

# **REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE E.K.JANAKI AMMAL NATIONAL AWARD ON TAXONOMY**

## **1. PREAMBLE**

Biological diversity refers to the variability in the living organisms and the ecosystems of which they form part. Preservation of biological diversity is vital for maintaining ecological balance and for evolutionary processes. It has direct bearing on food security, agriculture, medicine, industry etc. The advances in biotechnology and development of products based on the use of biological resources are increasingly becoming motivating factor for greater use of biological resources.

Taxonomy is the science of identification, classification and naming of living organisms. Taxonomic work involves study of morphological characteristics and phylogenetic relationship of organisms which is essential for applied biological sciences, such as medicine, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Development of biotechnologies and their industrial applications depend heavily on taxonomy. Current requirements of taxonomic work and available expertise and studies indicate urgent need for encouraging excellence and for motivating experts to work in hitherto neglected groups of organisms e.g. microbes, lower groups of plants, animals etc. The challenge is quite serious, as while the existing expertise is ageing and retiring, not many young scholars are opting for studies in taxonomy.

In order to encourage work of excellence in taxonomy and also to encourage young students and scholars to work in this field of science, this award, named after the late Prof. E.K. Janaki Ammal was instituted in the year 1999. Late Prof. Janaki Ammal did taxonomic work of outstanding merit and excellence, particularly in the area of cytotaxonomy and has been a source of inspiration to many young scientists.

Initially there was one Award on Taxonomy covering all the three fields viz Botany, Zoology and study of Micro-organisms. It has now been decided to enlarge the scope of the Award and increase the number of Awards to two, one each for excellence in Botanical and Zoological Taxonomy. The outstanding work done in Microorganisms will also be eligible for consideration under either of the two categories, as the case may be.

The two Awards will be known as 'E.K. Janaki Ammal National Award on Plant Taxonomy' and 'E.K. Janaki Ammal National Award on Animal Taxonomy'.

## **2. CONFERNMENT OF AWARD**

The award will be announced during September/October, 2009.

## **3. PROCESSING OF THE AWARD**

- (a) Invitation of nominations from various, Institutions etc. : 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2009
- (b) Last date for receiving nominations : 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2009
- (c) Scrutiny of nominations received : August end
- (d) Meeting of the Selection Committee : 1<sup>st</sup> week of August
- (f) Conferment of the award : September/October, 2009

## **4. NATURE OF AWARD**

Each award will carry Rs.1,00,000/- in cash along with a citation, scroll and Medallion. The Awards will be given to the Taxonomists selected by a Selection Committee constituted for this purpose.

## **5. ELIGIBILITY**

Any Indian taxonomist engaged in Taxonomic research work on flora, fauna or microorganisms in the country is eligible for the award. There will be no age limit. The following is a list of illustrative, eligibility criteria for the award:

- a) Outstanding contribution in the area of taxonomic revision of species/genus/family/order;
- b) Outstanding original contribution in the area of taxonomic monographic work (assessment of overall aspects of knowledge of species/genus/family/order);
- c) Ability to recognize new taxa as evident by discovery of new species/genus;
- d) Outstanding experimental work in areas such as cytotaxonomy, molecular taxonomy, chemotaxonomy etc.
- e) Research experience in the field of taxonomy in terms of number of years spent in taxonomic research and teaching;
- f) Experience in research guidance in taxonomy in terms of number of M. Phil. and Ph. D. theses guided;

g) Number of research publications, such as original research papers, books and contribution in symposia and workshops at National and International level.

## **6. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS**

a) Nominations for the Awards will be invited from the concerned Vice-Chancellors, Heads of Institutions, and Members of the Selection Committee and from the previous awardees. Adequate publicity in National Papers will be given for inviting nominations each year. Advertisement will also be released in Current Science, Bulletins of ZSI&BSI and other relevant widely read science journals.

b) The candidates should apply through the institutions and experts referred to at 6(a) above.

c) Nominations received for the Award will be valid for the year for which they have been made. Past nominations will not be carried forward. A person not selected for the Award for a particular year can be re-nominated in future years with an updated CV of the candidate.

d) Adequate publicity will be given for inviting nominations each year. Advertisement will appear in National Print Media, and also put on the Ministry's web-site.

e) The nominations must be made in the prescribed format (Annex I). The nominations should be sent in a registered sealed cover marked "E.K. Janaki Ammal National Award on Taxonomy", to Dr. G.V.Subrahmanyam, Adviser, Ministry of Environment and Forests, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110 003. These can also be submitted through e-mail, and hard copies of Annexure can be separately submitted. However, the application, complete in all respects, must be received by the indicated deadline, or the extended deadline, as the case may be.

## **7. NATIONAL TAXONOMY AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The nominations received will be placed before a Selection Committee constituted as follows for selecting the awardee:

- |       |                                                                 |            |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| (i)   | Secretary (E&F)                                                 | : Chairman |
| (ii)  | Additional Secretary (Conservation)                             | : Member   |
| (iii) | Director General, CSIR or his nominee, not below the rank of JS | : Member   |
| (iv)  | Director General, ICAR or his nominee, not below the rank of JS | : Member   |

- (v) Director, Botanical survey of India : Member
- (vi) Director, Zoological Survey of India : Member
- (vii)- (ix) Three eminent taxonomists to be nominated by MoEF so as to represent various branches of Taxonomy such as cytotaxonomy, chemotaxonomy, Molecular taxonomy etc.
- (x) Joint Secretary/Adviser of the concerned :Member-Secretary division

The recommendations of the National Taxonomy Award Committee shall be submitted to the Minister, Environment & Forests for approval.

## **8. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION**

The Selection Committee would, among other things, keep in view:

- (a) Originality and outstanding nature of the contribution to taxonomy
- b) Promotion of taxonomic research
- (c) Training to Students and
- (d) Motivation provided by the applicant by way of guidance to Scholars for conferment of Ph.D or D.Sc.

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD**

The award will be announced through Print Media & Web-site. The Government reserves the right to withhold the award in any year, if it is felt that no meritorious nomination is received. Those who have received this award in the previous years shall not be eligible for consideration again.