

# ISWS History & Memories

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# A.N. Rao

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# My memories with ISWS

y association with ISWS started in 1977, when I was working for my Ph.D. and published a paper in Indian Journal of Weed Science (IJWS) (Rao et al., 1977). I became Life Member of ISWS on 25 June 1981. ISWS has introduced me to Asian Pacific Weed Science Society (APWSS), when ISWS has conducted the eighth Asian Pacific Weed Science Society Conference at Bangalore, Karnataka during November 22 to 29, 1981. I presented a paper at that conference (Rao and Shetty, 1981). It was a fascinating experience to participate in an international conference and listen to Drs. H.R. Arakeri (India), G.L. Mercado (Philippines), D.L. Plucknett (USA), R.K. Nishimoto (USA), P.W. Michael (Australia), K.A. Watson (Australia), S. Matsunaka (Japan), C.H. Teoh (Malaysia), U. Suwunnamek (Thailand), T. I. Cox (New Zealand), M.H. Lambert (Pacific Islands), M. Soerjani (Co-opted, Indonesia), K. Krishnamurthy (India), H.S. Gill (India), K.C. Nag (India), U.C. Upadhyay (India), S.K. Mukhopadyay (India) and several others. The presentation (content, slides and way of presentation) of Dr. K. Krishnamurthy has made a strong impact on me.

ISWS has enabled me to participate in Biennial Conferences held at different parts of India, meet co-Weed Scientists, chair sessions, serve as resource person to select Weed Scientists for oral and poster presentations and other awards, exchange views, develop friendship and rejuvenate to rededicate to research on Weed Science. I have presented papers and participated in ISWS Conferences held at Parbhani (1979), Bhuvaneswar (1980), Hissar (1982 and 1992), Anand (1985), Jorhat (1988), Jabalpur (1990, 2014), Varanasi (1999), New Delhi (2000), Pantnagar (2003), Hyderabad (2015) and Udaipur (2017). When I was working for IRRI at Egypt, I was invited by Dr. R.K. Malik to attend the symposium on "Integrated weed management for sustainable agriculture", organized by ISWS at Hissar. I attended and presented a paper (Hassan and Rao, 1994). It was a wonderful experience to meet and discuss with Drs. Dr. Jonathan Gressel (Israel), Dr. Jens Streibig (Denmark), R. C. Kirkwood (U.K.), A. B. Fischer (Germany) and others who attended the conference at Hissar, Haryana.

I was honored to receive ISWS awards: i.) "ISWS Fellow (2007-2008) " on 21 August 2010 at Delhi (Dr. N.T. Yaduraju, President, ISWS and Dr. Samunder Singh, Secretary, ISWS)

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(Photo: 1) and ii.) "ISWS Gold Medal (2010-2011) " on 20 April 2012 at Kerala Agric. University, Thrissur, Kerala (Dr. T.V. Muniyappa, President, ISWS and Dr. Sushil Kumar, Secretary, ISWS) (Photo: 2).

It was a wonderful movement in my career to participate in the organization of 25<sup>th</sup> APWSS conference at Hyderabad in 2015, which ISWS has organized. I was given the responsibility of Chairman, Program Committee. Dr. NT Yaduraju (President, APWSS and ISWS) was residing in Hyderabad at that time. It was a great experience to actively work along with Dr. Yaduraju and involve in several activities like identifying the venue for the conference and hotels for accommodating the delegates, choosing the gifts to be given away to all delegates of conference, attending the EC meetings and help in making key decisions regarding the conference and practically in all aspects of conference the organization. Hyderabad experience helped me in participating in the organization of 26<sup>th</sup> APWSS conference in Japan as APWSS General Secretary. Thanks to Dr. Yaduraju. It was a learning experience participating in 25<sup>th</sup> APWSS conference at Hyderabad and meeting Weed Scientists from different countries of Asian-Pacific region and getting acquainted with recent developments in Weed Science.

ISWS has given me an opportunity to serve it as a Life member (since 1981)., Councilor, A.P., Joint Secretary., Editorial Board Member, IJWS., Associate Editor, IJWS (continuing). ISWS, in collaboration with APWSS, has published four books of which I am one of the Editor (Rao and Yaduraju. 2015; Shetty et al., 2015; Rao and Matsumoto, 2017; Chandrasena and Rao, 2017) (Photo: 3)

I am grateful and indebted to ISWS, as it encouraged me at each and every step in my carrier as a Weed Scientist. I will continue to be actively associated with ISWS, to serve the cause of Weed Science, as long as I live.

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Photo: 1. Dr. A.N. Rao receiving ISWS Fellow Award (2007-08) from Dr. R.B. Singh at Delhi (Dr. I.P. Abrol and Dr. R.K. Gupta, Dr.Yaduraju in the picture).



Photo: 2. On the occasion of ISWS Gold Medal Award presentation to Dr. A.N. Rao, Hyderabad at ISWS Biennial Conference, Thrissur, Kerala during 19-20 April 2012. (Drs. C.T. Abraham, T.V. Muniyappa, A.N. Rao, A.R. Sharma and Sushil Kumar



Dr. Bibhas Ray handing over the original ISWS logo designed by him to Dr. Yaduraju, President ISWS, 21.08.2010



Photo: 3. Release of the book edited by Drs. A.N. Rao and N.T. Yaduraju at 25th APWSS Conference, Hyderabad, 2015.

