

World Soil Day Celebrated at ICAR Institutes and Krishi Vigyan Kendras

5th December, 2016

Indian Council of Agricultural Research celebrated World Soil Day on 5th December 2016 across the country. A total 73 ICAR institutes have organized the World Soil Day 2016 function involving local MLAs/ MPs/ Local Authorities/ Farmers/ Students and Officials.

This year World Soil Day (WSD2016) relevantly combines the International Year of Soils 2015 and the International Year of Pulses 2016 with the theme "Soil & Pulses, symbiosis for life". Under this theme, WSD 2016 highlights the multifaceted benefits of pulses not only for human health and nutrition, but also for their contribution to soil health and sustainable agriculture through the symbiotic relationship between soils and pulses.

ICAR Institutes and Krishi Vigyan Kendras celebrated World Soil Day today by organizing special events and distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers.

ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal

ICAR-IISS celebrated World Soil Day with the theme, "Soils and pulses, a symbiosis for life".

Dr. Rajesh Prasad Mishra, IAS, and Director, Water and Land Management Institute (WALMI), Bhopal, Chief Guest of the event 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.

Mr. B M Sahare, Additional Director, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Madhya Pradesh briefed 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, ICAR-IISS in his welcome address apprised about the activities of the institute.

The programme was attended by several farmers and school students. Soil Health Cards were distributed to farmers by the Chief Guest.

ICAR-Indian Institute of Pulse Research, Kanpur

Dr. D.D. Tiwari, Professor of Soil Science, CSAU & T, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh advocated crop rotation including pulses, addition of manures and other macro/micro-nutrients on a sustainable basis. Usually soil containing 3-4 earthworms/m² is considered as productive. He stressed the importance of soil health cards for monitoring the status of soil and actions to improve them. He distributed a good number of soil health cards to the farmers.

Dr S.S. Singh, Director/Act, ICAR-IIPR, Kanpur stressed the importance of soils as a building block for sustaining both crop and human/animal life on a long-term basis. He stressed on large scale soil/plant testing and development of soil health card (SHC) so as to provide a boost to both production and productivity of many field crops.

On this occasion Soil Health Cards were distributed among the farmers.

ICAR- Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Dehradun

'World Soil Day' was celebrated with an oath ceremony on 'Save Soil Campaign' where about 12 farmers, 50 agricultural students, 30 scientists, 20 technical, 40 administrative and other staff of the Institute participated. Students visited the Institute's museum. Farmers were demonstrated whole process of soil sampling and analysis.



KVK, Ri-Bhoi

KVK Ri-Bhoi in collaboration with NRM Division, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam celebrated "World Soil Day cum Rabi Kisan Sammelan".

The Chief Guest, Smt. Rona Khymdeit, Member of District Council, Nongpoh Constituency, Ri-Bhoi urged the farmers to utilize waste material for improve soil health and the productivity of crop. She stressed on cultivating pulses for better soil health management.

Dr. S. V. Ngachan, Director, ICAR, Umiam stressed on proper use of local resources for soil health improvement and saving of mother earth to increase productivity for food security.

About 200 soil health cards (SHC) was issued to farmers of fourteen different villages of Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya. About 14 Soil Testing Kits were also distributed to 14 farmers of the 14 participating villages.



KVK, Cuttack

KVK, Cuttack organized Pre-Rabi Mela & World Soil Day awareness programme on the theme "Soils & Pulses: symbiosis for life" at ICAR- National Rice Research Institute.

Dr. Debaraj Panda, Ex-Director, WALMI, Cuttack and eminent Soil Scientist & Chief Guest of the programme laid emphasis on importance of soil health maintenance. He also distributed 470 Soil Health Cards.

Dr. H. Pathak, Director, ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack discussed about the importance of proper soil sampling and restitution of nutrients into soil for maintenance of soil fertility and getting optimal production.

KVK Koderma

On the occasion of World Soil Day, Kisan Gosthi (Pre-Rabi) was also organized.

Dr. (Smt.) Neera Yadav, Education Minister, Government of Jharkhand was Chief Guest of the event.

The Chief Guest released a technical bulletin "*Mrida Parikshan Ka Mahatva Evam Takneek*" published by the KVK, Koderma and distributed 45 'Soil Health Cards' among farmers.

An exhibition was laid out by ATMA, Bank of India, BAIF institute, input dealers, KVK, Koderma and CRURRS, Hazaribag to showcase their technologies.

ICAR- Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore

Shri Madhusudan Ghosh, Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly graced as the chief guest of the function. Shri Ghosh shared his experience of soil conservation and its importance in the life of rural people. He raised concern about the immense use of pesticides in agriculture.

Dr. B.K. Das, Director ICAR-CIFRI spoke about the status of soil health and raised issues of soil sustainability.

Students from APC college, New Barrackpore, Fish Farmers and Scientists of CIFRI participated in the programme.

(Source: Respective Institutes)



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Krishi Bhavan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi-110 001. INDIA

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