

Farmers First for Conserving Soil and Water Resources Organized at CSWCRTI, Dehradun

24th March 2014, Dehradun

The Indian Association of Soil and Water Conservationists (IASWC) and Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute (CSWCRTI), Dehradun jointly organized the conference, 'Farmers First for Conserving Soil and Water Resources in Northern Region', FFCSWR-2014 during 22-24th March 2014.



In his inaugural address, Dr. J.S. Samra, Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) New Delhi and the Chief Guest of the event focused on the revision of interventions as per the needs of time, changing climate and socio-economic set ups.

Dr. A.K. Sikka, Deputy Director General, Natural Resource Management, ICAR and Dr. Madhumita Mukherjee, Executive Director National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad were the Guests of Honour. Addressing the farmers and scientists on issues of natural resource management and soil and water conservation, Dr. Sikka focused on the integration of possible sub-sectors into watershed management programs and rural development.

Dr. Mukherjee briefed the activities and scope of the NFDB for the development of fisheries and the need of climate resilient fisheries technologies in northern region, particularly wherever water resources exist.

In his address, Dr. R.S. Tolia, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand and Chief Information Commissioner, Uttarakhand appreciated the unified efforts of government agencies and functionaries to maximise delivery from different schemes meant for the benefit of farmers.

Dr. S.K. Chaudhary, Assistant Director General, SW&M, ICAR emphasised the need of soil conservation to minimise the loss of soil organic carbon and soil health, which are important for life.

Dr. Matthew Prasad, Vice Chancellor, Uttarakhand University of Horticulture and Forestry (UUHF); Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi, Chairman, HESCO, Dehradun; and Dr. M. Muruganandam, Senior Scientist were also present on the occasion.

Recognition awards of the IASWC were given to seven exemplary scientists and 44 chosen progressive and innovative farmers. Participants pledged on soil conservation to kick start 'Save Soil Campaign' as a movement. A folder on the means and benefits of soil conservation was also released.

Earlier Dr. P.K. Mishra, Director, CSWCRTI welcomed the participants.

The Conference focussed on the issues and experiences of farmers from five States of Northern India (Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir) besides NCR of Delhi and UT of Chandigarh. Over 200 participants including 60 innovative farmers, officials and scientists from ICAR, State and Central Government agencies, Universities, KVKS, NGOs and other stakeholders participated in the conference.

(Source: CSWCRTI, Dehradun)