

Press Note to be published on 17 April 2024

ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science Celebrated its 37th Foundation Day on April 16, 2024

ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS), Bhopal celebrated its 37th Foundation Day on 16th April, 2024. Dr SK Chaudhari, DDG (NRM), ICAR, New Delhi graced the occasion (online) as the Chief Guest. Dr A Velmurugan, ADG (SWM) NRM, ICAR, New Delhi and Dr PK Sharma, Former Vice Chancellor, SKUAST, Jammu graced the function as the Guest of Honour. On this occasion, the former Directors of the Institute, Dr PN Takkar, Dr CL Acharya, Dr A Subba Rao, Dr AK Patra addressed the gathering as special guests in online as well as offline mode. Dr Pradip Dey (Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata) also joined the Foundation Day programme virtually as special guest. Besides, the Directors and Scientists of all the Institutes including NRM Institutes attended the function in an online mode.

Dr SP Datta (Director, ICAR-IISS) highlighted the Institute's achievements and future thrust areas. The institute felicitated the progressive farmers namely Smt. Tara Bai Meena, Shri Manohar Patidar, Shri Hemraj Yadav, Shri Arjun Singh and Shri Anil Ahirwar for their innovativeness and adoption of modern agricultural practices. Dr SP Datta was also felicitated on completion of twenty-nine years of dedicated service in ICAR. The Best Worker Award was given to Shri Deepak Kaul, and Shri Sanjay Parihar (Technical), Shri Venny Joy and Shri Sanjay Gharde (Administration) and Shri Rakesh Sen (Supporting). The dignitaries also released the publications for the benefit of farmers.

Dr SK Chaudhari appreciated the contribution made by the Institute in soil science domain. He urged the Scientists to be aware about the new developments in soil science and to work for the farmers. Taking into account the challenges of resources in future and the increasing fragility, he stressed to change the way of doing research. He also highlighted the importance of organic and natural farming as the availability of fertilizers is not guaranteed in future. In addition to being a medium of plant growth, soil also provides various other ecosystem services. Hence, there is need to study all the aspects of soil science, and spread its education and awareness among stakeholders.

Dr PK Sharma appreciated achievements of the Institute and its services to the nation. He talked about the problems faced by Indian agriculture post green revolution and the manner in which Institute was established to tackle such issues. He emphasized that IISS is a unique Institute and we have to increase the interaction with stakeholders to orient ourselves as per the present day scenario. He further stated that soil health is vital for health of all living things. He has delivered the Foundation Day lecture on "Soil Physics for Land-Water-Food-Environmental Sustainability", wherein he has highlighted the significance of physical conditions of soil in enhancing crop production.

Dr SP Datta appreciated the excellent work and technology developed and implemented by the Institute. He further stated that soil health status could be maintained through balance fertilizer use, conservation agriculture, customised fertilizer, nutrient management options through INM, natural and organic farming. He also explained the role of conservation agriculture in maximising nutrient, water and energy use efficiencies. He said organic carbon is the soul of soil hence there is a need to concentrate on sequestration and optimization of carbon in soil. In order to sustain the soil health, there is a need to go for qualitative and quantitative tests. He further said that there is need to digitize farmlands with georeferenced points. He emphasized that students are driving force for innovative research for any organisation.

About 200 people actively participated in the programme. The function ended with formal vote of thanks proposed by Dr R Elanchezhian, organizing secretary.



Felicitation of Dr Dr SP Datta on completion of twenty-nine years of dedicated service in ICAR



The institute felicitated the progressive farmer Smt. Tara Bai Meena



The institute felicitated the progressive farmer Shri Hemraj Yadav



Publications released during the function



Felicitation of staff by the dignitaries