

**Anusandhan National Research Foundation**

(A statutory body created by an Act of Parliament-ANRF Act, 2023)  
3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Block II, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road,  
New Delhi 110 016

Dated the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

Sub: Constitution of the Technical Program Committees (TPCs) for Advanced Research Grant (ARG) - Plant Sciences Program of Anusandhan National Research Foundation - reg.

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has been established with Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) 2023 Act. The ANRF aims to seed, grow and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories. ANRF will act as an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country as per recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP). With the establishment of ANRF, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) established by an act of Parliament in 2008 has been dissolved. ANRF will forge collaborations among the industry, academia, and Government Departments and research institutions, and create an interface mechanism for participation and contribution of industries and State Governments in addition to the Scientific and line Ministries.

2. The Advanced Research Grant (ARG) is a flagship program of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), a newer variation of the Core Research Grant (CRG) program of the erstwhile Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) duly approved by the Executive Council of ANRF. Technical Program Committees (TPCs) are being constituted by engaging leading researchers and Subject Matter Experts in all the 16 verticals of the ARG. The TPC will assist ANRF in implementing the program through greater emphasis on quality, impact, collaboration, interdisciplinarity and industry participation.

3. The composition, terms of reference and tenure of the TPCs are as follows: -

3A. **Composition:** The composition of the aforesaid TPCs is mentioned at Annexure-I.

3B. **Terms of Reference of the Technical Program Committee (TPC):**

The Technical Program Committee (TPC) will have the overall responsibility of the specific vertical of the ARG assigned. The specific terms of reference are as follows:

- a) To review and assess the technical worthiness of research proposals received under the ARG program based on scientific merit and alignment with the objectives of the program.
- b) To give high-quality reviews and engage in constructive debate and discussion on the scoring of proposals.
- c) The TPC will focus on technical recommendations as expressed by scores. The specific score categories will be communicated by ANRF.



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d) Meeting with investigators may be scheduled at the discretion and coordination of the TPC co-chairs and the Program Division, in case clarifications are required for borderline cases.

e) Any observations on budget or finance on the proposal may be noted as advisement, for consideration by ANRF.

f) To monitor the progress of sanctioned projects through monitoring workshops/meetings, etc. and assess their impact.

g) The committee may meet any number of times, as required, to consider new proposals, ongoing projects as well as for technical evaluation of the tenure completed projects.

h) Any other activity to promote R&D in the respective ARG vertical.

i) The TPCs will be guided by the ANRF policies on Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest.

j) ANRF retains all final decisions with regard to the ARG program.

### 3C. Tenure of the Technical Program Committee (TPC)

The tenure of the Technical Program Committee will be 3 (three) years from the date of issue of this O.M. or until further orders.

#### 4. Empowered sub-committee of the TPC (ESC)

An empowered sub-committee may be formulated under every vertical of ARG to evaluate proposals with a total budget above Rs. 1 Crore post initial review of the full proposals. The ESC thus formulated will comprise of the Co-chairs, Program Director, Program Officer and the members relevant to the proposals from within the TPC. The ESC will be dynamic and specific only for the particular call. It will submit its recommendations to be collated by the TPC for onward submission to the ARG APEX committee.

#### 5. TA/DA/Honorarium:

Non-Official Members of the Technical Program Committee will be eligible to avail sitting fee/Honorarium of Rs.4,000/- per day and TA/DA as admissible under rules of the ANRF/Government of India and as amended from time to time for the Committee Meetings and work.

6. This O.M. is issued with the approval of CEO, ANRF.

*Deepak*

(Deepak Krishna)  
Section Officer

To

All Concerned

Copy to:

1. O/o of CEO, ANRF
2. O/o Director, ANRF
3. Guard File.



## Plant Sciences

### TPC Co-Chairs:

1. **Dr. Alok Krishna Sinha**  
National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi
2. **Dr. Shivaprasad**  
National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru

### TPC Members:

1. **Prof. Parveen Chuneja**  
Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana
2. **Prof. Manoj Prasad**  
Department of Genetics, Delhi University, Delhi
3. **Dr. Kalika Prasad**  
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune
4. **Prof. Sourav Datta**  
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal
5. **Prof. Anjan Banerjee**  
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune
6. **Prof. Nataraja Karaba**  
University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru
7. **Dr. Om Parkash Ahlawat**  
ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal
8. **Prof. Asverya Lakshmi**  
National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi
9. **Dr. Vineeta Gowda**  
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal
10. **Prof. Surekha Katyar Agarwal**  
University of Delhi, Delhi
11. **Dr. Ashish Ranjan**  
National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi
12. **Prof. Subramanyam Rajagopal**  
School of Life Sciences, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad
13. **Prof. Veena Agrawal**  
Ex-Professor, Department of Botany,  
North Campus, University of Delhi, Delhi
14. **Dr. Ashutosh K. Shukla**  
CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow
15. **Dr. Vipin Hallan**  
CSIR - Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur
16. **Dr. A. Ramesh Sundar**  
ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore
17. **Prof. Birinchi Kumar Sarma**  
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
18. **Prof. Jagreet Kaur**  
Department of Genetics, Delhi University, New Delhi



19. **Prof. Rakhi Chaturvedi**  
Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati
20. **Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Shah**  
University of Kashmir, Srinagar
21. **Dr. Prabhu B. Patil**  
CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh
22. **Dr. Jitendra Thakur**  
International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi
23. **Prof. Girdhar K. Pandey**  
Department of Plant Molecular Biology, University of Delhi, New Delhi
24. **Prof. Santhosh Nampy**  
Department of Botany, University of Calicut, Malappuram
25. **Dr. Sanjeeva Nayaka**  
CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow
26. **Prof. Sribas Roy**  
University of Hyderabad, Telangana
27. **Dr. Pradeep K. Agarwal**  
CSIR-Central Salt Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar

**ANRF Officials**

- Dr. Dipti Kakkar Thukral,  
Scientist – G & Program Director
- Dr. Shilpi Paul,  
Scientist-F & Program Officer



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