

ICAR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SOIL SCIENCE CELEBRATED ITS 37TH FOUNDATION DAY ON APRIL 16, 2024

ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS), Bhopal celebrated its 37th Foundation Day on 16th April, 2024. Dr SK Chaudhari, DDG (NRM), ICAR, New Delhi graced the occasion (online) as the Chief Guest. Dr A Velmurugan, ADG (SWM) NRM, ICAR, New Delhi and Dr PK Sharma, Former Vice Chancellor, SKUAST, Jammu graced the function as the Guest of Honour. On this occasion, the former Directors of the Institute, Dr PN Takkar, Dr CL Acharya, Dr A Subba Rao, Dr AK Patra addressed the gathering as special guests in online as well as offline mode. Dr Pradip Dey (Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata) also joined the Foundation Day programme virtually as special guest. Besides, the Directors and Scientists of all the Institutes including NRM Institutes attended the function in an online mode. On this occasion, Director welcomed all the superannuated staff of the Institute.

Dr SP Datta (Director, ICAR-IISS) highlighted the Institute's achievements and future thrust areas. The institute felicitated the progressive farmers namely Smt. Tara Bai Meena, Shri Manohar Patidar, Shri Hemraj Yadav, Shri Arjun Singh and Shri Anil Ahirwar for their innovativeness and adoption of modern agricultural practices. Dr SP Datta was also felicitated on completion of twenty-nine years of dedicated service in ICAR.



Dignitaries on dias for the function on 37th Foundation Day



Felicitation of Dr SP Datta on completion of twenty-nine years of dedicated service in ICAR



Smt. Tara Bai Meena



Shri Manohar Patidar



Shri Hemraj Yadav



Shri Arjun Singh



Shri Anil Ahirwar

Dignitaries felicitated the progressive farmers

The Best Worker Award was given to Shri Deepak Kaul, and Shri Sanjay Parihar (Technical), Shri Venny Joy, Shri Sanjay Gharde (Administration) and Shri Rakesh Sen (Supporting). The dignitaries also released the publications for the benefit of farmers.



Shri Deepak Kaul



Shri Venny Joy



Shri Sanjay Gharde



Shri Rakesh Sen



Shri Sanjay Parihar

Institute's Best Workers Awarded on 37 Foundation Day (16 April, 2024)



Dignitaries released the publications of the Institute (16 April, 2024)

Dr SK Chaudhari appreciated the contribution made by the Institute in soil science domain. He urged the Scientists to be aware about the new developments in soil science and to work for the farmers. Taking into account the challenges of resources in future and the increasing fragility, he stressed to change the way of doing research. He also highlighted the importance of organic and natural farming as the availability of fertilizers is not guaranteed in future. In addition to being a medium of plant growth, soil also provides various other ecosystem services. Hence, there is need to study all the aspects of soil science, and spread its education and awareness among stakeholders.

Dr PK Sharma appreciated achievements of the Institute and its services to the nation. He talked about the problems faced by Indian agriculture post green revolution and the manner in which Institute was established to tackle such issues. He emphasized that IISS is a unique Institute and we have to increase the interaction with stakeholders to orient ourselves as per the present day scenario. He further stated that soil health is vital for health of all living things. He has delivered the Foundation Day lecture on “Soil Physics for Land-Water-Food-Environmental Sustainability”, wherein he has highlighted the significance of physical conditions of soil in enhancing crop production.



Dr PK Sharma, Former Vice Chancellor, SKUAST, Jammu address the gathering (16 April 2024)



Dr PK Sharma delivered the Foundation Day Lecture

Dr SP Datta appreciated the excellent work and technology developed and implemented by the Institute. He further stated that soil health status could be maintained through balance fertilizer use, conservation agriculture, customised fertilizer, nutrient management options through INM, natural and organic farming. He also explained the role of conservation agriculture in maximising nutrient, water and energy use efficiencies. He said organic carbon is the soul of soil hence there is a need to concentrate on sequestration and optimization of carbon in soil. In order to sustain the soil health, there is a need to go for qualitative and quantitative tests. He further said that there is need to digitize farmlands with georeferenced points. He emphasized that students are driving force for innovative research for any organisation.

Dr PN Takkar in his remarks lauded the Institute effort to bring laurels and making name in national and international forums. He said it's time to introspect the research work done in past and to bring innovation in research. We must focus on basic research and the efficacy of fertilizers needs to be assessed. He stressed upon advocacy of balanced use of fertilisers to improve soil health and enhance crop productivity.

Dr CL Acharya appreciated the Institutes staff on the occasion. He said water and soil is the lifeline of all activities. All the problems could be addressed by taking care of soils. He also talked about the rise of malnutrition cases in India especially in pregnant women. Thus, if we improve soil health, the problems of nutritional security could be addressed. He stressed on the use of balanced and integrated use of nutrients to increase the efficiency of nutrients and sustaining the productivity over the years. It's high time to focus on integrated research on soil and water together. By focusing on the soil resources, we could address number of sustainable development goals.

Dr A Subba Rao emphasized that Institute worked tremendously on the areas of fertilizer recommendation through STCR approach, developing micronutrients map on country level etc. It's time to work on the paths to search for betterment of nutrient use efficiency and their losses into the environment. On the other hand, the soil biological diversity is supporting both soil health and human health. He further stated that there is a need to go for new tools in soil science research like artificial intelligence for smart agriculture, precision agriculture, carbon credits, ecological and biological agriculture, mapping of nutrients, kinetics of nutrients through modelling approach by using already generated data.



Dr A Subba Rao (Former Director, ICAR-IISS) address the gathering (16 April 2024)

Dr AK Patra stressed upon the major challenges before us is to increase food production with minimum disturbance to the soil. He said there are three challenges before all of us namely climate change, land degradation and third one is decline in soil biodiversity. All these three challenges are inter-linked. As per an estimate in 2022, the loss of GDP in India was to the tune of 8% due to climate change. In fact, the soil is the solution to climate change. He further said the Institute has made remarkable contribution during last 36 years in all the areas only due to the concerted efforts by the Institute. These efforts led to bagged numerous prestigious awards and recognitions in the form of NAAS Fellows, high NAAS rated Journals per scientist, 12th number position in ICAR ranking out of 92 Institute. The Central Information Commission (CIC) gave 99% marks to Institute as per the Transparency Index with A+ grade. The scientists developed numerous technologies for the benefit of farmers. The IISS bagged prestigious King Bhumibol Award and Mahindra

Samriddhi Award. There is need to work on new fertiliser products, new biofertilizers. The Institute has to establish itself as the hub of soil science research in the country.



Dr AK Patra (Former Director, ICAR-IISS)
address the gathering (16 April 2024)

Dr Pradip Dey appreciated and said that today is the day to remind all of us about the values and aspirations of IISS. He stated that it is time to celebrate the past, present, and work for the challenges of the future. It is an opportunity to innovate, collaborate with other Institutes, precision farming, cluster-based development, carbon credits etc. He said IISS has to work towards more focussed area to serve the society, and work as catalyst for future endeavours. He wish the Institute to march forward towards brighter future.

About 200 people actively participated in the programme. The function ended with formal vote of thanks proposed by Dr R Elanchezhian, organizing secretary.
