

IARI holds a brain Storming Session on **'Evaluation and Management of Soil Health'** **organized on 28-12-2015**

A Brain Storming Session (BSS) on 'Evaluation and Management of Soil Health' was organized on 28 December 2015 in the Library Conference Hall of the Institute with the broad objective of outlining the soil health management research and policy agenda beyond International Year of Soils (IYS-2015). The initial session of the BSS was chaired by Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, and subsequent Sessions were chaired by Dr. A.K. Sikka, DDG (NRM), ICAR, and Dr. J.C. Katyal, Former VC, CCS HAU, Hisar. Besides Dr. T. Mohapatra, Director, IARI, Dr. K.V. Prabhu, Jt. Director (Res), IARI, Dr. Solanki, ADG (FFC), ICAR and Dr. S.K. Chaudhari, ADG (SWM), ICAR, senior soil scientists namely, Drs, S.S. Khanna, I.P. Abrol, S.M. Virmani, J.C. Katyal, K.N. Tiwari, Raj K. Gupta and Dhyan Singh, PD, WTC and HoDs on NRM School, and soil scientists of the Institute attended the event.

Dr. Mohapatra welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted the significance of soil health for sustainable agriculture. Dr. Ayyappan lauded the Government initiatives, particularly Soil Health Card scheme and Soil Health Sub-Mission, for improvement of soil health and enhancing awareness of the farmers in this regard. He advised to identify 100 benchmark villages in different agro-ecologies and monitor management- and climate-induced changes in soil health. In all, eight presentations were made highlighting current status, gaps and way forward pertaining to different aspects of soil health. The issues raised in the presentations were discussed at length, and important researchable areas as well as policy interventions were suggested. Monitoring soil health in benchmark soils/systems, improving/evaluating the amount and quality of soil carbon, residue recycling, enhancing NUE, fertilizer product research, and strengthening soil biological studies emerged as major researchable areas. The house suggested for establishment of a Centre for Soil Carbon Research, a National Soil Health Monitoring Facility, and a Soil Museum at IARI. The programme ended with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. B.S. Dwivedi, Head, division of SSAC, IARI.



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