

## Mass awareness campaign on Organic Farming organized at ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021

A Mass awareness campaign on 'Organic Farming' was organized on a virtual mode jointly by ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal and ICAR Indian Institute of Farming System Research, Modipuram on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Dr AS Panwar, Director, ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram and experts from SAUs joined the programme. Dr AK Patra, in his inaugural address, emphasized on the soil health management including crop residue management and organic nutrient management in the organic farming. He remarked the importance of maintaining soil health in organic farming practices. Dr AS Panwar narrated the importance of soil organic carbon in improving soil health under organic farming practices and the importance of certification. Shri Padam Singh Thakur, member of IMC, ICAR IISS Bhopal and progressive farmer urged all the farmers to take note of the deliberations and get benefit by growing organic products. Prof Kalvakuntala Jeevan Rao encouraged farmers and student to take up organic farming in their respective locations. Dr. A.B. Singh, PI Organic Farming &HoD (SB) briefed about the program and Dr N. Ravisankar National PI gave the welcome address and gave an account of mass awareness program on organic farming conducted at national level. Altogether 800 farmers, students, researchers and the stakeholders participated in the program in a virtual mode. Dr AK Prusty, Senior Scientist, ICAR IIFSR coordinated the program and Dr BL Lakaria, Principal Scientist ICAR IISS proposed vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural session of the program.

In the technical session, four lectures were delivered by the eminent speakers. Dr AB Singh presented lecture on Organic Farming: Basic Principles and good practices followed by Dr PB Sharma, who gave an account of pest and disease management under organic farming. Dr BL Lakaria delivered lecture on Organic farming: A key to enhance nutrient use efficiency. Dr Ajay Singh Rajput presented his views on Marketing and certification and demonstrated the certification procedures. The session was followed by an open session in which Dr. N. Ravisankar (National PI, ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram) and the scientists of ICAR IISS Bhopal comprising Dr. A. B. Singh, Dr. Brij Lal Lakaria, Dr. J. K. Thakur, Dr. B.P. Meena and Dr. R. Elanchezhian interacted with participants of the campaign. They gave their inputs to all the queries raised by the participants including farmers, students, extension professionals, researchers and other stakeholders on organic agriculture. Dr J.K. Thakur proposed vote of thanks at the end of technical session.

*Source: ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal*

