

ICAR-IISS celebrates its 35th Foundation Day

16 April, 2022, Bhopal

The ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal celebrated its 35th Foundation Day here today.



Delivering the *Foundation Day Lecture*, the Chief Guest, **Dr. Suresh Kumar Chaudhari**, Deputy Director General (Natural resource Management) ICAR, New Delhi urged the Institute to play a leading role in conducting research in un-touched areas of soil science and chalk out plans for conducting research for next 15-20 years to make 50 years of glorious existence in fulfilling farming community vis-à-vis safeguarding soil resource. Dr. Chaudhari stressed that the scientists and staff members of the institute should work with positive attitude as a team for serving the institute and in turn the nation. He emphasized the need for conducting research in the areas of sustainable soil management (SSM), water-nutrient interactions, land degradation neutrality (LDN), organic farming and natural farming for niche areas, sensor and drone-based input application and their management, product development, and reducing greenhouse gas emission, climate change impact and mitigation for improving soil health, crop production and crop and environmental quality.



The Guest of Honour, Prof. V. S. Tomar, Former Vice-Chancellor, JNKVV, Jabalpur emphasized on the need for maintaining soil physical properties for better soil chemical and biological environment. Prof. Tomar also stressed on conducting dedicated soil science research with human touch, finding out the gaps in efficient implementation and adoption of soil health card programme, developing strategies for enhanced nutrient use efficiency and developing novel products in collaboration with industries.

Former Directors of the Institute namely Dr. P. N. Takkar, and Dr. C. L. Acharya graced the occasion virtually and complimented the Institute for its achievements and service to the farming community. Dr. Takkar urged the scientists of the institute to conduct innovative and cutting-edge basic and strategic research for enhancing nutrient use efficiency and soil health management. efficient soil resource management. Dr. Acharya highlighted the need for working in the area of restoration of soil health, enriching soil with nutrients for quality agricultural produce and improved human health and precision input management strategies for higher nutrient and water use efficiency.

While congratulating the staffs of the institute, Dr C. R. Mehta, Director, ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal indicated on more research for improving soil health and collaboration between ICAR-IISS and ICAR-CIAE for efficient soil management.



Earlier, welcoming the dignitaries, Dr. Ashok K. Patra Director, ICAR-IISS, Bhopal presented about the achievements of the institute including several national and international awards in last 2 years. Dr. Patra highlighted various achievements/technologies of the institute such as development of Integrated Plant Nutrient Management modules for lowering carbon foot prints, *Mridaparikshak*, soil carbon management technologies, automated soil nutrient sensing technologies, assessment of soil properties using soil spectroscopy, rapid composting technologies, fly ash application and management, novel nano-composite for decontamination, multi-nutrients deficiency maps and micronutrients biofortification strategies, phosphorus re-utilization strategies, biofertilizer seed coating technology and decision support system for site-specific nutrient management.



The event registered participation by 200 scientists and staff members of the institute, progressive farmers, invited guests from the various organizations, and academia besides, 50 virtual participants. Different new laboratories, experimental facilities and solar energy panel were inaugurated. During the event some progressive farmers were also felicitated on that occasion.

After the foundation day lecture, a cultural programme was organized in the evening where in more than 200 persons participated.



(Source: ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal)