



## NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY

(A statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,  
Government of India)

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F.No.NBA/TechGen/22/239/26/26-27/ 159

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2026

### OFFICE ORDER

**Sub:** Reconstitution of the Expert Committee on Agro biodiversity - reg.

**Ref:** No. NBA/2/82/Admin/EC/09/17-18/30368, dt. 04<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.

In exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 as amended in 2023, an Expert Committee on Agrobiodiversity is herewith re-constituted to deal with issues relating to agriculture and make recommendations thereof as under:

|                 |                                                      |                                                                      |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chairman</b> | Dr. P.L.Gautam, Former Chairperson of NBA and PPVFRA |                                                                      |
| <b>Co-Chair</b> | The Chairperson, PPVFRA                              |                                                                      |
| <b>MEMBERS</b>  |                                                      |                                                                      |
| 1               | <b>The Joint Secretary</b>                           | Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare                            |
| 2               | <b>The Director</b>                                  | National Innovation Foundation, Ahmedabad                            |
| 3.              | <b>The Deputy Director General (Crop Science)</b>    | Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi            |
| 4               | <b>The Director (Research)</b>                       | Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore                       |
| 5               | <b>A representative</b>                              | NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad                                  |
| 6               | <b>The Director</b>                                  | National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi                |
| 7               | <b>The Director</b>                                  | National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal                  |
| 8               | <b>The Director</b>                                  | National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, ICAR, Lucknow             |
| 9               | <b>The Director</b>                                  | National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms , Lucknow |
| 10              | <b>The Director</b>                                  | National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects , Bangalore      |
| 11              | <b>The Director</b>                                  | Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi                      |
| 12              | <b>The Director</b>                                  | Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore           |

|                        |                           |                                                                        |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13                     | <b>The Director</b>       | Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Research (DMAPR), Anand    |
| 14                     | <b>The Director</b>       | G.B. Pant 'National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Almora         |
| 15                     | <b>Dr. M. Sanjappa</b>    | Former Director, Botanical Survey of India                             |
| 16                     | <b>The Director</b>       | Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Chennai                           |
| 17                     | <b>Dr. K.T. Parthiban</b> | Former Dean, Forest College and Research Institute, TNAU, Mettupalayam |
| <b>Member Convener</b> |                           |                                                                        |
|                        | <b>Dr. B.Balaji, IFS</b>  | Member Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai             |
| <b>Coordinator</b>     |                           |                                                                        |
|                        | <b>Dr. K.P.Raghuram</b>   | Technical Officer (BS), National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai       |

**2 Terms of Reference of the Committee shall be as under**

- a) To suggest ways and means to mainstream biodiversity concerns in the agriculture sector to ensure conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing arising out of use of biological resources.
- b) To examine the "Guidelines for International Collaboration Research Projects involving Transfer or exchange of Biological Resources or information relating thereto" issued in 2006 by the MoEFCC under section 5 of the BD Act.
- c) To examine the issues pertaining to seed sector vis-à-vis implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- d) To suggest ways to conserve threatened native varieties of plants and livestock of agricultural importance.
- e) To provide inputs for international legal instruments like ITPGRFA, as and when required.
- f) Any other issues/documents/information that are relevant to the subject may also be examined and provide recommendation to NBA.

3. The committee can invite experts to the meetings whenever required as special invitee with the permission of NBA.

4. Committee may form sub-committees within the EC, as and when required, to discuss and suitable recommendations on the issues.

5. The NBA may amend the ToRs, if required.

6. **The tenure of the committee shall be ONE YEAR from the date of issue of this order.**

7. The guidelines for the Expert Committee shall be as referred to in Annexure.

This issue with the approval of the Competent Authority.

  
**(B. Balaji)**  
 Member Secretary, NBA

## GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are issued for proper conduct of the meetings to achieve the expected outcomes.

1. The expert committees are being constituted mainly to advise the NBA on technical, techno-legal, administrative, scientific, statutory and miscellaneous matters, as the NBA does not have the required in-house expertise and experience in various disciplines. The role of the expert committee is more or less similar to that of 'Amicus Curiae' in the court of Law.
2. The Chair of the EC is authorised to decide the mode of the meeting to be convened, either physical or through virtual mode or Hybrid mode.
3. The Chair of the Committee, in consultation with the Member Secretary, NBA can (1) invite additional experts in the subject matter, if required, to the meeting of EC as special invitees, (2) to hold or conduct a meeting in any part of India, if it is deemed fit, to expedite the task assigned in consultation with NBA.
4. The Chairman and members are requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting at the fixed venue and time. The NBA will arrange transport from the Airport / Railway station/bus stand to and from the venue of the meeting.
5. In respect of the travel cost, the fares by Air (economy class) / train (AC I class / AC II tier) ., incurred by the Chairman, Co-chair and the non-official members / special invitees shall be reimbursed on production of the tickets and boarding pass along with bills in the prescribed format provided by NBA. The lodging and boarding will be provided by the NBA. The AC taxi fare will be reimbursed as and when the bill is produced with the TA Bill. Alternatively, road mileage will be paid based on the declaration of Kms.
6. In respect of official members, the travel cost (Air fare & road journey) to reach Chennai & back shall be borne by their parent organizations. However, if official members give a declaration that their parent organisation is not providing travel costs, then the NBA shall reimburse the travel costs after getting approval from the Competent Authority. The local lodging & boarding logistics, i.e., transport cost at Chennai, will be borne by NBA.
7. As per the directions issued by the Ministry of Finance vide O.M. no. No. 19024/03/2021-E. IV, dated 16.06.2022, the Members are required to purchase the ticket from **three authorised travel agents viz. M/s. Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited (BLCL), M/s. Ashok Travels & Tours (ATT) and Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC)** only. The tickets booked other than these authorised agencies will not be reimbursed. The submission of a boarding pass shall be mandatory for reimbursement by the NBA.
8. The Chair, Co-Chair are entitled for Rs.6000/per day of sitting fee and all non-official members of the EC are entitled for Rs.4000/per day of sitting.

