



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

Today

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



First of all, on behalf of Executive Council of the Soil conservation Society of India (SCSI), I wish all of you a very happy and prosperous new year, full of new energies and new dreams, new goals and new journeys in 2020. During 2019, SCSI has successfully organized its 4th International Conferences in New Delhi during 5-9 November and 29th National Conference in Tamil Nadu during 31 January-02 February 2019. The year 2020 promises to be an exciting year and I am looking forward to work with you as individuals, organizations and experts.

In the foreground of International Decade of Soils 2015-2024, addressing the concerning issues of the Soil and Water Conservation particularly in the wake of threat of soil erosion, land degradation, climate or change in weather patterns is an uphill task before the policy makers, Institutions and researchers. Soil and water are two important natural resources and the basic needs for agricultural production. During the last century it has been observed that the pressure of increasing population has led to degradation of these natural resources. In other words increase in agricultural production to feed the increasing population is only possible if there sufficient fertile land and water are available for farming. In India, out of 328 million hectares of geographical area, 68 million hectares are critically degraded while 107 million hectares are severely eroded. That is why soil and water should be given top most priority from the conservation point of view and appropriate measures should be adopted to ensure their sustainability and future availability. In view of concerning situation, even all citizens should be made aware about the importance of natural resources as our lives depend on that and everyone should be involved in the process of caring of these resources properly and using them intelligently.

The Soil Conservation Society of India is continuously addressing such concerning issues on different platform. In this direction, the SCSI has organized two major national and International Conferences, national conference at Tamil Nadu and International Conference on Soil and Water Resources Management for Climate Smart Agriculture, Global Food and Livelihood Security at NASC Complex, New



**International
Decade of Soils
2015-2024**

*Wishing You Happy and
Prosperous New Year 2020*

Delhi. The International Conference has witnessed large participation from 12 Countries with more than 300 participants deliberated on different issues during the conference and some impactful recommendations has also emerges like; evolving of land consolidation policy with proper guidelines for better adoption of climate resilient practices, making of land use management policy in the country for efficient land utilization, to evolve mechanism for drainage network treatment, to focus on bio- and phyto-remediation to reclaim degraded lands, to focus on sustainable use of natural resources, over exploitation of soil, nutrient depletion and soil sickness, prioritizing rainwater harvesting, Soil erosion has to be seen along with its interrelations with various hydrological processes, climatic change, runoff and sedimentation, application of smart and precision watershed management etc.

Out of many recommendations of the conference, the key issues emerges before the nation is to prepare a land use & management policy and enforcement of land lease policy for efficient land utilization in India. Also, a mechanisms for

drainage network treatment and maintenance at watershed level is to be developed. Application of climate change models at regional scale should be used for prediction of climate change impact. Adoption of suitable eco-friendly residue management practices for reduced carbon emission is need of the hour. Soil carbon management has to be managed and soil erosion has to be seen along with its interrelations with various hydrological processes, climatic change, runoff and sedimentation. Application of smart and precision watershed management has to be economically, environmentally and scientifically well justified to conceive policy makers and legislators.

I am sure that the conference outcome shall be useful for adopting water conservation, rainwater harvesting and judicious irrigation water management techniques by the small and marginal farmers in order to improve the socio-economic condition and to generating income & employment for the farmers in the Country.

Dr. Suraj Bhan
President, Soil Conservation Society of India

Dr. Suraj Bhan: ISCO New President

Prof. Ildefons Pla Sentis, President of International Soil Conservation Organization (ISCO) announced that Dr. Suraj Bhan will be the next President of ISCO with effect from January 2020 and ISCO will have its head quarters at New Delhi. Dr. Suraj Bhan thanked Prof Pla and the board members of ISCO for entrusting and ensured that he will take it



as opportunity to work for taking up ISCO activities and bringing together more national and international organizations and experts for the cause of soil and water resource conservation for the survival of mankind.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON LANDSLIDE MITIGATION AND SLOPE MANAGEMENT

28-29th February 2020

Venue: IISWC, Research Centre, Udhagamandalam – 643 004, Tamil Nadu

Organized by

Soil Conservation Society of India (SCSI), New Delhi
ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation,
Regional Centre, Udhagamandalam and Tamil Nadu
Chapter of SCSI, Udhagamandalam, Tamil Nadu

IMPORTANT DATES

Last date for abstract submission : 25th January 2020
Intimation of acceptance of abstracts: 31st January 2020
Last date for Registration (without late fee): 20th
February 2020



Dr. Suraj Bhan, President Soil Conservation Society of India has been conferred with "Special Contribution Award" by the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC). Indeed, it's a pride moment for all members of SCSI. All society members conveyed their heartiest congratulation to Dr. Suraj Bhan for this achievement.

International Conference on Soil and Water Resources Management for Climate Smart Agriculture, Global Food and Livelihood Security: Glimpses

The 4th International Conference of SCSI on “Soil and Water Resources Management for Climate Smart Agriculture, Global Food and Livelihood Security” was jointly organized by Soil Conservation Society of India (SCSI) with World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC) and International Soil Conservation Organization (ISCO) on the important theme during November 5-9, 2019 at New Delhi.



The conference Chief Guest Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR inaugurated the International Conference on 5th November 2019. Highlighting the recent trends in the climate change in the country and the world as a whole, the Director General expressed his concerns about the degradation of soil and water resources that is a threat to production and sustainable agriculture. Dr. Mohapatra elaborated that the ever-rising climatic temperature is a matter of great concern as it is affecting the human life drastically. He urged to adopt various means to minimize the impacts of the climate change. The Director General accentuated on the food security that is a serious concern not only in the country,

but round the globe too. Dr. Mohapatra also briefed about the Government of India's initiatives for enhancing the food and agricultural production efficiencies in the country. He outlined the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's vision of doubling the farmers' income by the Year 2022.



The Guest of Honor, Prof. Li Rui, President, WASWAC, China applauded the SCSI's initiative in organizing the International Conference to discuss on such serious issues of soil and water conservation. Prof. Rui express his concern on the overexploitation of soil and water which is one of the most serious issue need an immediate attention.

Dr. Suraj Bhan, President, SCSI and Chairman, Organizing Committee emphasized that the ever-increasing population which has led to overexploitation of natural resources. He briefed about the Government of India's initiatives to conserve the natural resources and to provide safe drinking water through the pipeline to every household. He stressed on the huge potential for water conservation through the rain water harvesting in the country.



Dr. Sanjay Arora, Convener and Organizing Secretary of the Conference expressed gratitude to Dr. Mohapatra for sparing his valuable time from his busy schedule to inaugurate the conference and presented vote of thanks to the dignitaries, sponsors, co-sponsors and the participants. Prof. Ildefonso Pla Sentis, President, ISCO was the guest of honour during the occasion.

On this occasion the *Special Issue of 'Indian Farming'* published by the ICAR along with 'Souvenir' and 'Abstract Book' meant for the Conference was released by the dignitaries. The Soil



Conservation Society of India (SCSI) Awards - 2019 was also presented to the various members, scientists and students in recognition of their contributions in the respective fields of researches.

During the 4th International Conference of SCSI on Soil and Water Resources Management for Climate Smart Agriculture, Global Food and Livelihood Security, ten technical sessions and two plenary sessions on concerning issues were organized.

Technical Session I: Soil Degradation Assessment and Remediation

The session was chaired by Prof. Jose L. Rubio and co-chaired by Dr Pengfei Du. Dr. M. J. Singh and Dr. S. K. Dubey were the conveners of the session. The Keynote speaker Prof. Li Rui explained various efforts done at global level on soil erosion assessment. The other Keynote speaker Prof. Miodrag D. Zlatic discussed the strategies, lessons and experiences on the sustainable soil management. Dr Priyabrata Santra in his lead presentation gave information



to control wind erosion. There were 9 oral presentations made by Dr Pengfei Du, Mr Li Min, Dr Ding Xinhui, Mr Bin Wang, Mr Jiahui Yang, Dr Jitendra Kumar, Mr Gao Xiaofeng, Mr Jiapan Xu and Mr Jin Wen Xia on different aspects as per the session theme.

