

ICAR**Reporter**

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APRIL – JUNE 2016

**Kisan Mela**

Hattal, 15 April 2016. The Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (IISWC) sensitized farmers on water resource development and improved agriculture during a *Kisan mela* at Hattal village in Tuni Tehsil of Dehra Dun District. Dr Alok Kumar Sikka (the then DDG, NRM) dedicated the assets on water resource developed by the IISWC under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) to the villagers for the use in irrigation and augment agriculture production. In his chief guest address, Dr Sikka emphasized on judicious use of soil and water resources, soil-health management, crop diversification, water budgeting and effective water utilization and the need of sustainable agriculture in hills in tune with the changing climate. Dr Sikka pleaded that farmers must actively participate in Government schemes so that indented benefits are realized.

Dr P. K. Mishra (Director, IISWC) informed about the activities and achievements made through participatory interventions under the TSP programme by the Institute. The scientists explained the accrued benefits of water resource developed and other interventions made. Hattal and Sainj villages are now getting 670 cubic metre water over 24 hr for irrigation and that changed the agriculture scenario in the area. In last two years, farmers have produced vegetables, mainly tomatoes and cauliflowers worth ₹ 2.5 crore. In this *mela*, 200 farmers, scientists, technical officers actively participated.

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