

World Soil Day Celebration with a Kisan Mahasamelan

and

Soil Health Card Distribution Ceremony

The World Soil Day was celebrated on 5th December, 2015 at the ICAR- Indian Institute of Soil Science, Nabibagh, Bhopal with a *Kisan Mahasamelan* and Soil Health Card Distribution Ceremony, which was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Ji. Other dignitaries included Shri Gouri Shankar Bishen, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Government of M.P.; Shri Biswas Sarang, Local M.L.A.; Shri Prem Chand Meena, Agriculture Production Commissioner of Govt. of M.P. and Dr Rajesh Rajora, Principal Secretary (Agriculture) of Govt. of M.P. and Dr Ashok. K. Patra, Director, ICAR- Indian Institute of Soil Science. The program was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Government of Madhya Pradesh and the ICAR- Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal, which was attended by more than 25,000 farmers from different districts of the State.

The Chief Minister launched a Statewide Soil Health Test Campaign in the presence of a large gathering of farmers and emphasized the importance of soil testing and balanced fertilizer application in preserving the quality of soil, water and food for the present and future generations. Similar to human health, he said, it is necessary to maintain soil health with balanced fertilization of all nutrients including micronutrients. He expressed the commitment of the government to make agriculture a profitable occupation. He said that a State wide campaign for soil testing shall be undertaken with a soil testing laboratory to be opened in each Development Block. He urged the farmers to test their soil and use fertilizers as per the recommendation so as to reduce unnecessary expenditure. He also stressed upon the importance of crop rotation and ill effects of crop residue burning on soil and environment. He appealed the farming community to shed from the practice of crop residue burning.

In the program, the CM distributed soil health cards to farmers from different districts.

Dr. Ashok K Patra, welcoming Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh



Dr. Ashok K Patra, explaining about Mridaparikshak to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh



Farmers' gathering on the State level for World Soil Day celebration



Exhibition stalls at the Institute Premises





Hon'ble CM, Sh. Shivraj Singh Chouhan Ji addressing more than 25,000 farmers



Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed Soil Health Cards to farmers

