

ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science Organized World Water Day 2021

22 March 2021

All plants and animals on this earth need water to survive and one cannot think of life without water. United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 6 indicates "clean water and sanitation for all". and also "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." **World Water Day (WWD)** is observed on March 22 every year by creating awareness on water and also taking action to tackle water crisis for all and this year it is celebrated with the theme of 'Valuing Water'.

On this occasion ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal organized a programme 'Valuing Water Campaign' on forenoon of 22 March 2021 and celebrated the 'World Water Day' at Institute and also at farmers' village Raipur, Bhopal district. In the morning session, a quiz competition on 'Valuing Water' was organized at the Institute where the Scientists, SRFs, RAs, students and other staff participated. In the meeting, , Dr. Ashok K. Patra Director (ICAR-IISS) emphasized the purpose of 'World Water Day' and deliberated on clean water use and sanitation and some advanced water management technologies such as micro-irrigation techniques to conserve water and improve its efficiency in agriculture. He further reiterated the 5R concept in water use such as **Reduce Wastage of Water; Re-Use Used Water; Recharge Ground Water; Recycle Waste Water and Respect Water**. He also highlighted the importance of 'Per Drop More Crop' for higher water use efficiency in agriculture.

Mrs. T. S. Raji Gain, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Bhopal graced the occasion as Chief Guest and appreciated the efforts of the Institute in involving a number of stakeholders in the water and soil health awareness programmes. She distributed the prizes to the winners of the quiz competition. In her chief guest address, she called for sustained efforts in conserving water in a scientific way and the role of watershed development projects in improving livelihood of resource poor farmers. She highlighted role of NABARD in agriculture and 'value of water' in agriculture and rural development. She also reiterated the importance of people's participation in watershed development and maintenance; Also emphasized the importance of soil and water conservation and afforestation in tribal areas. She also linked soil health to water quality and hence participation of all sectors involving in soil and water conservation. The farmers must be educated about safe and efficient use of water and the technologies developed by all ICAR Institutes should be made available to them through *Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav* (MGMG), Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) and 'Water Literacy' campaign. Residual water use should be promoted in big ways and '*Jaldoot*' – a unique campaign to spread the message of water conservation to the masses in different languages across India should be encouraged. Finally, she emphasized the climate change adversely impacts water availability, thus need for conservation water for our future generation.



In the afternoon, a farmer-scientist interaction meet was organized at Raipur village, district Bhopal with the objectives of creating awareness on 'valuing water' among farming communities in which more than 150 farmers participated. The Director of the Institute Dr. Ashok K. Patra and other senior officials of the Institute including HoDs, PCs and Scientists attended the meeting. During the event, farmers were briefed about the importance of water, value of water, water quality, soil & water conservation, integrated and balanced nutrient applications for higher crop yields and profitability. The event was coordinated by Dr R.S. Chaudhary and Dr M.Mohanty.



Source: ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal
