

World Soil Day Celebrated at ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal

World Soil Day was celebrated with gaiety and fervour at ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal on December 05, 2016 with the theme: “Soils and pulses, a symbiosis for life”. The positive contributions of pulses to soil properties are many: they fix the atmosphere nitrogen and improve its biodiversity, fertility and structure. That is why the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) dedicates this year's World Soil Day to pulses.



The programme was graced by Dr. Rajesh Prasad Mishra, IAS, and Director, Water and Land Management Institute (WALMI), Bhopal who was also Chief Guest of the function. Dr. Mishra emphasized the importance of soil and stressed upon the need to increase awareness of soil management among the children. Dr. A. K. Tiwari, Director of Pulse Development, DAC, Madhya Pradesh talked about the importance of pulses in improving the soil fertility. He also elaborated on some

new pulse production technologies and told that currently pulse productivity is about 33 to 70% lower than the expectation in different parts of the country. Mr. B M Sahare, additional Director, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Madhya Pradesh told about the Govt soil health card scheme and the current progress of Madhya Pradesh in the distribution of soil health cards.



Earlier, Dr Ashok K Patra, Director of the institute welcomed the delegates, farmers, and students and



apprised them about the activities of the institute. The event was jointly organized by ICAR-IISS, Bhopal; Bhopal Chapter of Indian Society of Soil Science; and Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Madhya Pradesh. This was attended by several farmers and school students among others. Soil Health Cards were distributed to farmers by the Chief Guest. A debate competition of the school students on the theme “Waste to wealth-a dream for clean India” was also organized. *KisanGoshthi* on soil health management was held in which

Scientists answered to the questions of farmers.