

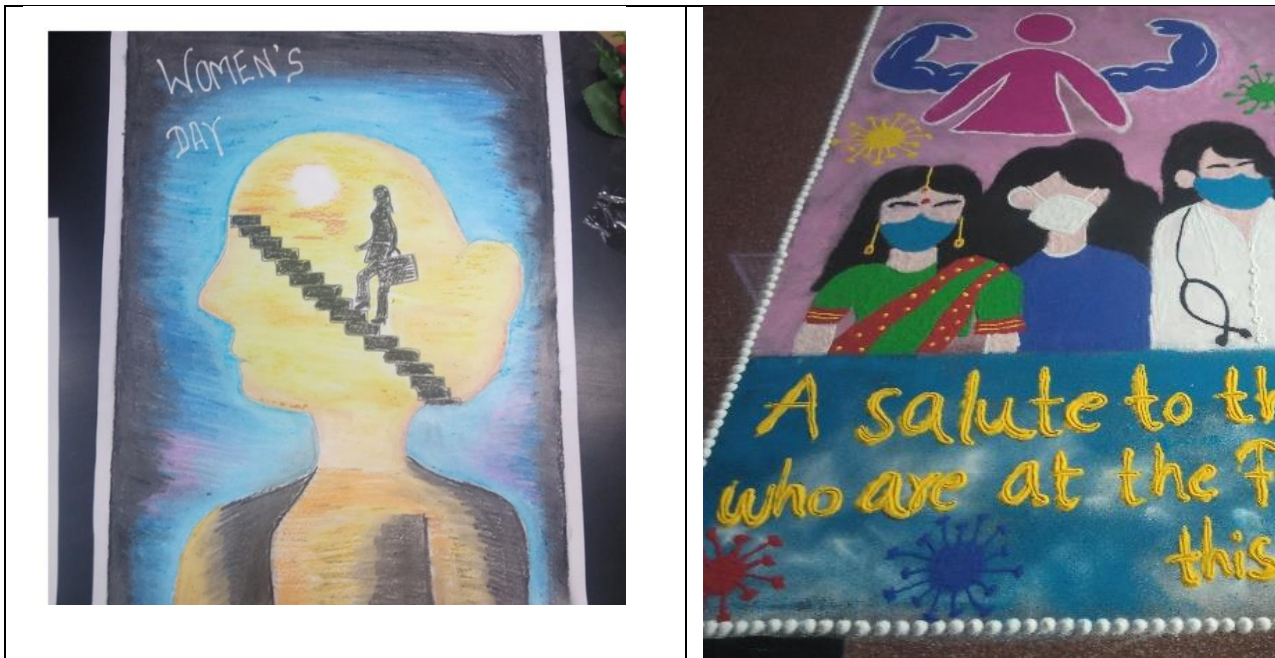
Celebration of International Women's Day at ICAR-IISS

ICAR-IISS celebrated International women's day with great enthusiasm and fervor with the theme "**Women leadership in Agriculture: Achieving an equal future in Covid-19 World**". Keeping in line with this theme ICAR IISS, Bhopal organized events on Women Leadership in Agriculture, Entrepreneurship, Equity and Empowerment (3E). Women scientists of the institute organized a training program on vermicomposting at the Parwalia village on 6 March 2021 to uplift the weaker section of the society. About 60 SC farm women from Tarasewanyia and Parwalia villages participated in the program. Scientist appraised the women farmers on various aspects of soil health and enhancing crop production through vermicomposting using household wastes. Scientists also highlighted the techniques for rapid composting of agri-wastes. Farm women were given family net vessel composting kit to convert their kitchen waste into compost. Sarpanch of both the villages emphasized the need of empowerment of women farmers through entrepreneurship by initiating small-scale vermicomposting units.

On 8 March 2021, women scientists organized a program, where women from farming community and staff of the institute participated in various events like painting competition and quiz competition based on the theme of Women's Day. The institute also felicitated three successful farm women from different villages. These rural women farmers made a difference in their communities and inspired others in the process of empowering farm women. They formed self help group which were supported by different organizations, like Bhopal Panchayat who extended its support for better marketing and networking with local vendors. The farm women were from different villages namely Khulukhedi, Jamsur kalan and Dojiyayi from Bhopal district. Smt Gayatri Mehra from Khulukhedi used the agricultural produce of her locality to make ready to eat items and did good marketing which improved her living as well as all the women associated with her group. She not only generated employment but through her endeavors improved the lives of other women in the village as well as motivated others to join the group. Mrs Kavita Meena, 36 years old from Jhumsoor Kala, Berasia, Madhya Pradesh, supports her family through farming. They received trainings on organic farming and other capacity building activities from the Agricultural technology management scheme (ATMA), ICAR – IISS and National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). These successful farm women also had received appreciation certificate by Mahila Sashakti Karan Society as COVID-19 warriors for their commitment towards up-liftment of society's weaker section at the time of pandemic. The program was carried out by following the COVID-19 norms. Chief Guest, Mrs Rina Patra emphasized on need of technical studies like polytechnic degree and its importance for sustaining women's livelihood and self-dependency in rural and urban areas. Mrs Patra also spoke about the significance of International Women's Day and the challenges being faced by women in today's society. She emphasized that every woman should grow in all her sphere without any fear. The program was concluded with distribution of prizes by the Chief Guest.

On the same day, three days '**Kishan Pathshala**' was also inaugurated under the NICRA project at Patidar Organic Farm, Parwalia Sadak, Bhopal. Dr A.K. Patra, Director, ICAR-IISS, emphasized on empowering women in agriculture and their role in Integrated Farming System

(IFS) for doubling farmer's income. In this event, stopping crop residues burning, organic farming for sustaining soil health and improving agricultural production were discussed.



Drawing and Rangoli by students and staff of the institute



Distribution of family net vessel composting to women farmers



Women farmers and staff of the institute participated in the program



Felicitating successful women farmers by the Chief Guest