04: Proceedings of the 62nd meeting of the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing(EC on ABS) held on 11th August 2021

Secretary, NBA informed that the 62nd meeting of the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing (EC on ABS) was held on 11th August 2021 through virtual mode. A total of 33 applications were placed before the EC for examination, out of which, 31 applications were recommended for approval and 2 applications (Proceedings 62.23 and 62.29) were deferred for seeking clarifications from the applicant.

The members examined the Proceedings of the EC on ABS and discussed the following:

A. Agenda No. 62.05 of the Proceedings of the 62nd EC on ABS meeting-

Applicant: M/s. Fuelix International Pvt. Ltd- Section 3(2) entity

Dr. Unnat Pandit said that Agenda No. 62.05 of the EC on ABS enclosed as Annexure III pertains to an invention of a "Smart ventilation and temperature controlled device for organic waste management using black soldier fly larvae" which is an invention of a device for organic waste management and which does not have a bio resource involved in the invention and hence does not come under the purview of the BD Act, 2002. He felt that such inventions which would be used for organic waste management should be encouraged and should not be brought under the BD Act. However, members deliberated that the black soldier fly larvae are required for using the device. Members decided that the EC on ABS may re-examine this application and the recommendation of the EC can be placed before the Authority in its next meeting.

During discussions, Dr. Unnat Pandit informed that IPR applications should not be levied with royalty along with the benefit sharing from the sale of the product. Dr. V.B.Mathur, Chairman, NBA informed that the NBA Secretariat is only implementing the existing ABS Regulations, 2014 to levy benefit sharing and accordingly,

- (a) Where the applicant himself commercializes the process/product/ innovation, the monetary benefit sharing shall be 0.2% on the annual gross ex-factory sale minus government taxes.
- (b) Where the applicant assigns/licenses the process/product/innovation to a third party for commercialization, the applicant shall pay to NBA 3.0% of the fee received (in any form including the license / assignee fee) and 2.0% of the royalty amount received annually from the assignee/licensee.

Dr. Unnat Pandit opined that NBA should charge 0.2% on the cost of the biological

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resource utilized in the invention and not on the annual gross ex-factory sale minus government taxes. He further added that since NBA does not play any role in the invention of a product or process, it cannot levy any royalty from the inventor.

In this context, Dr. Alka Rao pointed to the provisions given in Annexure I-Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing options of the Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefit Sharing Regulations, 2014 and requested the Chairman, NBA to take into account these options while determining the ABS.

The members suggested that the EC on ABS should examine these issues and especially those pertaining to Royalty and come up with their recommendations on levying benefit sharing on IPR applicants.

B. Agenda No. 62.03 of the Proceedings of the 62nd EC on ABS meeting-

Applicant: M/s. Omni Active Health Technologies-Section 3(2) entity

Dr. Unnat Pandit observed that the upfront payment calculated for this application was higher than the cost of the bio resources that the applicant would have spent on. He requested clarification on the rationale for arriving at the upfront amount. Shri. Achalender Reddy, Member informed that the application was submitted under a scheme to regularize past access and upfront payment was being levied to condone past violations. Dr. V.B.Mathur, Chairman, NBA explained that the highest percentage of benefit sharing is imposed in violation cases.

Members deliberated and noted that this upfront calculation has been done based on the Guidelines on Access and Benefit sharing Regulations, 2014. Members also decided that the EC on ABS can review the existing upfront payment for research work and come up with their recommendations which can be placed before the Authority.

C. Agenda No. 62.07 of the Proceedings of the 62nd EC on ABS meeting-

Applicants: M/s Tricho Agronica Pvt. Ltd., and Indian Oil Corporation Limited

Dr. Unnat Pandit observed that Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is a government run company and is under Section 7 of the BD Act, 2002. Secretary, NBA opined that the company may have foreign shares and hence has been considered under Section 3(2) of the BD Act, 2002. Dr. Unnat Pandit_requested NBA to clarify whether the IOCL Company has submitted their share pattern to consider it under the Section 3(2). Dr. V.B.Mathur informed that IOCL is a listed company and their share holding pattern will be examined.

After deliberations, the recommendations of the applications other than 3702, 4675, 4281 (Agenda No. 62.03, 62.05 and 62.07 of the proceedings of the 62nd EC on ABS) were approved by the members and the three applications would be placed again before the EC on ABS for reconsideration. Shri. Achalender Reddy,IFS pointed out that the categorization of the applications placed before the EC on ABS have to be explicit and mentioned separately if a 3(2) entity is an applicant.