Technical Session II: Water Resources conservation and Management

The session was chaired by Dr. T.B.S. Rajput and Dr. Ning Duihu co-chaired the session. The conveners of the session were Dr. Atul K. Singh and Dr. Ranu Rani Sethi. Water conservation methods and different management options in India and China were presented and discussed. In his lead presentation, Dr. T.B.S. Rajput emphasized on trends in agricultural water management and advocated laser land levelling for efficient surface irrigation. Dr. Neelam Patel presented lead paper and stressed automated wireless sensor based irrigation scheduling to save irrigation water.

Dr Anshuman Kohli presented lead paper on possible scientific interventions in revival of traditional village ponds. There were 15 oral presentations made on approaches of water conservation and management by Dr. B.K. Rao, Dr. Liu H.Q., Dr. P. K. Shrivastava, Dr. Ashok K Nayak, Dr. C.L. Verma, Dr. M. H. Fadadu, Dr. T. Meshram, Dr. Ananta Vashisth, Dr. K.S. Reddy, Dr. Vijayakumar, P., Dr. Ramadhar Singh, Dr. Ranu Rani Sethi, Dr. D.S. Gurjar and Dr. K. Zhang.

Technical Session III: Climate Smart Techniques for Sustainable Agriculture

The technical session was chaired by Shri. Shamsheer Singh and co-chaired by Dr. Jana Podhrazska. The session was convened by Dr. Ajay Bhardwaj and Dr. Vivak M. Arya. The Keynote video presentation by Prof. Rattan Lal, emphasized that the country must urgently follow recycling, conservation agriculture, urbanization only on waste lands, paying farmers for ecosystem services, preaching land ethics and increasing dialogue with farmers. Another Keynote presentation was by Prof Jose L. Rubio who gave an overview on how soil degradation and conservation has played role in the rise and fall of civilizations since ages. The Lead presentations were

<p>1. Bhu Ratna Awards</p>  <p>1. Shri. V.W. Ambekar</p>  <p>2. Dr. D.C. Das</p>	 <p>2. Dr. Mukesh Kumar</p>  <p>3. Sh. R.A.S. Patel</p>	 <p>3. Dr. Nilay Borah</p>  <p>4. Dr. Anil Sharma</p>  <p>5. Dr. Raj Kumar Setia</p>
<p>2. Lifetime Achievement Awards</p>  <p>1. Dr. T.B.S. Rajput</p>	<p>4. Gold Medal Award</p>  <p>1. Dr. K. S. Reddy</p>	<p>5. Leadership Awards</p>  <p>6. Sh. S. Ram Banjara</p>
<p>3. National Fellow Award</p>  <p>1. Dr. Vikas Sharma</p>	 <p>2. Dr. N.K. Pareek</p>	 <p>1. Dr. Vivak M. Arya</p>

made by Dr. T.J. Purakayastha about carbon neutral farming to mitigate climate change. Dr. AVR Prasad presented on role of NABARD as national implementing agency for adaptation projects. Lead presenters Dr. Duihu NING, Dr. K.S. Reddy, Dr. A.K. Bhardwaj, Dr. C. L. Verma, Dr. H.C. Hombe Gowda, Dr. S.K. Gupta, Dr. Diyendu Chatterjee and Mr. Navneet Sharma discussed on the theme.

Technical Session IV: Land Use Planning and Management for Food and Livelihood Security

The technical session was chaired by Prof. Idefons Pla Sentis and co-chaired by Prof. Liqin QU. Dr. Neelam Patel and Dr. A.S. Yadav were the two conveners of the session. In the session, a lead presentation was made by Dr. N.S. Abeysingha who highlighted approaches for management of land based agricultural water pollution. The oral presentations made by Dr Chuanxiao LIU, Dr. Munish Kumar, Dr. Hardev Ram, Dr. S.K. Dubey, Dr. Sanjay Swami, Dr. P. Jakhar and Ms. Shachi Pandey highlighted different issues and options on land use management in diverse regions.

Technical Session V: Biodiversity Conservation and Strategic Soil and Water Management

The session was chaired by Dr. P.R. Ojasvi and co-Chaired by Prof. Dr. Ing. Bořivoj Šarapatka. Dr. Sanjay Swami and Dr. Jitendra Sinha were the conveners. At the outset the Chairman highlighted the importance of biodiversity and calls for its conservation and also the strategy for soil and water management. Dr. R. Saha, Dr Namita Das Saha, Dr. P. K. Shrivastav, Dr Santosh Birman, Dr. Harsh Mehta highlighted strategies and options through their studies presented as oral presentations.



Technical Session VI: Socio Economic Issues in Resources Management for livelihood security

The session was chaired by Prof. Miodrag Zlatić and co-chaired by Dr. Mahmoud A. Abdelfattah. Dr. A.K. Dixit and Dr. Mukesh Kumar were the conveners of the session. In the lead presentation, Prof. Miodrag Zlatić highlighted the socio-economic issues of sustainable soil management in hilly areas of Serbia. Dr. Anil K. Srivastava expressed his views on enterprise profitability and social equality through NRM based sustainable farming vis-à-vis climate resilience. In oral presentations by Dr. A.K. Dixit, Dr. R. Sudha, Dr. Prabhat Kishore, Dr. R.L. Bhardwaj and Dr. O.P. Aishwath elaborated on the different approaches for livelihood security.

Technical Session VII: Policy interventions in soil and water management for global food security

The session was chaired by Prof S.H.R. Sadeghi and co-chaired by Dr. Ye Suigao. The two conveners of the session were Dr Susama Sudhishri and Dr. R. Saha. Prof. Li Rui talked about relationship between humans and environmental factors affecting soil erosion rates in China. In lead presentation, Dr. O.P. Choudhary discussed about the potential use of brackish saline and alkali water. Dr. B.P. Singh, presented findings on legacy and economical effects of remaining residues on organic matter mineralization and nutrients supply in different soils of Australia. Oral presentations made by Dr. Sarapatka, Dr. Abdelfattah, Dr. Houcai, Dr. Ashok Kumar, Dr. Eazhilkrishana, Dr. Suigao, Mr Suresh Kumar and Mr Pani discussed issues and policies for soil and water management.

Technical Session VIII: Bio-industrial Approaches to Watershed for Food and Livelihood Security

The session was chaired by Shri. V.W. Ambekar, co-chaired by Shri. B. Rath and Dr. S. Manivannan, Dr. O.P. Aishwath were the conveners. Prof. Seyed Hamidreza Sadeghi presented lead paper on spatial representativeness analysis for policy-making with a case study of the Gavkhouni Watershed, Central Iran. Another lead paper on water harvesting based integrated farming to boost farmer's income was presented by Dr. Jitendra Sinha. The oral presentations were made by Dr M.L. Gaur, Dr. Susama Sudhishri, Dr Amrut S. Morade, Prof. S.H R. Sadeghi, Dr. D.V. Singh, Dr. S. Manivannan and Dr Praveen Jakhar.

Technical Session IX: Geospatial Techniques and Simulation Modelling for Soil and Water Management

The session was chaired by Prof. Jolanta Kwiatkowska-Malina and co-chaired by Dr. P.K. Mandal. Dr. R.P. Sharma and Dr. Ajay Mishra were the conveners. A lead presentation by Prof. M.J Singh, was made wherein he deliberated on interlinking EROSION 3D model with remote sensing that has an advantage for precise decision. In oral presentation by Dr Liqin Qu, V. Nunchhani, Dr. R.P Sharma, Dr. Marek Bedner and Dr. S. Pradhan presented their work in the session.

Technical Session X: New Paradigms in Soil Health and Nutrient Management

The technical session was chaired by Dr. Anil K. Srivastava and Dr. Zachary G. Mainuri acted as co-chairman. Dr Nilay Borah and Dr. Rajan Bhatt were the conveners of the session. Dr. Zachary G. Mainuri in lead presentation discussed the impact of agricultural practices on soil cover and soil quality in the middle river Njoro sub watershed in Kenya. Dr. Sanjay Arora, in his lead paper comprehensively discussed use of halophilic bacteria for crop residue degradation, nutrient recycling and their effectiveness in residue management to avoid burning. Dr. R.S. Yadav presented the status and management of phosphorous in agriculture. Oral presenters, Dr Raghavendra M., Dr Surajit Mondal, Dr. Rajan Bhatt, Dr. Anil Sharma, Dr Nirmalendu Basak, Ms Smita Jaiswal, Dr R.S. Yadav, Dr. A.S. Yadav, Dr. Nayan Ahmed and Dr. Madhulika Bhagat presented different techniques and approaches for soil health and plant nutrient management.

