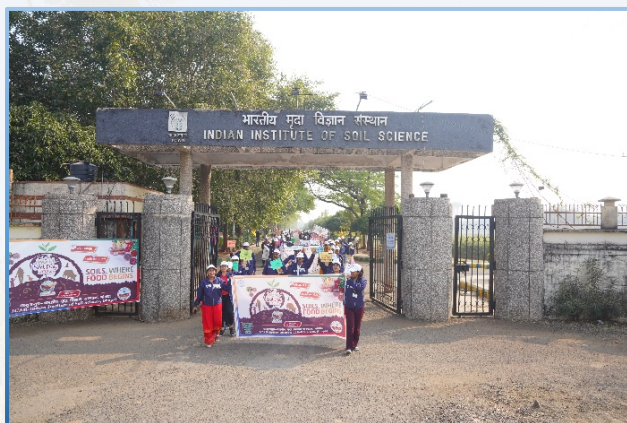


Soil Health Awareness Week Celebrated at ICAR-IISS, Bhopal on the Occasion of World Soil Day

Soil Health Awareness Week is being celebrated at ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal during December 01-07, 2022. This is on the occasion of World Soil Day (WSD) celebrated every year by Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations on 5th December. This year's theme of WSD is "Soils: Where Food Begins". On December 05, a massive March Past was organized by the institute Scientists, Technical and other staff to spread awareness among the public on the importance of soils in human life and protection of this precious resource. Dr A.B. Singh, Director welcomed the chief guest Shri Vishnu Khatri Ji, Hon'ble MLA from Berasia, Madhya Pradesh and stressed upon the importance of 'healthy soil for a healthy life'. He highlighted the institute's activities and importance of balanced nutrition in enhancing soil organic carbon for better soil health. Progressive farmers were felicitated by Shri Vishnu Khatri Ji, the Chief Guest of the programme. Shri Khatri ji emphasized the importance of soil and its role in providing food to animal and humans and also highlighted the importance of natural farming and five natural elements (soil, water, air, atmosphere and sunlight). On this occasion, Sh Ravinder Patil DGM SBI, along with the staff were also present.



This was followed by a panel discussion on "Regenerative agriculture for enhancing soil health" was organized where scientists, progressive farmers and representatives from industry expressed their views. Dr Suresh Motwani, Solidaridad Regional Expertise Centre, Bhopal presented on "Regenerative Agriculture from Central India: Experience of Solidaridad". Dr A B Singh, Director emphasized the importance of natural and organic farming in sustaining soil health and food supply. Discussion on role of microbes and residue management in regenerative agriculture was also held. Earlier, Dr A K Biswas, Head, Division of Soil Chemistry and Fertility and organizing secretary welcomed the participants/farmers and apprised them about the institute activities. Personnel from Print and TV media, State bank of India, students and many others were present on the occasion.



A workshop cum training programme was organized on December 01 on the topic “Composting for Soil and Human Health”. Improved and rapid methods of composting and crop residue decomposition were shown to the farmers. Chief Guest and former Director, ICAR-IISS Dr. Ashok K Patra told how the burning of crop residues is dangerous to soil health and there is immediate need to arrest this practice. Around 100 farmers attended this workshop cum training programme.



The Agricultural Education Day was celebrated on December 03 where more than 100 school students of Bhopal were taught about various aspects of soils. A quiz competition on soil awareness was also organized.



Training and Soil Health Awareness Day were organized on December 01 and 02 where more than 200 farmers under the scheme SCSP and Farmers FIRST were given training on soil health maintenance practices. The Soil Health Awareness Week would continue till December 07, 2022.



Source: ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal