

ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal Organised the World Soil Day on 5th December 2025

The ICAR- Indian Institute of Soil Science, a recipient of FAO King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award, Celebrated World Soil Day on 5th December 2025. The soil health awareness programme with a slogan “Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities” was organized with great fervour and enthusiasm during the first week of December. On 5th December 2025, a march-past was organized from the Institute to the nearby premises for awareness generation amongst common people.

This occasion was graced by Dr AK Nayak (Deputy Director General, NRM, ICAR, New Delhi) as the Chief Guest in virtual mode and widely elaborated the theme of world soil day i.e., Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities. On this day, Dr AK Nayak emphasized on importance of soil not only for rural areas but also in urban areas and cities as well. He elaborated on most of the pollution in urban cities comes from building material, garbage dumping, medical waste etc. in soil and thus stressed upon the scientific management of soil to resolve these issues. Dr Nayak further urged upon to earn carbon credits through various ways by reducing methane emission, through utilization of urban waste etc in order to have sustainable urban life. He also stated that the soil health is an integral part of one health comprising of human health, plant health, ecosystem health and society health and therefore attempts can be made for taking care of soil.

Dr Monoranjan Mohanty (Director, ICAR-IISS, Bhopal) stated that foundation of the soil lies beneath the earth and it is full of diversity with large array of microorganisms. He opined that our heritage and scriptures are deeply rooted with soil health. Soil plays important role in carbon sequestration, vegetation, reducing greenhouse gases emissions and human needs and our future lies in the sustainable management of soil. He further stated that there is a need in order to maintain soil health for future generations to come.

Dr S Chattopadhyay (Managing Director, Solidaridad) mentioned that Solidaridad is working in the area of regenerative agriculture at global level especially in the small landholder's farm and further stated that carbon credits can be earned by adopting carbon and soil restoration, soil biodiversity etc.

Dr CR Mehta (Director, ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal) stated that soil health is degrading due to over exploitation and its manipulation. Thus, the idea to manage it comes from engineering measures like zero tillage and other beneficial practices for increasing food production and maintaining soil health.

Dr KH Singh (Director, NSIR, Indore) stated that soil is an important component for sustenance of crop productivity with special reference to soybean. He urged upon soil scientists to resolve the challenges under conservation agriculture faced by the farmers.

Dr R Elanchezhian (Organizing Secretary, World Soil Day 2025) gave an account of the week-long activities organized on the occasion of Soil Health Awareness Week during 1 to 5 December 2025. He also proposed vote of thanks and expressed the gratitude to thank all the sponsors and participants for attending this mega event. About 250 delegates including Scientists, Students and farmers attended this event.



Dr S Chattopadhyay, Special Guest addressing the gathering



Dr M Mohanty, Director (ICAR-IISS) addressing the gathering



Photos on the occasion of World Soil Day (5th December 2025)