Plenary Session I: Land Degradation under New Worldwide Extensive Industrial Agricultural Developments: Causes and Consequences

The session was chaired by Prof. Li Rui and Dr. Sanjay Arora was Co-Chairman. The two conveners of the session were Dr. P.K. Rai and Ms. Mayuko Seki. The Keynote speaker Prof. Ildefons Pla Sentis was of the view that land degradation has a wider scope than both soil erosion and soil degradation in that it covers all negative changes in the capacity of the ecosystem to provide goods and services. He stressed that the processes of soil degradation are closely linked through unfavourable alterations in the hydrological processes determining the soil water balance and the soil water regime, which are conditioned by the climatic conditions and by the land use and management. Prof Pla concluded that more attention has to be given to the permanent, not so apparent at short term, effects on soil and water resources and their consequences on future food production, hydrology, climate change and natural disasters. In lead presentation by Prof Vikas Sharma, he elaborated that land degradation process in foothill region is governed by natural and anthropogenic factors resulting in low crop productivity and concluded that low input, easy to adopt and use technologies need to be introduced at farmer's level. Land Consolidation is essentially needed.

Plenary Session II: Next Generation Nutrient and Water Management in Agriculture

The special session of IRRI was chaired by Dr. Bijay Singh and co-chaired by Dr. P. Dey. Dr. Sheetal Sharma and Dr. Anshuman Kohli were the conveners of the session. In his Keynote presentations, Dr. Bijay Singh emphasized to improve NUE and highlighted the importance of site-specific nutrient management to cater high variability among farms of smallholder farmers. Dr. P. Dey highlighted around 7 strategies that can be used to improve the nutrient use efficiencies. Dr. Upendra Singh laid emphasis on 4Rs for better nutrient management and shared details on new and better sources of fertilizers including slow and controlled release fertilizers, nano-fertilizers etc. Dr. Sachiko Hayashida, touched a very important project 'AAKASH'. Dr. Jon Hillen provided a perspective of using a multi-prong approach for adaptation to climate change. Dr. Warshi S. Dandeniya gave an overview of the very low NUE across Sri Lanka and various measures being taken to improve it. Lead presentation by Dr. Sheetal Sharma where in she shared a case study from Odisha on using various pathways for the dissemination of an ICT based tool-Rice crop manager (RCM). Mr Ajay Mishra presented a study on improving zinc use in rice-based systems. Dr. Shiveshwar presented work on using Nutrient Expert for improving fertilizer use efficiency. Dr. Rajeev Padbhushan gave an overview of strategic research for improving the recommendations in RCM.

There were two panel discussion sessions and ten poster sessions apart from the technical and plenary sessions during the conference where large number of participants deliberated and discussed on different issues.



Valedictory Session

The valedictory session of the 4th International Conference was held on 9th November 2019. Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO NRAA was the Chief Guest of the session. The session started with the welcome address by Dr. Suraj Bhan, President SCSi. Prof Pla Sentis gave an overview of ISCO and its future strategies. The session wise report and general recommendations were presented by Dr. Sanjay Arora, Convener & Organizing Secretary. The session wise awards for poster and best paper presentations were announced and distributed by the Chief Guest. Dr. Ashok Dalwai, conveyed his congratulations to the three national and international organizations viz SCSi, WASWAC and ISCO for coming forward to deal with important resources. He emphasized that soil and water are two critical resources to deal with life not only for perspective of agriculture but also in perspective of human civilization. Without water there would have been no life as evolution of life took place from water and fauna and flora is not possible without water. Soil could nurture the plant and sustain life forms, this reflects the organic linkage among soil and water resources. World in a global village especially for soil and water as we all are organically linked and the artificial constructs of national boundaries are meaningless as soil and water can travel anywhere and the nature has created beautiful landscapes and different formats of eco formations. Biological produce or bioproduction has capacity to sustain life for future and we need renewable energy. We have mined our soils and polluted our waters and since water and soil are organically linked with human, we need to manage these resources properly. Agronomist, soil scientists, water managers, engineers and social scientist should concentrate to retain soil health that is directly linked to human health. We should not only restrict to soil and water conservation but using cognitive power and by exchange of knowledge, information, technologies and possible doable things we should manage these resources to serve the society. He was of the view that this conference will draw an action plan to be easily understood for implementation by policy makers. On the occasion, Shri. Jagatveer Singh, Secretary SCSi presented vote of thanks on behalf of SCSi and Prof. Dr. Duihu NING extended vote of thanks on behalf of WASWAC.

