

Virtual Conference on “Developing Human Resources for Recalibrating STCR” organized at ICAR-IISS, Bhopal

10th November, 2020

On the occasion of World Science Day for Peace and Development (#ScienceDay, #UNESCO), ICAR-AICRP on Soil Test Crop Response (STCR) organized a Virtual Conference on “Developing Human Resources for Recalibrating STCR”. Cooperation and solidarity among all stakeholders are imperatives to respond to the changing scenario and ensure an inclusive, sustainable and prosperous future. Building on this initiative, the Virtual Conference provided an open and inclusive space for dialogue between different stakeholders in order to explore critical pathways and systemic solutions besides development of Human Resource of AICRP (STCR).

Chief Guest Dr. M. Velayutham, former Director of ICAR-NBSS&LUP, who also handled AICRP-STCR as Project Coordinator, in his address urged for saturating the gospel of soil testing as a household word amidst the farming community to realise the triple goals of higher productivity, profitability and fertiliser use efficiency until the last mile of the farm in the country. Dr. A. Subba Rao, former Director of ICAR-IISS emphasised on the need for consolidation of the gains in from the theoretical concept given by Dr. Ramamoorthy in computation of the fertilizer recommendations under targeted yield concept. Dr. A.K. Patra, Director of ICAR-IISS in his address advocated for enhancing fertiliser use efficiency through STCR approach with the technical collaboration and support to the NARES members. Dr. K.C.K. Reddy, former Project Coordinator (STCR) urged for a relook into regression models, response surfaces vis-à-vis law of optimum for better comprehension of fertilizer recommendation. Dr. M. Muralidharadu, former Project Coordinator (STCR) emphasized on the need for development of decision support system based on prescription equations for fertilizer recommendations. In her address, Dr. R. Santhi, Director (NRM), TNAU, Coimbatore explained about the need for the adoption of STCR-IPNS based fertilizers prescriptions for achieving desired yield with higher benefit cost ratio.



At the beginning of the programme, in his welcome address Dr. Pradip Dey, Project Coordinator, AICRP-STCR addressed some of the key strategic questions on major contemporary developments and emerging challenges of plant nutrient management. He also underscored the role of Centre-in-Charges in broadening our understanding of plant nutrient management and spreading the STCR technology in remotest places. During technical session, the journey so far under STCR, refinement of STCR prescription equations, STCR interface with water management and DSSIFER, the STCR Decision Support System was discussed.

Keeping in view the need for close collaboration of research institutes and industry in the context of scientific enterprising and need for change in outlook in the era of globalization, STCR-Industry Interface session was organized in which Dr. Amit Rastogi, Executive Vice President-Technology, Coromandel International Limited, Hyderabad shared the experiences of the Company on use of STCR prescription equations for development of customized fertiliser formulations. Dr. Shantanu Kar, Deputy Manager of Coromandel International Limited also participated in the programme.

In order to link STCR activities more closely with society and to inform about the recent developments, a Farmers' Interface was also organized wherein the farmers expressed their opinions and experiences regarding the handholding of STCR especially under Schedule Tribe Component (STC) and Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP). During feedback session the farmers expressed their happiness and felt that such programmers are beneficial to the farming community and should continue in the future too.

(Source: AICRP (STCR), ICAR-IISS, Bhopal)