

Shri Kailash Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare of Government of India, interacted with Directors of ICAR Institutes under NRM Division, through Video Conference on 08/09/2020

Shri Kailash Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare of Government of India interacted through video conference with all the Directors of ICAR Institutes under NRM Division, on 08/09/2020 in the presence of Dr T. Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, Dr SK Chaudhari, DDG (NRM), Dr S Bhaskar, ADG (AA&CC) and Dr A Islam, ADG (S&WM).

At the outside DG, ICAR welcomed the Hon'ble Minister and briefed about the importance of natural resources, such as soil, water and biodiversity for sustainable agriculture. Dr SK Chaudhari, DDG (NRM) made an introductory presentation of the NRM institutes and their main area of work and coordinated the program. Thereafter, each Director of the NRM institutes made their presentations on the major achievements in last 5-6 years and future thrust areas.

Dr. AK Patra, Director ICAR-IISS, Bhopal briefed about the mandate of the institute and salient achievements during the last six years. He elaborated on various technologies comprising *Mridaparikshak* mini lab for generation of soil health cards, soil fertility maps, rapid composting techniques, biofertilizers, new fertilizers products including nano-fertilizers, impact of long term fertilizer uses and reutilization of accumulated phosphorus etc. developed by the institute.



The Hon'ble Minister emphasised on creating awareness on soil testing and use of soil health card (SHC) among the farmers through existing farmer producer organizations (FPOs). He also enquired about the constraints on use of SHCs. He urged for the development of rapid and handheld machine for soil testing for coverage of maximum farmers at the local farm level.

As concluding remarks, Hon'ble Minister appreciated the efforts and achievements of all the institutes. There are many problems in the rural India, which can be addressed by many institutes/universities/KVKs which are dedicated for agriculture and extension. Farmers should get maximum benefits from these institutions for solving their problems. He encouraged for good team work, which is very necessary to double the farmers income, livelihood and environmental security. He called upon all the Directors and Scientists in the institutes for their whole hearted dedicated service and productive time to the nation for the cause of upliftment of poor farmers in a visionary manner, and give their best to fulfil the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister for *Atmanirbhar Bharat*.

The program was ended with vote of thanks by DDG (NRM).