

## **ICAR-IISS, Bhopal celebrated World Soil Day with the theme of "Stop soil erosion, save our future"**

Soil degradation is one of the serious problem in our country, and as per the estimates about 120.7 million hectares of land area faces one or other form of soil degradation. In addition, agriculture sector is facing the threat of climate change. The different processes of soil erosion result a total 5.3 billion tons of soil loss and 8 million tonnes of nutrient loss every year in our country. Hence, to raise awareness among the public, stakeholders and farmers, every year 5<sup>th</sup> December is celebrated as World Soil Day. On this occasion, ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal organized a one-week long Soil Health Awareness programme starting from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019. A massive campaign for preserving “SOIL – Our Mother Earth”, was organised on World Soil Day. A March – Past was organized from the Institute campus to the city of Bhopal. This was followed by a farmer-scientist interaction meet at village-Parawalia Sadak, District- Bhopal, where, the renowned Soil Scientist Prof. N. N. Goswami, Ex-Vice Chancellor, CSAUAT, Kanpur, New Delhi was present along with Prof. D.K. Das (New Delhi), Prof. HK Senapati (Bhubaneswar), Dr. JC Tarafdar (Jodhpur). Prof. N.N. Goswami emphasized the role of soil in the survival of the mankind and called for a national movement to protect this precious natural resource for the future generations. He reiterated that with imbalanced and unscientific use of agro-chemicals, there is degradation in soil health and occurrence of multi-nutrient deficiencies in soil. As per the latest study by the Indian Institute of Soil Science, Indian soils are deficient in sulphur 28%, zinc 36% and boron 23% which needs immediate attention for balanced application of fertilizers. In the program, progressive farmers were distributed soil health cards. During the events, scientists, officials, students and about 300 farmers from nearby villages participated in this awareness program. Dr. Ashok K. Patra, Director of the Institute welcomed all experts and participants and called for wholehearted action for the cause of conserving soil and water for the prosperity of the nation.