Decision: a. The Authority members decided that the recommendations on the Applications 3702, 4675, 4281 (Agenda No. 62.03, 62.05 and 62.07 of the proceedings of the 62nd EC on ABS) may be reconsidered by the Expert committee on Access and Benefit Sharing.

- b. The members decided that the provisions given in Annexure I-Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing options of the Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and associated knowledge and Benefit sharing Regulations, 2014 may be considered when determining the ABS.
- c. The members decided that the ABS component for the Form III (Patent) applications may be reexamined for the future applications.
- d. The Authority members approved the recommendations of the EC on ABS for the remaining applications (28 applications).
- e. The members decided to reconsider the Guidelines on Access and Benefit Sharing Regulations, 2014 after the Amendments to the BD Act, Rules and Regulations are completed.
- f. NBA to clarify whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited is a Section 3(2) entity or a Section 7 entity by placing the same before the EC on ABS.
- g. The EC on ABS shall also examine the upfront payment being levied for research and submit their recommendations to the Authority.

Action: NBA Secretariat

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62.05: Proceedings of the 63rd meeting of the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing(EC on ABS) held on 25th August 2021

Secretary, NBA informed that the 63rd meeting of the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing (EC on ABS) was held on 25th August 2021 through virtual mode. A total of 7

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applications were placed before the EC for examination, wherein five applications under Form I and two applications under Form III were recommended for approval by the EC.

Decision: The Authority approved the recommendations of the 63rd EC on ABS.

Action: NBA Secretariat

62.06 Financial support for the BMCs having Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

To conserve the areas of biodiversity importance and promote community conservation outside the designated protected areas, the State Governments in consultation with the local bodies may notify the Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) under the provisions of Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

The NBA has issued a set of standard guidelines for identification and management of the BHS. It is also necessary for the States and Union Territories to identify and establish BHS. The states and UTs are to prepare a management plan for the notified BHS as indicated in the BHS guidelines. In this context, there is a need to develop a framework for the management plan of BHS and mobilize resources to initiate conservation actions and protect the biodiversity rich sites.

Till date, 22 BHSs have been notified in 12 States. The Indian States/UTs may bring more such areas of biodiversity importance under the ambit of Section 37 of the BD Act to recognize the significant role of BHSs under the other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) The NBA has constituted a BHS committee to review the existing BHS guidelines and identifythe gaps, if any concerning identification and management of BHS.

A financial assistance of Rs. 1,00,000/- is proposed for each BMC which takes initiatives to notify BHS in their jurisdiction as this would serve as an encouragement to prepare a management plan for the BMC and to manage the same. The members opined that this financial assistance could be seed money for management of the site and to encourage the active involvement of the respective BMCs in conservation activities and to develop management plans.

The members appreciated this proposal and also suggested that the financial requirement may be included in the annual budget of the local body (Grant in Aid).

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Decision: a. The members decided that a token financial assistance of Rs. 1,00,000 may be given to the concerned BMC to establish Biodiversity Heritage Sites and develop its Management Plan(s).

b. The members also decided that the financial requirement may be included in the annual budget of the local body (Grant in Aid).

Action: NBA Secretariat

62.07: Annual Accounts for the year 2020 - 21

As per Authority decision in the 13th Authority meeting vide Agenda 13.15 in which Members approved that "Chairman, NBA is authorized to approve the "Annual Accounts comprising of receipts and payment account, income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet" for the conduct of statutory audit by O/o the Principal Director of Audit (Scientific Departments). Based on the above authorization, the Annual Accounts of NBA for the year 2020 – 21 was approved by Chairman and submitted for Audit (conducted by the Director of Audit (Scientific Department) and placed before the members.

The members approved the Annual Accounts for the year 2020 – 21.

Decision: The members approved the Annual Account for the year 2020-21

Action: NBA Secretariat

62.08: ABS – e-Filing Application software to NIC – Revision of Contract terms

In 2015, NBA had awarded a contract to NIC for the development of ABS application to automate the process of submission of ABS Applications by Users through online and processing the same internally for grant of approvals to the applicants. The contract value was Rs. 35,33,738/- excluding tax.

- The beta version of Phase –I was released in November 2016 and was later launched by the then Hon'ble MoEF&CC on 30th March 2017. Thereafter the work for Phase – II has commenced.
- Secretary, NBA explained that in phase-I, the online submission of Application is

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carried out and in Second phase, the process/automation for "Internal working of NBA" would be carried out.

