

CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS

(Revised and updated)



Adopted in GBM on October 19, 2024
held at Kanpur

Registration No. 14 dated 20th September, 1952

Soil Conservation Society of India, (SCSI)

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CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY

1. Name of the Society

- 1.1 The Society shall be called as the ‘Soil Conservation Society of India (SCSI)’.
- 1.2 The Soil Conservation Society of India (SCSI) was established at Soil Conservation Department, Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), Hazaribagh, Bihar (now in Jharkhand) during 1951. The society is registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 (Punjab Amendment Act, 1957) as extended to the Union Territory of Delhi, Registration Number 14, dated 20th September, 1952.
- 1.3 The SCSI shall be governed by this Constitution and Bye-laws in harmony therewith with effect from a date approved by General Body of the society (Revised Updated Constitution).

2. Mission

Conservation and management of natural resources for sustainable agriculture production system.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the Society shall be to promote:

- 3.1 Survey of relevant natural resources of the country *viz.* climate, land, water, plants, animals and human resources, in a systematic manner, in units of appropriate size of watersheds using, among other conventional methods, the modern techniques of remote sensing, computerized information base for preventing and control of artificial intelligence land degradation and development of production and protection programmes in the upstream as well as the downstream zones of the watersheds.
- 3.2 The spread of knowledge of sound soil and water conservation and management practices by all suitable means so as to prevent and control land degradation, manage rainwater and runoff and serve as strong foundation for all sustainable production systems from the land.
- 3.3 Bringing about an integrated approach by the people and the Government on these problems with consequential coordination in direction and execution of all

matters relating to soil and water conservation and management. This coordination will be of special significance in regard to legislative and executive policy of the Central and State Governments affecting the management of agriculture, forestry, irrigation, animal husbandry, land management, rural development, environmental protection, women participation, use of other resource and conservation programmes.

- 3.4 Spreading appreciation of the wide benefits of sound soil and water conservation practices in the effective control of soil erosion, sediment discharge and floods and increase of life of the storage reservoirs in all irrigation and water resource development projects with special reference to integrated development schemes of river valleys encompassing watershed management.

4. Programmes

To achieve these aims and objectives, the Society shall:

- 4.1 Publish journals, bulletins and special issues.
- 4.2 Compile or publish books, pamphlets, etc.
- 4.3 Convene Workshops, Symposia and Conferences, organize popular lectures, excursions and exhibitions besides organizing event of national and International days on conservation of natural resources.
- 4.4 Organize and help to form Regional Chapters of the Society in different parts of India.
- (Regional Branches or Chapters shall be entitled to retain 30% of the membership fee and funds collected by them).
- 4.5 Undertake consultancy and training projects in the relevant fields, and collaborate, where necessary, with other Voluntary Agencies and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs).
- 4.6 Celebrate important National and International days related to the mission of the society.

5. Organization

- 5.1 The Society shall consist of the following:
- (a) Patron
 - (b) Fellows
 - (c) Honorary Members
 - (d) Life Members

- (e) Annual Members
- (f) Student Members
- (g) Corporate/NGOs Members

6. Operation and Management

6.1 General Body: General Body shall be the apex decision-making body comprising of all members on roll of the Society excepting annual member and student member.

6.2 Executive Council: The affairs of the Society shall be managed by the Executive Council consisting of the following:

- (a) President
- (b) Senior Vice-President
- (c) Four Vice-Presidents (different zones)
- (d) Secretary-General
- (e) Two Joint Secretaries
- (f) Treasurer
- (g) Chief Editor of “*Journal of Soil and Water Conservation, India*”
- (h) Sixteen Councilors (Eight Elected and Eight Nominated by E.C.)

6.2.1. In case of vacancy of the President's post (for whatever reason), Senior Vice-President shall become the President till the next election. Other vacancies in the Executive Council shall be filled in by the Executive Council itself.

