

Applications of Clay Minerals in Agriculture and Allied Sectors: National Conference Concluded at ICAR-IARI

The Clay Minerals Society of India, New Delhi, in association with Division of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, IARI jointly organized 25th Annual Convention and National Conference on "Application of Clay and Allied Sciences for Enhancing Nutrient Use Efficiency, Carbon Sequestration and Mitigating Climate Change" from 18 to 19 December 2025 at ICAR- IARI, New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Chief Guest Dr MS Khera, Former Head, Division of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, IARI and Dr Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director ICAR-IARI, the Guest of Honour, in the presence of distinguished guests and members of the society.

In the inaugural session, Honorary Membership and Fellowship was conferred to its distinguished members. It also featured the 9th Professor S.K. Mukherjee–CMSI Foundation Lecture, delivered by Dr. K.M. Manjaiah, Former Principal Scientist, ICAR-IARI. It was followed by a keynote lecture by Dr. Balwant Singh, Professor of Soil Science, The University of Sydney in the session chaired by Dr. Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI.

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR–IARI, stated that clay and allied sciences play a crucial role in improving nutrient use efficiency, enhancing soil carbon sequestration, and mitigating climate change impacts in agriculture. He emphasized that advances in clay mineralogy, nanoscience, and climate-smart soil management can significantly contribute to sustainable and resilient agri-food systems. He appreciated The Clay Minerals Society of India and the Division of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, for organizing the conference and providing a valuable platform for scientific exchange and collaboration.

The conference was divided into 4 technical sessions, which highlighted the role of clays and clay minerals in agriculture, carbon sequestration, climate change, nutrient delivery, enhancing nutrient use efficiency, environmental quality, and ecosystem services. A special session was also organised on ‘The application of clay and nanoscience in industry and other niche areas’, keeping in view the emerging role of nanotechnology in the fields of agriculture and allied industries.

Distinguished lead lectures were delivered by senior scientists and experts emphasizing climate-smart fertilizers, nanoclay–polymer composites, and sustainable soil health management in different sessions. Several oral and lightning presentations by researchers and students showcased recent advances in clay mineral research and applications. The event was attended by more than 100 eminent scientists, academicians, industry experts, and young researchers.

