

## ICAR-IISS Bhopal celebrated Van Mahotsav Week and Tree Plantation Campaign @ Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav

The ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Madhya Pradesh organized a week long **Van Mahotsav Program** during 10-16 July, 2021 at the Institute campus and Tree Plantation Campaign on 17 July, 2021 at villages to commemorate **Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav**. The weeklong program culminated on the occasion of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Foundation day of Indian Council of Agricultural Research with a mass planting drive of fruit trees. Dr. Ashok Kumar Patra, Director of the Institute, highlighted the importance of fruit crops in our life and encouraged the staff and farmers to plant more and more fruit crops to ensure nutritional food security. He has stressed that fruit crops have special characteristics and can be grown economically in neglected and marginalized lands where food grains and other field crops can-not be grown. Intercrops can also be grown in the space between fruit crops to increase crop productivity per unit area. Such integration of agri-horti system in the field can be a better option to double the income of farmers. He also emphasized on need to use every space available in the field and plant fruit tree on the bund to full fill our theme “**Har Med Par Ped**”. In this endeavour about 300 papaya and 275 mango plants of different varieties have been planted in the campus as well as distributed to the farmers in the adopted villages. Head of the Divisions, Project Coordinators, Scientists, Technical officers, Administrative and supporting staff of the Institute wholeheartedly participated in the Van Mahotsav Week program.



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