- 3. The Phase I e-Filing Application software is on live run from July 2017 and till date NIC is giving continuous support to NBA in maintenance of the Phase I Application software free of cost though, free AMC was only for one year from the date of completion. The Phase I Application is being hosted in the NIC's Meghraj-cloud platform (of MoEFCC domain) from July 2017 without any annual charges. The data is continuously being backed-up.
- 4. Secretary, NBA mentioned that the Phase –II of the project is almost complete and can be deployed on completion of Security Audit. The NIC has now requested NBA vide letter No. NIC/E&F/2021-01/NBA-5 dated 8/9/2021 the following:
- a. To confirm the re-alignment of the entire Project as Phase I (ABS e-Filing online application process) and Phase II (Internal Processing of ABS applications by NBA staff and officers).
- b. To sanction Annual Maintenance Charges for Phase I immediately, since NIC has already maintained the Phase-I, free of cost for 4 years, in spite of obligation for one year only as per contract. The AMC for one year is Rs.16,94,157/-(plus applicable tax)
- c. The proposal was submitted for treating the Project as Two phases and to approve AMC @ Rs.16,94,157/-(plus applicable tax) from the date of approval by the Authority.

The members approved the AMC @ Rs.16,94,157/-(plus applicable tax) to NIC and also requested NBA to coordinate with NIC and organize a Demo on the ABS e-Filing – online application process in the next Authority meeting.

Decision: a.The members approved the AMC @ Rs.16,94,157/-(plus applicable tax) to NIC.

b. NBA to coordinate with NIC and organize a Demo on the ABS e-Filing – online application process in the next Authority meeting.

Action: NBA Secretariat

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62.09 Ratification of decisions on Form-B applications

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- B 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 subsequentauthority meetings for ratification.

Secretary, NBA informed that Chairperson, NBA has granted approval for **07** applications and closed 03 **Form-B** applications and was ratified by the members.

Decision: The Authority members considered and ratified the decisions taken on the 10 Form B applications

Action: Nil

62.10 Details of Form-C applications received by the NBA

The Authority in its 37th meeting held in March 2016 under agenda item 37.14.02, decided thatthe Indian researchers / scientists should provide prior intimation to the NBA in the prescribed formatviz., Form-C for deposition of microorganisms in other country's repository for claim of novel species for publication in journals. However, if any non-Indian person/entity intends 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. NBA has received 233 such intimations since March 2016 –August 2021 and the same have been reported to the Authority from time to time.

Secretary, NBA informed that since April 2021, the Secretariat has received ten Form-C applications and the members noted it.

Decision: The information submitted in this regard was noted and consistently decreasing number of such applications was flagged to the Chairman NBA

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Action: Nil

62.11: To consider the applications for access to Red Sanders wood approved by the Chairperson, NBA

The applications for seeking approval for accessing the Red Sanders wood were scrutinized as per the procedure approved by the Authority in its 32nd (32.07) & 35th Authority (35.03 & 35.19.01). In the 32nd Authority meeting (32.07), the Authority authorized the Chairman, NBA to accord approval such applications without following the normal procedure and also directed the NBA Secretariat to place such approvals in the subsequent Authority meeting for ratification. Accordingly, the Chairperson, NBA approved seven applications and closed one application which was ratified by the members.

Dr. Unnat Pandit deliberated on the mechanism of export and import of Red Sanders. Shri. Achalender Reddy, IFS explained the mechanism of access of Red Sanders from the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department and also the export of Red Sanders.

Decision: The Authority members considered and ratified the decisions taken on the 7 Red Sanders applications.

Action: Nil

62.12: Extension of the Tenure of Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing for evaluation of the ABS applications.

Secretary, NBA informed that the tenure of Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing for evaluation of the ABS applications has been extended up to 31st December 2021. The composition of the committee and other terms and conditions will remain the same as per the Office Order dated 28.08.2021.

Decision: The Authority ratified the extension of the tenure of the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing for period till 31st December, 2021.

Action: NIL

62.13: Reconstitution of NBA Expert Committee on Agro-biodiversity

Secretary, NBA explained that in exercise of powers conferred under sub-section (1) of Section 13 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 read with Rule 11 of Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, it is proposed to re-constitute the Expert Committee on agro-biodiversity under the

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Chairmanship of Director, ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM). He further informed that the members are drawn from six National Bureaus of ICAR and other subject matter experts to deal with issues relating to biodiversity and agriculture and make recommendations thereof.

Dr. Gunasekharan suggested that representative of Joint Secretary (Seeds), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare may also be added in the list of EC members. He also mentioned that representative from PPVFRA may also be added in the list of EC members. Shri. Achalender Reddy said that considering the significance of Agrobiodiversity and Agroforestry, a representation of DG, ICFRE may also be included in the Committee.

Decision: The members decided that a representative of Joint Secretary (Seeds), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, PPVFRA and DG, ICFRE may also be added in the list of EC members.

Action: NBA Secretariat

62.14: Reconstitution of the India Biodiversity Award (IBA) Jury, 2023

The India Biodiversity Awards is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority and the United Nations Development Programme. IBA is an innovative mechanism to identify and recognize the efforts of individuals, communities and institutions working towards biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biological resources, access and benefit sharing and biodiversity governance. Till date, five cycles of IBA have been completed in the years 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2021. The awards were institutionalized by the National Biodiversity Authority in 2017. Application process for India Biodiversity Awards 2023 has been uploaded on the NBA website.

The winners of India Biodiversity Awards 2023 will be given a Memento, a Certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakhs under categories such as Conservation and Sustainable use of Biological Resources; Best Biodiversity Management Committee; Incentivizing Access and Benefit Sharing and Best Peoples' Biodiversity Register. Two certificates of appreciation will also be given in each category with a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh each.

Secretary, NBA informed that the IBA Jury, 2023 has been reconstituted with Dr. A.K. Gupta, Former PCCF & HoFF, Government of Tripura as Chairperson and Dr. Neelima Jerath,

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Director General, Pushpa Gujaral Science City, Punjab as Co-Chair and the members noted it.

Decision: The information submitted in this regard was noted

Action: Nil

62.15: Preparation of MoEFCC-NBA-UNDP document 'Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Biological Diversity Act, 2002'

Secretary, NBA informed that as desired by Chairman, the NBA in collaboration with the UNDP had organized a brainstorming session cum workshop on 'Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 on 13-14 August 2021 at Chennai. The sessions had the participation of senior officials who held long tenures as Member Secretaries of some of the SBBs as well as legal professionals. The meeting identified a set of 164 questions to be included in this document. He further informed that related activities are underway to draft responses to each of the Question and will be finalized by end of December, 2021.

Decision: The information submitted in this regard was appreciated by the members.

Action: Nil

62.16: Submission of Interim Report of the Expert Committee on Digital Sequence Information (DSI)

MoEFCC vide Office Memorandum No.CS-C12017/44/2020-CS-III dated 13 April, 2020 requested NBA to constitute an Expert Committee on Digital Sequence Information (DSI). Accordingly, NBA vide Office Memorandum NBA/Tech/EC/9/14/36/20-21 dated 18 April, 2020 constituted the EC under the Chairmanship of Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.).

Secretary, NBA informed that the EC met three times to deliberate on the ToRs. Chair and Members of the EC also participated in the series of webinars organized by the CBD as well as in other bilateral and pluri- lateral meetings on DSI. Taking into account the on-going meetings under the aegis of CBD, and with a view to articulate India's country position on DSI, it has been decided to submit an Interim Report of the EC.

Accordingly, NBA submitted the Interim Report to MoEFCC on 26-05-2021. Shri. Achalender Reddy explained the interim report. Dr. Unnat Pandit mentioned that a dedicated

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session may be organized by NBA on DSI inviting the Chairman of the EC on DSI and other experts. Dr. Alka Rao cited the relevant recommendation made in interim report and requested to include all stakeholders namely CSIR, ICME, DBT, DST etc. in further deliberations on DSI. She also expressed reservations of scientific community against adopting any immediate or extreme position in the context of DSI citing the fact that much of existing DSI is already in public domain or deposited in foreign databases. Dr. Chaitra also pointed that a detailed discussion is required on the India's country position on DSI. Further the members deliberated and appreciated the efforts taken on the Interim Report on DSI.

Decision: a. The information submitted in this regard was appreciated and noted.

b. NBA may organize a dedicated session on DSI inviting the Chairman of the EC on DSI and other experts and have elaborate discussion on the India's country position on DSI.

Action: NBA Secretariat

62.17: Working Group for developing methodology for assessing the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) potential for effective implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Secretary, NBA informed that vide Office Memorandum dated 30.09.2020 constituted a Working Group (WG) for developing methodology for assessing the ABS potential under the Chairmanship Dr. Giridhar Kinhal Ex PCCF (MP) & Former Director, IIFM, Bhopal. So far two meetings of the WG have been organized by NBA to deliberate on the subject.

It was proposed to extend the tenure of the WG till 31.12.2021 as requested by the Chair of the WG to complete the ToRs and submit its recommendations to the Authority. Dr. Alka Rao again pointed at the provisions in Annexure I that this committee can develop the mechanism based on the Annexure I of the -Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing options of the Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefit Sharing Regulations, 2014 to determine ABS.