6.2.2. The Executive Council shall be entitled to nominate additional members for any specific purpose or for filling vacancies in the Council.

6.3 State Chapters: Each State Chapter committee will consist of one Chairman, one Secretary and one Treasurer and upto five Executive Committee members. All Life Members of the chapter will elect the committee for day to day function of the chapter for three years.

- a) Chapter chairman will inform the HQ about the elected members of the state chapter committee and get it approved from the HQ before handing over the charge to next committee.

7. Election

7.1 Election Process: Election through ballot/online will be conducted in every three years (in case of any unforeseen situation the period may be extended by the

G.B.) to elect members of Executive Council namely (a) President (b) Senior Vice-President (c) Four Vice-Presidents (d) Secretary-General (e) Two Joint Secretaries (f) Treasurer (h) Eight Councilors. The Election will be performed by a committee comprising three senior Life Members nominated by the President and approved by the Executive Council of the Society. The Committee members will be eligible to vote but not run for any position in E.C. themselves.

7.2 Eligibility for Executive Council members

- (a) **President:** Any Candidate from Delhi/NCR with life membership of at least 10 years with the society along with experience of serving at least one term as an office bearer of the SCSI.
- (b) **Senior Vice President** must possess life membership for least 10 years with the society.
- (c) **Vice Presidents** (four positions for North, South, East and West region) must possess life membership of at least 10 years with the Society.
- (d) **Secretary General** must possess life membership of at least 10 years with the society and must also be a resident of Delhi/NCR.
- (e) **Joint Secretary** (Two positions) candidates must possess life membership of at least 5 years with the society.
- (f) **Treasurer** must possess life membership of at least 5 years with the society and must also be residents of Delhi/NCR.
- (g) **Councilors** must possess life membership of the society for at least 3 years.

7.3 Responsibilities of Executive Council members

- (a) **President:** Overall working of the Headquarter and the society. Liaison with Vice Presidents for programme in different State Chapters.
- (b) **Senior Vice President:** Organization of National/International days functions, special lecture and to assist in organization of SCIS Conference.
- (c) **Vice Presidents:** Regular meeting and assistance to State Chapters within their domain in activities related to SCSI. Assistance in enlarging the base of society by enrolling more members through different State Chapters within their domain.

(d) Secretary General: All society correspondences, monitoring and assisting organizing of Executive Council and other committee, meetings at headquarter or at different State Chapters.

(e) Joint Secretary: Liaisoning between different State Chapters & HQ and assistance to State Chapters for organizing workshop/Conference/Symposium/ special days lectures/programmes, responses to different members/non members query in association with Secretary General, maintenance to society website and its regular updation.

(f) Treasurer: Keeping track of financial health, society's Income & Expenditure etc. getting society account audited and toher related activities.

(g) Councilors: Enrolling more members for the society, society publicity, assistance in the organizing of National / International Conference.

7.4 The president in consultation with Executive Council can nominate any Life Member of the society for any specific purpose. The nominee will also attend Executive Council meeting as on invited members.

7.5 All office bearers may contest for re-election only once for the same post.

7.6 The Executive Council, except the Chief Editor, shall be elected directly by the life members of the Soil Conservation Society of India and shall hold office for a period of 3 years. However, the Existing Executive Council shall continue to function with full powers till the next one is duly elected and takes charge.

8. Privilege for Membership

8.1. All the members of the SCSII shall receive the quarterly journal and newsletter and will be eligible to attend/participate seminars/symposium/ conferences organized by the society.

8.2. Members of all categories shall pay such admission fee and an annual subscription as decided by the Executive Council from time to time.

8.3. Life members shall also be entitled to the following privileges:

(i) Right to vote for different positions of the executive.

(ii) Propose and second candidates for membership and Executive Council of the society.

(iii) Receive the journals/newsletter of the Society.

(iv) Fill any office of the Society on being duly elected by the members of the society.

