## ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal celebrated World Soil Day on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2018

ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal celebrated World Soil Day with the theme "Be the Solution to Soil Pollution" with an aim to raise awareness and call people to #Stop Soil Pollution. World Soil Day is celebrated annually on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December with goal to create awareness on the importance of soil quality for food and nutritional security, human well-

being and healthy ecosystems. About 200 farmers participated in the world soil day organized at famers' field at Parwalia Sadak Village, Bhopal. Dr N.N. Goswami, Former Dean, (IARI) & Ex-Vice Chancellor (CSAUAT), Kanpur, Dr A. Subba Rao, Ex-Director (IISS), and Prof. D.K. Das, Ex-Head, Division of Agricultural



Physics, IARI, New Delhi, graced the occasion. Officials from Govt of M.P. and State of Bank of India also participated in this event.

Dr. N.N.Goswami, highlighted the importance of healthy soils for human health and also stressed upon the integrated and balanced application of nutrients. He also advised farmers to apply farm yard manure (FYM) for sustaining soil health.

Prof. D.K. Das, emphasized on the soil physical health for increasing farm income and safeguarding soils from erosion. He also stressed upon the importance of different resource conservation technologies for sustainable production and doubling farmers' income.

Dr. A. Subba Rao, briefed about the importance of healthy soil for food security and human health. He also emphasized on the role of organic matter and bio-fertilizer in improving soil health. He advised farmers to be cautious about application of sewage water and municipal solid waste for possible contamination of soil.



Earlier, Dr. Ashok K. Patra, welcomed all the dignitaries and farmers in commemorating world soil day celebration. He also indicated the available technologies at the Institute for better management of soil health and explained various activities to address the emerging issues of soil pollution and their management.

On this occasion, a farmers-scientists interaction session on "Efficient management of fertilizers for improving soil health and environment" was also held; where in farmers' shared their experiences on interventions of IISS technologies in improving soil health such as soil health card, composting techniques, family net vessel composting technique, conservation agriculture, residue recycling, remediation of polluted soils, etc.



During the event, farmers also took pledge not to burn crop residue at least on a portion of their field.

The event was jointly organized by the Institute and Bhopal chapter of Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS).

Dr AB Singh, Principal Scientist, overall co-ordinated the event and Dr R.S.Chaudhary, HOD (Soil Physics) proposed vote of thanks.

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