

ICAR-IISS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2026

The ICAR–Indian Institute of Soil Science (ICAR-IISS), Bhopal, celebrated International Women's Day 2026 in collaboration with Solidaridad Regional Expertise Centre through a series of events highlighting the contributions of women scientists in agricultural research and natural resource management.



The celebration commenced with a forenoon programme at ICAR-IISS, where Dr. Monoranjan Mohanty, Director, ICAR-IISS, inaugurated the event. Dr. Sangeeta Lenka, Organizing Secretary and Chairperson of the Women's Cell, briefed the audience on the significance and motto of the International Women's Day celebration. A major highlight of the programme was the felicitation of eminent women scientists and the release of the coffee table book titled "Luminaries of Vasundhara: Eminent Women Scientists in the Conservation of Natural Resources." The book recognizes distinguished women scientists from ICAR institutes and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) who have made significant contributions to the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in India.

The programme also featured a workshop on "Balancing Professional Brilliance with Inner Calm" conducted by BK Kiran, Director, Brahmakumaris, followed by an inspiring address by the Chief Guest, Prof. (Dr.) Usha Kiran Chopra, Retired Professor, Agricultural Physics Division, ICAR–IARI, New Delhi. The event concluded with prize distribution and a vote of thanks.

In the afternoon, Solidaridad organized a Multistakeholder Dialogue on "A Gender-Responsive Policy Roadmap for Scaling Regenerative Vegetable Oil Value Chains" in collaboration with ICAR-IISS at Bhopal. The dialogue brought together scientists, policymakers, development partners, and farmer representatives to deliberate on gender-inclusive approaches for promoting regenerative agriculture. The event included panel discussions on innovation and technology, institutional frameworks for gender-inclusive agriculture, and policy pathways for translating field evidence into actionable recommendations.

The celebration provided an important platform to recognize the contributions of women scientists, promote gender-responsive agricultural research, and strengthen collaborative efforts toward sustainable natural resource management and regenerative agriculture.

