

National Workshop of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Soil Test Crop Response (STCR)

The National Workshop of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Soil Test Crop Response (STCR) was inaugurated at the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidhyapith (MPKV), Rahuri on December 3, 2016.

Dr K.P. Viswanath, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri in his Presidential address emphasised on soil test based targeted yield approach of plant nutrient management. He urged for wider adoption of STCR technology.

Dr. S.K. Chaudhari, ADG (S&WM) Chief Guest, emphasized on the crucial importance of soil test based nutrient management and targeted yield approach. He lauded the STCR team for their contribution and effort in adoption of STCR technology in the Soil Health Mission. He also mentioned the importance of GPS and GIS based soil fertility mapping carried out by STCR. He later released the *Progress Report* of the AICRP-STCR and other publications.



Dr A. K. Patra, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Guest of Honour, emphasized the importance of adoption of STCR technology. Dr Patra highlighted the developments at ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science in the field of rapid soil testing and automation to meet the challenges of soil-health mission and adoption of STCR technology in *Mridaparikshak*.

Earlier Dr R.S. Patil, Director of Research, MPKV, Rahuri welcomed the guest and briefly presented the outcome of Rahuri centre of STCR.

Dr Pradip Dey, Project Coordinator (STCR), in his introductory address, focused on the most critical requirements for improving crop productivity and maintaining soil health in India, by applying prescribed quantities of organic manures and fertilizers based on resource endowment of the farmers. He also stressed on the recent developments in STCR project and dwelt on the national perspective and global developments in soil health.

The following recent works were highlighted:

- Integrated plant nutrition system for Hybrid Cotton (RCH 530) using drip fertigation
- Kinetics of phosphorus in organically managed tea cultivation
- Economizing nutrient application through STCR approach
- Fertilizer application through STCR vis-à-vis soil enzymatic activity
- Strategy for bioremediation of iron toxicity in low land rice ecosystem of Assam

Significant economic benefit with farmers earning based on STCR technology for different agro-ecological regions especially from demonstrations of STCR technology in tribal areas were also emphasized.

A Round Table Conference on “STCR at Crossroad: Improving Productivity and Net Returns based on Resource Endowment of Farmers without compromising Soil Health and Environment Quality” was also organized wherein different experts panellist provided suggestions for future course of action. This was Chaired by Dr. S.K. Chaudhari, ADG (S&WM) and Co-Chaired by Dr. A.K. Patra, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science.

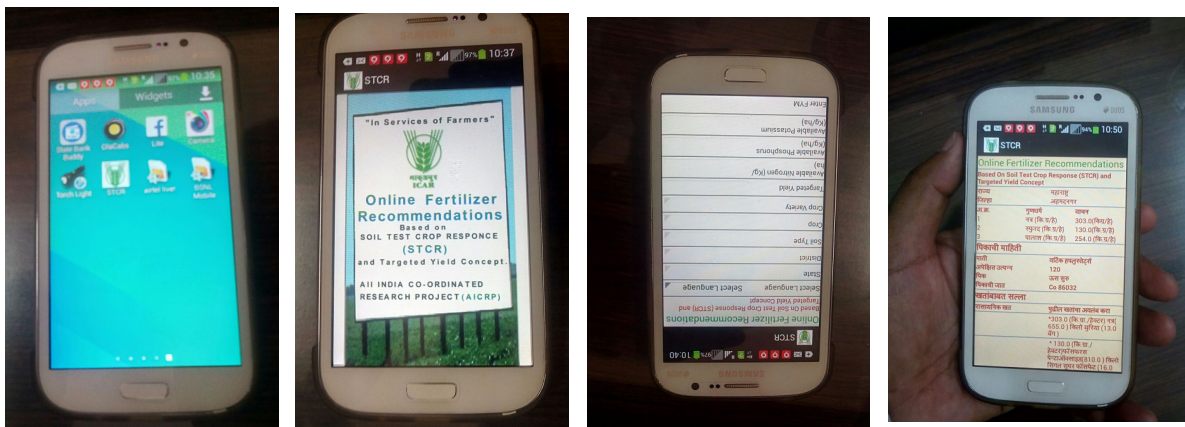
The National Workshop consisted of technical sessions in which, the results based on previous years’ technical programme were presented and discussed. Besides, future course of action for 2017-20 has been formulated. More than 120 delegates including scientists of the group, invited subject matter experts, other invited scientists from ICAR institutions and SAUs and industry representatives as well as progressive farmers participated in the programme. Progressive farmers, experts and retired STCR Scientists and Head of Divisions of MPKV were felicitated on the occasion. In the evening, a cultural programme was also organised wherein, besides Post Graduate students of MPKV, Rahuri, delegates also performed which was enthralling.

A Farmer-Scientist interaction meet was organized in the morning session of December 4, 2016. Thereafter, STCR-Industry Interface meet on Customized fertilizer and Decision Support System was organized. The objective of the meeting was to offer networking opportunities and foster industrial perspective of STCR. In introductory remarks, Dr Pradip Dey, Project Coordinator (STCR) emphasized the need for close collaboration of research institutes and industry in the context of scientific enterprising and need for change in outlook in the era of globalization. While presenting *Setting the tone: STCR-Industry Interface on customised fertilisers and Decision Support System*, Dr. Dey urged for close collaboration of research institutes and the industry which are in practice in many developed nations for mutual benefit.



On the occasion, a Brainstorming Session was organised wherein reflection On customised fertilisers of Indo Gulf Fertilisers, Tata Chemicals Ltd., Nagarjuna Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd., Coromandel International, International Zinc Association, Mosaic India Private Ltd. Shared on customised fertilisers with respect to problems and policy interventions required were discussed in details, The programme was attended by several experts from fertilisers industries like Dr. Prasant Puri, Dr. S. Bhadraray, Dr. Hifzur Rahman, Dr.. Shantanu Kar, Dr. S. Das from above industries participated. Dr. T. Satyanarayana of International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) and Sh. Avinash Mekala of NIC, Pune also deliberated on Decision Support System. Based on discussion, sustainable business matrix and policy interventions were formulated.

A mobile based bilingual (Marathi and English) STCR App for fertilisers recommendations of Maharashtra was launched during the occasion which was prepared in collaboration with National Informatics centre (Govt. of India), Pune



In the afternoon session, review of progress report was continued. Thereafter, the future course of action for 2017-20 was chalked out for each centre. In the Plenary Session, proceedings of different technical sessions were presented. The meeting ended with the formal vote of thanks.

On the occasion of World Soil Day, ICAR-AICRP (STCR) had organized a Farmer-Scientist Interaction Meet and field day at village Pimpri, Rahta tehsil, district Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. Scientists from 21 States and Union territories participated in the programme. Dr Pradip Dey (Project Coordinator, STCR) focused on targeted yield approach of plant nutrient management based on soil health card for improving crop productivity and maintaining soil health in India. Dr. Dey emphasized on the beneficial effect of STCR technology which were demonstrated in tribal areas through Tribal Pub Plan in different parts of the country including Nandurbar district of Maharashtra. Dr. A.D. Kadlag and Dr Ganesh Shelake of MPKV coordinated the programme.



Farmers shared their soil and plant nutrient related problems and scientists present on the occasion provided the solution for the same right in the field