

**National Webinar on  
Biochar: Potential Availability, Usefulness and Limitation for Use in  
Indian Agriculture**  
*Organized by*  
**ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal**  
19 June, 2020

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A National Webinar on '**Biochar: Potential Availability, Usefulness and Limitations**' was organized by ICAR-IISS, Bhopal on 19 June 2020. Dr. Ashok K. Patra, Director ICAR-IISS Bhopal welcomed all dignitaries and made an opening remark and highlighted the importance of biochar and its relevance in Indian agriculture. Hon'ble Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner, DAC & FW, Dr. S.K. Chaudhari, DDG (NRM), ICAR, and Dr. Alka Bhargav, Additional Secretary, DAC&FW graced the occasion. Dr S.K. Chaudhari, DDG (NRM) briefed the participants about the objectives of the webinar and emerging issues related to biochar research and development for future road map. About 300 participants attended the webinar.

The webinar also connected from different Ministries, present and former Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities, Directors of ICAR institutes, business professionals & academicians, students and farmers on a single platform. Prof. Balwant Singh, School of Environmental and Life Sciences, University of Sydney, Australia and Prof. Dinesh Mohan, School of Environmental Sciences, JNU, New Delhi made detailed presentations on biochar research in global and Indian perspective. Dr. AK Patra, Director, ICAR-IISS Bhopal, Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director ICAR NAARM, Hyderabad, and Dr. TJ Purakayastha, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi also deliberated on various issues of biochar. Eminent speakers covered topics including biochar production and quality, characterization, response to crops and changes in soil properties and niche area of its application including environmental aspects.

Dr. Alka Bhargav, Additional Secretary, DAC, Govt. of India emphasized on use of bamboo stock and other woody material for biochar production and development of commercial and entrepreneurial model. Dr. SK Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner, Govt. of India stressed on the importance of biochar in enhancing and storing carbon in soil and also urged upon the need for commercial scalable biochar production unit in India. Hon'ble Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR in his concluding remarks expressed satisfaction on the nature of information and knowledge generated on biochar world-wide. He proposed to constitute a committee consisting of all stakeholders and experts to go into various aspects of biochar research and development for concrete action plan towards the use of biochar in agriculture. He also expressed for long term research on biochar in different agro-ecological regions of the country for gainful insight into the ecosystem services.

