

## INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SOIL SCIENCE CELEBRATED WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2022

ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal celebrated World Environment Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 on the theme 'Only One Earth' to create awareness on preservation and enhancement of habitable environment and organized a lecture by Prof. Ravi Naidu, Director of Global Centre for Environmental Remediation, The University of Newcastle, Australia. The program started with welcome address and greetings to the delegates by Dr. J.K. Saha, Head, Division of Environmental Soil Science. He highlighted the need for lifestyle orientation in harmony with nature so that degradation of environment can be prevented. In his opening remark, Dr. A.K. Patra, Director of Indian Institute of Soil Science, expressed concern on rising pollution that is threatening the existence biodiversity. He specifically mentioned the emerging menace of microplastics that are entering into our precious soil resource through various means and are affecting soil biological health and ecosystem services. Prof. Ravi Naidu delivered his lecture on 'Our polluted soil - why we need to stop destroying the very thing that sustain us'. In his lecture, he emphasized the importance of soil protection from pollution for sustainability of environment. He highlighted that cadmium, arsenic and pesticides are major contaminants in agricultural land, threatening human health through food chain contamination and needs to be controlled. He also appealed IISS Bhopal to join International Network on Soil Pollution (INSOP) of FAO for strengthening the international effort of combating soil pollution. After his presentation, participants interacted with the speaker about various environmental issues impacting quality food production from agricultural land. A total of 57 scientists participated the program. The program ended with vote of thanks presented by Dr. A. Sarkar, Scientist of ESS division.

