

Virtual Training on “Soil Testing and Nutritional Recommendation for Agricultural Crops” @Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

The four-day *Virtual Training Programme* on “Soil Testing and Nutritional Recommendation for Agricultural Crops”, organized by jointly by ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS), Bhopal & State Institute of Agricultural Extension & Training (SIAET), Bhopal from 27th to 30th July, 2021 concluded today. The programme was organized as a part of the “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” to commemorate 75 Years of India’s Independence. Soil testing is well recognized as a sound scientific tool to assess inherent power of soil to supply plant nutrients. The benefits of soil testing have been established through scientific research, extensive field demonstrations, and on the basis of actual fertilizer use by the farmers on soil test based fertilizer use recommendations. Planners and agriculturalists have recognized the utility of soil testing but it suffers due to inadequate scientific support in its execution. Keeping this in view, the focus of this training was on soil sampling, soil testing, concepts on plant nutrition, soil testing kit (Mridaparikshak), role of fertilizer and manure in crop production, balance and integrated nutrient management, organic farming, crop residue management, conservation agriculture, importance of macro/ micronutrients in agriculture, Soil Health Card Scheme, gender sensitization and gender budgeting etc. Thirty Assistant Soil Testing Officers and Assistant Soil Survey Officers of Government of Madhya Pradesh participated in the training from different parts of State. Dr Ashok K Patra, Director, ICAR-IISS, Bhopal graced the valedictory session and addressed the participants online. He emphasized upon importance of soil testing in maximizing crop yield, soil health, animal health and human health by using 4R (Right source of fertilizer, at the right rate, at the right time, and in the right place) nutrient management concept. He further stated that soil test based balance and integrated nutrient management is the key for maintaining crop production, soil fertility and soil health. The training was coordinated by Dr Pradip Dey, Dr RH Wanjari, Dr AK Vishwakarma, Dr M Vassanda Coumar and Smt Deepika Dixit. Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr M Vassanda Coumar.

