

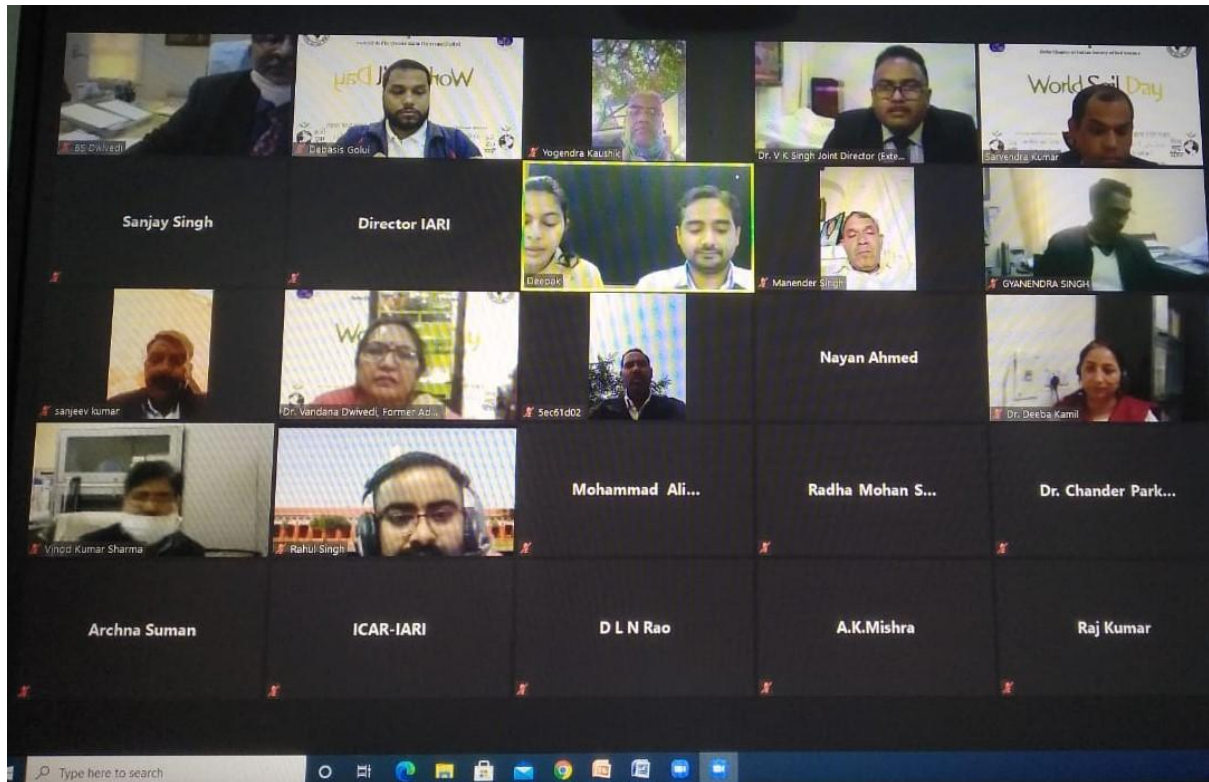
World Soil Day 2020 Celebrations at ICAR-IARI

World Soil Day was celebrated on 5th December 2020, jointly by the Division of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, ICAR-IARI and Delhi Chapter of the Indian Society of Soil Science. In the morning session, 50 school children from different schools of New Delhi participated in virtual mode through zoom platform. The programme started with welcome address by Dr. Sarvendra Kumar, Secretary, Delhi Chapter of Indian Society of Soil Science. Dr. R.N. Pandey, HOD, Division of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry addressed the students on the topic “Significance of soil health management, challenges and opportunity”. Dr. S.P. Datta, Professor, Division of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, delivered a lecture on the topic “Soil and Society” in which he explained the necessity to keep soils alive and measures to protect soil biodiversity. Later on a quiz competition on the topic Soil and Society was organized by Dr. Abir Dey, in which all the students participated. An extempore competition on the different topics related to importance of soils in human, animal and environment was organized by Dr. Nayan Ahmed, in which seven students from three schools participated enthusiastically. Dr. R.N. Pandey, HOD, declared the results of the quiz and extempore competition. Dr .K. A. Chobhe, Treasurer, Delhi Chapter of the Indian Society of Soil Science, delivered the vote of Thanks.

The evening session was chaired by Dr. V.K. Singh, Joint Director (Extension), ICAR-IARI. Dr. R. N. Pandey, Head, Soil Science Division introduced the Chairman to the audience. Later, Dr. Singh addressed to more than 50 farmers from different States of India and emphasized the need for sustainable soil management and practical ways to keep soil healthy. Addressing farmers, faculty, PG students and other staff, Dr. Singh also underlined significance of soil health restoration and maintenance of soil biodiversity for the well-being of the society. He also appealed the farmers to take necessary steps for keeping the soils healthy and maintain its biodiversity in all possible ways. Dr. Singh then introduced the first speaker of the session, Dr. (Mrs.) Vandana Dwivedi, former Additional Commissioner (INM), Govt. of India, who delivered a talk on Government initiatives for soil health evaluation and different Government sponsored programmes to keep this precious resource sustainable for plant and human being. After that an interaction session with the farmers was held, in which experts from different disciplines from ICAR-IARI, addressed to the queries related to soil health raised by different farmers. Later on Dr. V.K. Singh, Joint Director Extension, ICAR-IARI, introduced Dr. D.L.N. Rao, former Emeritus Scientist, ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science Bhopal, who then delivered an excellent PowerPoint presentation in

Hindi to the farmers and emphasized the necessity to maintain of soil biodiversity and healthy ecosystem for better society and human health. Dr. V.K. Singh then gave his remarks on the talk delivered by Dr. Rao and highlighted the significant message delivered through the lecture.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. K. A. Chobhe, Treasurer, Delhi Chapter of the Indian Society of Soil Science.



World Soil day programme celebrated at ICAR-IARI on 5th December 2020 through online Zoom platform.