

ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal

Celebrated World Soil Day on 5th December, 2017

World Soil Day was celebrated on 5th December, 2017 at ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal with the theme of “Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground”. World Soil Day is celebrated annually on the 5th of December with aim to spread the awareness messages on the importance of soil quality for food and nutritional security, human well-being and healthy ecosystems.

The event was graced by Dr. Sudam P. Khade, Collector, Bhopal; Dr. Navin Chandra, DG, Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology, Bhopal; Dr. V. P. Singh, Director, ICAR-NIHSAD; Staff of ICAR-IISS, Bhopal and many progressive farmers. Dr. Khade highlighted the importance of



healthy soils for human health and stressed upon the judicious use of chemical fertilizers. He also felt the need of giving more serious attention on protection of soils while addressing the issues of crop productivity. He compared soil with human skin which is the largest organ of human being and protects us from extreme weathers and illness. Dr. Navin Chandra stressed upon the importance of soil, water, and air for sustaining



life on earth. He said that almost all of our food comes from soil resource. Dr. V. P. Singh stated that soils are a key component in the chain of soil-plant-animal-human continuum and several nutrition related problems appear in animals and humans due to poor soil health. Dr. Ashok K. Patra, Director, ICAR-IISS, Bhopal welcomed the guests and apprised them about the activities of the institute and technologies available for enhancing soil health.

An interaction meeting with farmers was also organized on the topic “Sustainable Soil management for Enhancing Farmers’ Income and Health”. Several farmers shared their experiences and expressed views on increasing the farmers’ income. According to farmers, diversification of agriculture involving dairy, poultry, horticulture, bee keeping etc. and being



up-to-date on the Govt. schemes and policies are important steps, by following which, a significant improvement in the farmers’ income could be realized. Improving soil health with judicious use of fertilizers as per soil health cards, and increasing the share of organic manures and bio-fertilizers emerged as key management areas to achieve sustainable high productivity and doubling farmers’ income. **‘Soil Health Cards’** were distributed to farmers along with **‘Family Net Vessel Composting’** for preparation of vermicompost and maintaining soil health. On this occasion some progressive farmers were also felicitated for their achievement and active role in the farming community.

The event was jointly organized by the Institute and Bhopal chapter of Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS). Earlier, Dr. M. C. Manna, Head, Division of Soil Biology and President, Bhopal Chapter of ISSS apprised the audience about the origin of World Soil Day and its importance in today’s context. Dr. A. B. Singh, Principal Scientist and Organizing Secretary proposed a vote of thanks.