Decision: a. The information submitted in this regard was noted.

b. The members decided that WG may also develop the mechanism based on the Annexure I of the -Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing options of the Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefit Sharing Regulations, 2014 to determine ABS.

Action: NBA Secretariat

62.18: Reconstitution of Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplaces

Government of India has also passed the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act & Rules 2013 to create a safe environment for the womenat their workplaces.

Secretary, NBA informed that NBA has reconstituted an Internal Complaints Committee (NBA-ICC) on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace vide F.No.2/109/10-11/Admn/21-22/1127 Dated 6th August, 2021 to ensure right to work with dignity as universally recognized as a human right. Dr. Unnat Pandit suggested that NBA may request the National Commission for Women to give a training program to the NBA staff. Dr. Alka Rao informed the chairman that CSIR-HRDC, Ghaziabad does facilitate similar trainings in routine and NBA may approach them if required.

Decision: The information submitted in this regard was appreciated by the members.

Action: NBA Secretariat

62.01A Voluntary Certification Scheme for Incentivization of Access and Benefit Sharing

The voluntary certification for incentivization of ABS is a step towards creating a brand for the business entities, through an award of a logo to those who have already complied with the ABS requirements of BD Act and CBD for utilization of biological resources and/or associated knowledge in the National and international Market.

Chairman, NBA informed that NBA assigned the task of preparation of a Voluntary Certification Scheme for incentivization of Access and Benefit Sharing process to the Quality Council of India (QCI) under the NBA-UNDP-ABS Project.

Accordingly, the QCI is in the process of developing a scheme with the following objectives:

- (a) To recognise the non-monetary benefit extended by the approved entities into an incentive Scheme.
- (b) To create a differentiator for entities that are certified as per the Scheme that will assist them

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in gaining market leadership and get access to newer markets.

(c) To come up with a mechanism so that the consumer is provided with a choice to purchase commodities from entities that have assisted the communities from where they have procured

bio-resources.

(d) To make India a hub of ABS compliant entities by certification of businesses to grant them

ABS logo.

Chairman, NBA informed that one of the requirements of the process is the development of a logo for this scheme and getting it registered. Based on a series of consultations the logo has been designed that aptly communicates the intent of the scheme. The Authority members approved this logo for registration and to continue with the development of the scheme. Dr. Unnat Pandit suggested that depiction of the floral element in the logo may be enhanced

Decision: The Authority members approved this logo for registration and to continue with the development of the scheme.

Action: NBA Secretariat

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

With the permission of Chair, Shri. C. Achalender Reddy flagged the issue of non-payment of honorarium due to non-official members of NBA and requested Chairman to facilitate the same in line with other government agencies. Dr. Unnat Pandit and Dr. Alka Rao also cited relevant references and instances where honorarium is being paid in Gol/ its agencies. Chairman NBA and Dr. S. Kerketta agreed to the concern and it was decided that this issue will be taken up for further consideration through proper channel.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from and to the Chair.

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J. JUSTIN MOHAN, IFS सचिव / SECRETARY

राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण

National Biodiversity Authority भारत सरकार / Govt. of India

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तरमणि, चेन्नई / Taramani, Chennai - 600113.

Annexure I

List of Participants

SI No	Name and Designation
	Official Members
1	Dr. V.B. Mathur, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai
2	Dr. S. Kerketta, Advisor &Scientist G,CS-III Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi. s.kerketta66@gov.in
3	Dr. Anamika Gambhir, Scientist F, Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi, anamika@dbt.nic.in
4	Dr. Gunasekaran, Assistant Commissioner (Seeds), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
5	Dr. Manoj Kumar Modi, Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi
	Non-official Members
6	Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS(Retd.), Director, Centre for Innovations in Public Systems, achal.reddy@gmail.com
7	Dr. Joykumar Meitei Laishram, Professor and Dean, College of Agriculture, Central Agriculture University, imlaishram@rediffmail.com
8	Dr. Alka Rao, Principal Scientist,CSIR- Institute of Microbial Technology(CSIR-IMTECH), Chandigarh – 160036,

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ा प्रशिक्ष भोतन, वर्तावृक्षास्य J. JUSTIN MOHAN, IFS स्वीय / SEORETARY यक्षीय जेव विविधता शांधनत्या National Biodiversity Authority यास्त सरका / Govt of India विवेश तथ, स्वयस्त बयोगकी 5th First TICEL Biogark सीएसआई यह / CSM Road