9. Editorial Board

- 9.1.** The post of the Chief Editor shall be filled by nomination of the incumbent by the president, SCSI and duly approved by the Executive Council of the Society. The nomination of the Chief Editor will be co-terminus with the three year term of the Executive Council.
- 9.2.** The other position in the Editorial Board including Editors, International Editors and Advisory Board Members will be filled up by the President, SCSI in consultation with the Chief Editor.

10. Finance

- 10.1.** There shall be an Annual Budget of the Society which shall be adopted by the Executive Council for the financial year from 1st April to 31st March.
- 10.2.** The funds of the Society shall be deposited in a Bank and shall be operated jointly by two signatures of:
 - (i) One: President
 - (ii) Two: Secretary-General or Treasurer
- 10.3.** The President, Senior Vice-President and Secretary-General jointly may spend upto Rs. 20,000.00 per month under their own powers beyond which they shall seek the prior approval of the Executive Council.
- 10.4.** A statement of annual accounts shall be presented to the meetings of the Executive Council.
- 10.5.** The accounts of the Society shall be audited every year by a Registered Chartered Accountant.
- 10.6.** The balance sheet shall be approved by the Executive Council and shall be included in the Annual Report of the Society to be placed before the General Body meeting or to be circulated G.B. meeting to members if it is not possible to hold such a meeting every year.

11. The Headquarter

The Headquarter of the Society which was at Hazaribagh in the first instance, stand shifted to New Delhi w.e.f. the date of decision of the General Body in this regard, i.e. January 19, 1990. The present location of the HQ of SCSI is at A/G-4, Ground Floor,

12. Awards

The society will honour its members, chapters, organization and other individuals for their outstanding contributions in achieving aims and objectives of the society and services to the society. The society will invite nomination in the standardized format prepared for the purpose, from the Life Members for different awards at least 60 days before the event for distribution of awards. Awards Performa may be downloaded from the society website. The awards are of the following two types, classified and unclassified awards.

12.1 Classified Awards:

- a) **Bhu Ratna:** The Bhu Ratna is a distinguished award bestowed once every alternate years to individuals by nomination for aged 60 or above who have made rare and exceptional contributions to society in the broader field of Soil & Water Conservation. Recipients are selected based on the rarity and significance of their work in advancing conservation efforts.
- b) **Life Time Achievement Award:** The Life Time Achievement Award recognizes Individual aged 55 or above who have garnered proven National and International recognition for their remarkable contributions to Soil and Water Conservation. This award acknowledges a lifetime of dedication and impact in the field of Soil & Water Conservation.
- c) **National Fellowship Award:** The National Fellowship Award will be granted to Life Members of the society aged 45 or above who have demonstrated outstanding research work at the national level in Soil and Water Conservation. Recipients are honored for their significant contributions to advancing knowledge and practices in the field of Soil & Water Conservation.
- d) **Gold Medal Award:** The Gold Medal Award acknowledges Life members of the society aged 40 or above who have excelled in all aspects of research, teaching, and extension work in Soil and Water Conservation. Recipients are recognized for their comprehensive contributions and expertise in the field of Soil & Water Conservation.
- e) **Leadership Award:** The Leadership Award given to individuals aged 40 or above who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in society activities or research within the realm of Soil and Water Conservation. Recipients will be honored for their visionary guidance and impactful initiatives.

- f) **Special Research Award (Best Paper):** The Special Research Award will be presented to the author of the best research paper published in the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation during the year. This award honors exceptional scholarly contributions to the advancement of knowledge in the field of Soil & Water Conservation.
- g) **Student Incentive Award (For Ph.D.):** The Student Incentive Award for Ph.D. candidates recognize the best thesis in Soil and Water Conservation during the year. This award aims to encourage and reward outstanding research conducted by Ph.D. scholars in the field of Soil & Water Conservation.
- h) **Student Incentive Award (For M.Sc.):** The Student Incentive Award for M.Sc. candidates acknowledge the best thesis in Soil and Water Conservation during the year. This award aims to recognize and incentivize excellence among M.Sc. students conducting research in the field of Soil & Water Conservation.
- i) **Best State Chapter Award:** The Best State Chapter Award will be given to one of the SCSi state chapters to recognize the chapter's outstanding achievements and contributions to the activities of the society during the year.
- j) **Best Referee of JSWC:** SCSi will recognize one of the most efficient referees for the critical role in maintaining the high standards and quality of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation during the year.

