

ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal
Organized a National Campaign
on
Soil Health Management (Nutrient Use Efficiency and SOC Management)

A National Campaign LiFE (Lifestyle For Environment) was organized on 22 May 2023 as per the Office Memorandum no. 1-3/2022-NRM-CC (FTS-118967) dated 11.05.2023 by GOI, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, New Delhi. In this national campaign on Soil Health Management (Nutrient Use Efficiency and SOC Management), 64 farmers from villages around Bhopal district covering more than 16 villages and more than 600 farmers and subject matter specialists from AICRPs/State Agriculture Universities/State Departments of Agriculture/KVKs participated. The program was graced by Dr. Milind Wadodkar, Chief Soil Survey Officer, Soil and Land Use Survey of India, Gol, New Delhi and attended by all the scientists of ICAR-IISS including HoDs, In-Charges AICRPs, scientists from their centers and farmers from different parts of the country. In this programme, Dr. Siba Prasad Datta, Director ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal welcomed all the participants of the function (online and offline). He stressed the farmers to adopt a simple life i.e. living in harmony with nature. He also mentioned the citations of simple living and preservation of soil health mentioned in our epics. The mother earth renders so many soil functions such as purification of water, carbon & nutrient cycling, diluting and denaturing the pesticides thereby improving soil health. He also requested farmers to adopt balanced and integrated use of nutrient in soil as it can maintain sufficient carbon content in soil. Dr. Milind Wadodkar also highlighted the importance of soil and stressed to delineate its limitations and its potentials to supply nutrients to crops and use fertilizers as per the suggestions made in the soil health card. Dr. AK Biswas, Head Division of Soil Chemistry and Fertility, shared the objective of conducting such campaigns to sensitize the farmers and other stakeholders about the health of mother earth. He linked the purpose of enhancing nutrient use efficiency with soil carbon management and reduction in green house gas emissions. The issue of soil health management through natural and organic farming was discussed by Dr. AB Singh, Head of the Division of Soil Biology. Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, Principal Scientist made a very crisp presentation on Soil health management by soil test based balanced fertilizer use. He also demonstrated the mobile app named Balanced Fertilizers, which suggests the amount of fertilizer needed based on the soil parameters. Also, the app can guide about the locations of nearby soil testing laboratories to get the soil samples analysed. In this campaign, Dr. Sanjib Behera, In-charge MSN, highlighted the importance of micronutrients in soil health management. He cautioned the farmers towards emerging zinc and boron deficiencies in soils. Dr. Santosh Mohanty, In Charge AINPB, discussed the role of microbes and organic fertilizers in soil health management. The issue of organic carbon sequestration in soil under conservation agriculture was presented by Dr. RS Chaudhary, Head of Division of Soil Physics. He emphasized upon three principles of conservation agriculture and their importance in SOC management and climate change mitigation. Urban wastes also contains significant amount of nutrients and their use in agriculture is very important for nutrient cycling from them. Dr. JK Saha highlighted the importance of segregation and decomposition of the urban wastes for improving soil health and their reuse in agriculture. Dr. RK Jaiswal, RVSKVV, Gwalior emphasized upon growing of

horticultural crops either as sole crop or as agri-horti system to improve soil carbon in the soil as these crops provide large amount of biomass as leaf fall on the soil surface. The programme was concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Brij Lal Lakaria, Principal Scientist, ICAR Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal. After the programme a field visit was organized by Dr. Anand Vishwakarma, Dr. Brij Lal Lakaria, Dr. N.K.Sinha and Dr. Jitendra Kumar to demonstrate the field experiments and manure producing units along with a demonstration of drone technology.



Source: ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal

Format for reporting

1. Name of mission LiFE activity Organized: National Campaign for Lifestyle for environment
2. Theme of mission LiFE covered: Soil Health Management (Nutrient Use Efficiency and SOC Management)
3. Nodal agency involved: ICAR- Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal

Date of the event	No. of organizations involved (institutes/ KVKs/SAUs/NGOs/Farmers organizations etc.	No. of participants	Social media used for creating awareness
22. 05.2023	25	670	Zoom, YouTube, , Facebook