

ICAR- INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SOIL SCIENCE, BHOPAL ORGANIZED TRAINING ON NATURAL FARMING AT ASPIRATIONAL TRIBAL DISTRICT RAJNANDGAON, CHHATTISGARH

ICAR- Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal (M.P.) organised **Krishi Mela cum Krishak Sangosthi on Natural Farming** during 16-17 December 2022 at KVK Surgi, Rajnandgaon district, Chhattisgarh. Padmashri Smt. Phoolbasan Bai Yadav, President of the Maa Bamleshwari Janhit Karya Samiti graced the Krishi Mela cum Krishak Sangosthi as Chief Guest on 16th December 2022 and emphasised on importance of organic and natural farming practices for crop and soil health improvement. During this occasion 30 quintals of HYVs of rice and 10 quintals of summer green gram seeds were distributed to tribal farmers to improve crop productivity and soil health. The Krishak Sangosthi on Natural Farming was addressed by Dr. R. Elanchezhian, Dr. Prabhat Tripathi, Dr. M. Vassanda Coumar, Dr Narayan Lal and Dr Dinesh Kumar Yadav (ICAR-IISS, Bhopal), Dr R.N. Singh (Dean College of Agriculture Surgi, Dr Jitendra Singh, Dean College of Horticulture Rajnandgaon, Dr. Rajesh Sharma (Asst. Director Horticulture), Dr. B.S. Rajput (Head, KVK Rajnandgaon), Dr. Anjali Ghratlehre, Dr Atul Dange, Dr. Gunjan Jha (KVK Rajnandgaon), Smt. Jena Sahu, President, and Smt. Khulbeshwari Sahu, Secretary, Ma Bambleshwari FPO, Dongargarh, Rajnandgaon. Altogether 300 tribal farmers attended the Mela and Sangosthi. On 17th December 2022, seedlings of horticultural fruit crops like mango, guava, jack fruit, dragon fruit were also distributed among the tribal beneficiary farmers at Horticultural nursery, Kecti Tola, Ambagarh Chowki block, Rajnandgaon in which 100 farmers were sensitized about the importance of fruit crops in enhancing farm income. The same day the soil samples were also collected in the district to prepare a GIS based map for fertilizer optimization and improved fertilizer use efficiency. The events were given a wide coverage in the local press and media.

