Hon'ble Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) Visits ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal

Dr.Trilochan Mohapatra, Hon'ble Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) visited ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal on the afternoon of 13th Dec, 2018. Dr. Ashok K. Patra, Director (ICAR-IISS) accompanied DG (ICAR), Bhopal, along with Dr. V.P.Singh, Director (ICAR-NISHAD), Bhopal and Dr N.P.Singh, Director, (ICAR-IIPR), Kanpur on the occasion.

At the outset, Dr. Patra, welcomed Hon'ble Secretary (DARE) & DG (ICAR) and other dignitaries for visiting the institute. He briefed the DG (ICAR) about the institute activities, and achievements/technologies such as *Mridaparikshak*, soil fertility maps on major, micro-nutrients at national level, contribution in preparation of global soil organic carbon (SOC) map, rapo-composting for *in-situ* recycling of crop residue to revert residue burning, conservation agriculture for sustaining soil health, MIR spectroscopy for rapid soil assessment, remediation of polluted soils, and harmonization of soil analysis procedure, etc.

In his address, Hon'ble DG (ICAR) applauded the scientists of the Institute for their remarkable achievements. He specifically highlighted the need for farmers' friendly technologies to stop *in-situ* crop residue burning, hand held device to monitor soil health and to recommend nutrient doses for improving soil fertility and farm productivity. He also emphasized the need for frequent brainstorming meetings among the researchers to address the soil related issues and to devise ways to extend the appropriate location-specific technologies among the farming community. He said that *Mridaparikshak* technology of the institute has pan Indian reach. While applauding the institute scientists on this achievement, the Hon'ble DG, however, urged that detailed scientific analysis of the impact of the *Mridaparikshak* on fertilizer

recommendation, yield enhancement and soil amelioration should be taken up. He also emphasized on the need to develop quick and easy to operate hand held device of soil health assessment which could address location specific soil health issues. He stressed upon the need to develop better microorganisms to expedite the *in-situ* decomposition process to stop crop residue burning. He also urged the senior level scientists to inspire and train the young scientists to make them leaders in future.

Scientific, technical, administrative staff, students and RA and SRFs were also present during the interaction meeting.

(Source: ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal)