

## WORLD WATER DAY 2021 CELEBRATED BY ICAR-IISS, BHOPAL

On this occasion ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal organized a programme 'Valuing Water Campaign' and celebrated the 'World Water Day' with participation of scientists, students, and farmers in the village Raipur in Bhopal district. In the forenoon, a quiz completion 'Valuing Water' was organized at the Institute where the Scientists, SRFs, RAs, students and other staff members participated. In the meeting, Dr. Ashok K. Patra Director, emphasized the purpose of 'World Water Day'. He mentioned all plants and animals on this earth need water to survive and one cannot think of life on earth without water. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 of the FAO of the United Nations is about "clean water and sanitation for all". It is one of 17 SDGs established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. He further reiterated the 5R in water use, which are **Reduce, Re-Use, Recharge, Recycle and Respect Water**. He also emphasize that there is a need of awareness of use of water more efficiently and the slogan 'Per Drop More Crop' should be taken seriously among the stake holders to improve the efficiency of water in agriculture.



Mrs. T. S. Raji Gain, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Bhopal graced the occasion as Chief Guest. In her address to the gatherings, she called for sustained efforts in conserving water in a scientific way and the role of watershed development project. She spoke about the role of NABARD in agriculture and the value of water in agriculture and rural development. She emphasized the importance of soil and water conservation and afforestation in tribal areas. She also reiterated the importance of people's participation in watershed development, maintenance and repair. She also linked soil health to water quality and hence participation of all sectors involving in soil and water conservation. The farmers must be educated about safe and efficient use of water and the technologies developed by all ICAR Institutes should be made available to them through Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav (MGMSG), Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) and 'Water Literacy' campaign. Residual water use should be promoted in big ways and 'Jaldoot' – a unique campaign to take message of water conservation to the masses in different languages across India should be encouraged. At the end, she also emphasized the climate change and water availability to the masses and the need for conservation water for our future generation. She distributed the prizes to the winners of the quiz competition.

In the afternoon, a farmer-scientist interaction meet was organized in the village Raipur, district Bhopal with the objectives of creating awareness on valuing water among farming communities in which about 200 farmers and students participated.

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