

World Soil Day 5th Dec 2014

ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal in association with Bhopal chapter of Indian Society of Soil Science celebrated the **World Soil Day** on December 05, 2014. Several dignitaries, paragons of soil science, and school students along-with their teachers participated in the programme. On the occasion, Dr. G. A. Kinhal, Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management and Chief Guest of the function emphasized the importance of soils for sustaining forest ecosystem. He urged the people to protect the soils with a slogan “Plant a tree whenever you are free”. Dr. S. S. Khanna, Former member, Planning Commission and a stalwart of Soil Science highlighted the functions and roles of soils. Dr. P. J. Sudhakar, Addl. Director General, PIB, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting informed the participants about soil as the ‘soul of infinite life’. He told that every human being is born out of soil and hence it is the duty of all to protect our soils. Earlier, Dr. Ashok K. Patra, Director of the host institute welcomed the children and dignitaries. A presentation was also arranged to educate the children on the different functions of soils. A drawing competition was also arranged on the theme ‘**S** (Soul) **O** (Of) **I** (Infinite) **L** (Life)’. About 75 children of 8-10th standard accompanied by the teachers from Saint George School, St. Paul School, Sardar Patel Govt. Higher Secondary School, New Niketan School, and Brigadier Trivedi Memorial School participated in the competition. The children were also taken to Soil Museum and shown the different types of soils present in India. Children and other participants were also shown a video film highlighting the importance of soil in agriculture and civilization. The **World Soil Day** is celebrated on December 05 to highlight the importance of soil as a critical component of the natural system and as a vital contributor to the human common wealth through its contribution to food, water and energy security and as a mitigator of biodiversity loss and climate change. The programme ended with prize distribution to children.

Photographs of World soil day celebration

