

Conference on Farmers First for Conserving Soil and Water Resources in North Eastern Region Inaugurated

9th February, 2017 Guwahati

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister of Assam inaugurated the Conference on Farmers First for Conserving Soil and Water Resources in North Eastern Region being organised by Indian Association of Soil and Water Conservationists (IASWC), Dehradun here today.



In his inaugural address, he said that soil is our soul and water is the live. Without *Krishi*, it is not possible to create *Rishi*. He emphasised on enhancing productivity and farmers' income particularly rural youths without adverse impact on natural resources. Reserachers should guide the farmers and policy makers for develpoing right policies. He initiated the Chief Minister Gram Samradhi Yojana and Village Tourism. Organic hubs will bring a momentum in sustaobanle agriculture. He stated that creating and maitaining clean and fresh environment is utmost important. Attracting the youths in agriculture was also one of the concern of the chief guest. Farmers should be respected at every step.

Dr. A.K Singh, DDG (Agril Extension), ICAR, New Delhi highlighted the philosophy and appriach of Farmer FIRST Program. He said that it is farmer centric and they have key role at every step of the developmental programme. Based on agro-system analysis, invloving farmers as partners, enhancing interface amonmg different stakeholders, technology integration and content mobilisation components are being adrrsded. In this program, a mechanism of enhanced farmers-scentists contact, technology adaptation and feedback is to be created. Focus on creating partnership, institutions building, models of linkages, technology absorption, marketing, etc. is being given. All the farmers icluding landless, interventions are to be developed. Major attention is FIRST (farmers fields, innovations, resources, sciemnce and technology) considering farmers view point.

Dr. KM Bujarbaruah, Vice Chancellor, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat delivered Dr KG Tejawani Memorial Lecture on 'Towards Meeting Soil-Man-Soil Expectation'. He said that soil is a primary concern for our farmers and the mankind as a whole. His more emphasis was on input use efficiency, realising per soil unit gain, enhancing soil productivity, etc. It is our collective responsibility to care for the soil and take every possible right measure to keep soil healthy.

Earlier, Dr. PK Mishra, Director, ICAR-IISWC, Dehradun and President (IASWC) in his welcome address said that it is unique type of conference where farmers speak and scientists and professionals listen.

On this occasion, IASWC Lifetime Achievement Award were presented.

A total of more than 80 farmers are participated from the NEH states to share their experience with the Researcher and extension workers.

(Source: ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil & Water Conservation, Dehradun)

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