9. The Chairman and members may preferably arrive at the city of venue one day in advance before the scheduled date of meeting.
10. The committee is requested to submit the proceedings/summary of discussions to the NBA duly authenticated by all the members. In order to finalise and submit proceedings/summary of the meeting on the same day, outstation members are requested to plan their return journey on the next day of the meeting. If required, the Chair, Co-chair and a few selected members at the discretion of the Chairman, EC may stay for one more day and leave on the next day AN (Three nights), after finalising the draft proceedings of the meeting.
11. This may please be coordinated by the Coordinator in consultation with the Chair and Co-Chair of the EC. Under exceptional circumstances, the Chairman, EC may get the summary/proceedings/ minutes finalised at later dates and send the document to NBA duly authenticated by all members (*through e-mail*) who were present in the meeting. In such case, a lump sum of Rs.3000/- will be paid to the Chairman to meet the postal expenses, mobile, internet charges and cost of secretarial assistance at his place of stay on request. For payment of a lump sum, a self-declaration to the effect that the expenditure has actually been incurred for the above purpose has to be furnished by the Chairman.
12. In the absence of Chairman, the Co-Chair will conduct the proceedings of the meeting.
13. The committee is requested to go through the subject area and refer to BD Act 2002 as amended in 2023, Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 and ABS Regulations, 2025, and other relevant laws, scientific articles, and books and browse the internet to facilitate lively and useful discussion on the subject. All members are requested to go through the previous Report submitted by the EC.
14. The Chairman and members may exchange notes and views through the Internet on the subject area to be discussed during the meeting.
15. Given the sensitivity and nature of deliberations of the Committee, members are requested not to engage in any bilateral discussion with non-members regarding the subject matter. However, they can collect information from non-members working in similar autonomous and statutory bodies that may be useful for the expert committee.
16. The Member Secretary, NBA, after obtaining prior permission from the Chairperson, NBA, is authorised to invite, as and when required, any other experts/ professionals to the meetings of the expert committee as special invitees.
17. The Chair and Co-chair are authorised to conduct meetings anywhere in India in consultation with the Member Secretary, NBA.
18. The Chairperson of the Expert Committee is vested with powers to constitute sub-committees to contribute/ draft interim reports and review specific chapters of the final report. The Coordinator shall assist the Chair and Co-chair in coordination and organising work of sub-committees. Those who write chapters or contribute actively to compiling information will be paid a workday allowance by the NBA on the recommendation of the Chair of EC. However, the NBA will pay the amount as per its discretion. This is in addition to sitting fees.

19. The Coordinator will convene the meetings after consulting the Focal point in NBA. If required, he can visit anywhere in India with the prior approval of the Chairman of NBA.

20. The Coordinator may submit a summary of the proceedings of every meeting after getting the approval of the Chair, Co-chair and all Members through email. He will coordinate with the entire group/ sub-committees and see that the final report is submitted within time. If required, the Coordinator may travel separately to any city to meet the Chair of EC, Co-chair of EC, to plan the meetings after obtaining approval from the Chairman, NBA.

21. Since it is not possible to take all members of the committee to interact with Senior officers/ Chief Secretaries of States/ UTs, the Chair of the EC, in consultation with the Co-chair and Member Secretary, shall decide the composition of the delegation. Alternatively, the Chair, Co-chair, Member Secretary, & Convener may form a delegation of three and interact with officials of states and UTs and other stakeholders like SBBs, private individuals, communities/ NGOs/ Autonomous councils/ Panchayat Raj functionaries/ Associations, etc. The Member Secretary NBA may join the delegation if possible.

22. The Chairman of NBA reserves the right to change the composition of the Expert Committee without assigning any reason.

23. The Chairman, NBA, reserves the right to disband the committee without assigning any reason.

This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

  
(B. Balaji)  
Member Secretary, NBA

To

1. **Dr. P.L. Gautam**, Former Vice Chancellor (GBPUAT, Pantnagar) & Former Chairman, PPVFRA, and Former Chairman, NBA, House no. 118, Himudu Colony Bindraban, Palampur, District- Kangra- 176061, Himachal Pradesh Email:- [plgautam47@gmail.com](mailto:plgautam47@gmail.com)
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3. **The Joint Secretary (Seeds)**, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan, Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi-110114, Email: [aksahu@ias.nic.in](mailto:aksahu@ias.nic.in)
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3. The Technical Officer (BS), National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai
4. The PS to Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai.



**B. Balaji**  
Member Secretary, NBA