

## **Two-Day Training Programme on “Soil Health Management and Use of Farm Equipment” for Farmers of Dewas District, Madhya Pradesh (13-14 October 2026)**

The ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS), Bhopal, in collaboration with the ICAR-Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE), Bhopal, organized a two-day training programme on “Soil Health Management and Use of Farm Equipment” for farmers of Dewas district, Madhya Pradesh, on 13-14 October 2026. A total of 19 farmers participated in the programme and gained valuable theoretical knowledge and practical experience in various aspects of sustainable farming practices.



The programme was addressed by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Ji, who interacted with the participating farmers and sought their feedback. He emphasized the importance of soil testing, balanced fertilization, smart irrigation systems, natural and organic farming, and the establishment of custom hiring centres to promote sustainable and cost-effective agriculture. He also highlighted the need for developing and adopting practical farm implements to facilitate agricultural operations. The Minister encouraged farmers to use organic manures, particularly vermicompost, incorporate pulse crops into crop rotations, and adopt scientific soil health management practices. Furthermore, he highlighted the potential of the e-FARMS application, developed by ICAR-IISS, Bhopal for crop-specific, precise fertilizer recommendations. He also urged farmers to adopt modern agricultural machinery and equipment developed by ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal to reduce labour requirements, save time, and lower the cost of cultivation.

On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2026, the programme was attended by Dr. Rajbir Singh, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), ICAR; Dr. M. Mohanty, Director, ICAR-IISS; and Dr. C. R. Mehta, Director, ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal, along with scientists and officials from the respective institutes. Scientists from ICAR-Indian Institute of Water Management (IIWM), Bhubaneswar, and ICAR-Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), Cuttack, also participated in the programme online. Farmers from Madhya Pradesh, who had travelled to Odisha to undergo training, were also part of the programme. During the training programme, farmers visited the experimental fields of ICAR-IISS and gained hands-on experience in soil sampling techniques, organic and natural farming practices, conservation agriculture, and vermicomposting. The programme facilitated direct interaction between farmers and scientists, enabling the transfer of scientifically validated technologies and knowledge from research laboratories to farmers' fields. This collaborative approach aims to improve soil health, enhance crop productivity, optimize the use of agricultural inputs, reduce cultivation costs, and improve farmers' livelihoods.