12.2 Unclassified Awards

- a) **Special Honour Award:** The Special Honour Award recognizes individuals for their significant support to society and Soil and Water conservation activities in the country. Recipients are nominated for their exceptional commitment and contribution to the cause of conservation and management of Natural Reassurances.
- b) **Honorary Membership Award:** The Honorary Membership Award is bestowed upon individuals by the nomination for aged 50 years or above who have provided special support in advancing Soil and Water Conservation activities to meet the objectives of the organization.
- c) **Sponsored Awards:** Sponsored awards by an individual, or organization or an industry/corporate (at one time payment of Rs. 1.00 lakh, 2.00 Lakh and 5.00 Lakh) will be included for a fixed duration of 10 years after getting approval of the E.C. and the consent by General Body.
 - i. **Sumer Memorial Extension Award:** The Summer Memorial Extension Award acknowledges individuals for their efforts in popularizing and

adapting Soil and Water Conservation practices at the field level. This award aims to recognize and incentivize grassroots initiatives in conservation. (From 2006 onwards)

- ii. **Prof. J.S. Bali Award:** The Prof. J.S. Bali Award honors individuals for notable innovative research and development work at the field level in Soil and Water Conservation. Recipients are recognized for their pioneering efforts in advancing conservation practices. (From 2013 onwards)
- iii. **VANEE Award for progressive farmers:** The VANEE Award for progressive farmers is presented to individuals who demonstrate innovative skills and adaptation at the farmers' level in Soil and Water Conservation. Recipients are celebrated for their exemplary contributions to sustainable agriculture. (From 2017 -2026)
- iv. **Mrs Mohini Kumari Gupta Memorial Merit Scholarship:** The Mrs Mohini Kumari Gupta Memorial Merit Scholarship recognizes the best M.Sc./Ph.D. thesis focusing on on-farm research with social involvement in Soil and Water Conservation. This scholarship aims to support and encourage research endeavors that address real-world conservation challenges. (From 2021 -2030)

An Award Committee will be constituted by the President for developing criteria for scrutinizing the application invited for different awards for the year. The committee will submit its decision to the president for approval. The HQ will arrange for printing of the certificate and communicate to the selected awardees. The Awards/honour will be presented in the forthcoming National/International Conference of the society. The details and criteria of initiating/sponsoring any new award are given in as per 12.2.

13. The Amendments

13.1. A member eligible to vote may propose an amendment to the Constitution, provided the proposal shall have the endorsement of at least ten members on roll with voting right. A proposal of amendment should be received by the Secretary General well in advance for placing to the Executive Council for review. Proposals for amendment reviewed by the Executive Council shall be included in the agenda of the subsequent meeting of the General Body for its approval.

13.2. A proposed amendment would be considered to have been adopted when it is supported by at least two- third of the total votes casted by the eligible members present in a General Body Meeting.

13.3. Frequent amendments in Constitution, however, should be discouraged; and thus, normally not be taken up before five years of its last amendment.

14. Dissolution of the Society

The Society shall be dissolved forthwith, or at the time agreed upon, if 90% or more of its members on roll are in favour of its dissolution. Thereafter, all necessary steps will be taken for disposal and settlement of all properties of the Society, its claims and liabilities, according to Rules of the Society applicable thereon.

15. These amendments and the amended sections, replace any existing clauses of the Rules and Regulations, or any past decisions of the Executive Council or General Body which might run contrary to the above Constitution and Amendments thereof.
