



Interface Meeting between PPV&FRA and NBA held on 07th August, 2023 at NBA Chennai



Interface meeting between the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPVFRA) and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was held on 7th August, 2023 at the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) office, Chennai. Dr. T. Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPVFRA, along with Dr. D.K. Agarwal, Registrar-General and Sh. D.S. Raj Ganesh, Legal Advisor, and Dr. A.K. Singh, STO, PPVFRA visited NBA for this meeting.



Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA extended a hearty welcome to the officials from PPV&FRA. Shri. Achalender Reddy, Chairperson, NBA, in his brief welcome, note stated that both PPVFR Authority



and NBA have certain common interests and that both the Authorities must strengthen the ties at field level for the benefits of the local indigenous communities. He mentioned that the recent amendment to Biological Diversity Act has settled an overlap in the two Acts, which was existing since beginning.

Dr. T. Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPVFRA thanked Chairperson and Secretary NBA for their warm welcome. He stated that the interface meeting provides an unique opportunity for convergence and synergy. He emphasised that both the Authorities should work together in areas of common interest. He stated that PPVFR Authority has taken initiatives to hold the First Global Symposium on Farmers Rights being organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation, Rome and hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India from 12th to 15th September, 2023 at New Delhi. He requested NBA to participate in the symposium.



The following agenda items were discussed in detail:

1. Joint awareness programmes.
2. Forwarding of applications of farmers varieties and applications for PGSC Award/ Reward/ Recognition by BMCs.
3. Entering of varieties of PGSC Awardees/Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Rewardees/ Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Recognition Awardees in PBR.
4. Involving PPVFRA in framing of National strategic plans for conservation of Biological Diversity under Section 36 of the Act.
5. Use of PBR for documenting, indexing and cataloguing of farmers varieties and all plant varieties and collecting statistics with regard to plant varieties.
6. Collaboration with NBA in implementing Section 45(2)(c) of PPV&FR Act, 2001.
7. Sharing of experience in legal matters.



It was agreed in principle that convergence and synergy would be considered in core areas of operation which included

- (i) Funding of BMCs by PPVFRA for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of plant genetic resources through National Gene Fund,
- (ii) Joint efforts to secure income tax exemption for donations to National Gene Fund and National Biodiversity Fund,
- (iii) Sourcing and Securing Corporate Social Responsibility Funds for National Gene Fund and National Biodiversity Fund and
- (iv) Utilisation of PBR for the benefit of registration of farmers varieties and nomination of awardees of Plant Genome Saviour Community Award/ Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Reward and Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Recognition by the BMCs. It was agreed to hold such meetings regularly.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all the participants.