The pre- and post-conference technical tours to ICAR-IISWC, RC, Agra and ICAR-CSSRI, Karnal as well as half day site seeing in New Delhi was organized for the participants.



General Recommendations of International Conference

1. Land consolidation policy with proper guidelines involving all stake holders for better adoption of climate resilient practices. It is important where land holdings are extremely small.
2. Adopting location specific in situ moisture conservation practices coupled with rainwater harvesting structures should be made mandatory.
3. There is urgent need to bring out land use and management policy at country level. Land lease policy to be brought out for efficient land utilization in India.
4. Mechanism to be derived for drainage network treatment and maintenance at watershed level.
5. Limitation in application of climate change models to be examined and regional scale modes should be used for prediction of climate change impact.
6. Suitable straw management practices should be developed for reduced carbon emissions.
7. Focus on bio- and phyto-remediation to reclaim degraded lands including salt affected soils through efficient microbes and useful plant species.
8. Need for sustainable use of natural resources and respecting the projects and programs not only from experts but also from stakeholders.
9. Diversion of agricultural land for nonagricultural purposes including land utilization for infrastructure development has to be controlled.
10. Need to manage the increasing population, over exploitation of soil, nutrient depletion and soil sickness for increasing production and profitability.
11. Rainwater harvesting has to be a priority.
12. Soil carbon management has to be a priority to manage the challenges and issues related to soil and water conservation and climate change.
13. Soil erosion has to be seen along with its interrelations with various hydrological processes, climatic change, runoff and sedimentation.
14. Application of smart and precision watershed management has to be economically, environmentally and scientifically justified.
15. Both indigenous knowledge and new technologies have to be equally valued and used for introducing any developmental plans in such a way to fulfill maximum level of different stakeholders' demands sustainably.

WORLD SOIL DAY 2019 CELEBRATED

"Solum Celebration" by Bihar Chapter of SCSI

The Bihar Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of India in association with the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour organized a series of events under the banner of "Solum Celebration" to celebrate the World Soil Day -2019 during 05-06 December, 2019.

The celebration started with extramural lectures by three renowned Soil Scientists/Academicians namely, Dr. P. K. Patra, Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, BCKV; Dr. Sunil Kumar Choudhary, Retd. Professor, Dept. of Botany, Tilkamanjhi Bhagalpur University and Dr. B. B. Mishra, Retd. Professor, Dept



of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, BAU, Sabour & Vice-Chair, Commission 1.4 (Soil Classification), International Union of Soil Sciences, 2018-22. Hon'ble



District Magistrate, Bhagalpur Sh. Pranav Kumar was the Chief Guest of the function and Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, BAU, Sabour, Dr Ajoy Kumar Singh, presided over the function. They formally inaugurated the popular poster displays and then made detailed observations on the popular posters prepared and displayed by the post graduate students. The popular posters highlighted the theme of this year's World Soil Day – "Stop Soil Erosion, Save our Future" among other informative and farmer pertinent issues. A special World Soil Day -2019 issue of the Wall Magazine of the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry was also unveiled on the occasion. A farmer student interaction was held on the occasion in which the students interacted with the invited progressive farmers of the area and got acquainted with the field problems in soil management.

Meghalaya Chapter of SCSI

The World Soil Day (WSD) was observed by the SCSI-Meghalaya Chapter on 5th December 2019. Dr. Sanjay Swami, Associate Professor (Soils) & Chairman of the SCSI-Meghalaya Chapter, while welcoming the farmers and dignitaries and elaborated the importance of healthy soil and advocating for the sustainable management of soil resources. The theme of Soil Day is for this year is to "Stop Soil Erosion, Save Our Future!" which is more pertinent to hilly regions. Dr. Swami also appraised the farmers about various activities taken up by the SCSI-Meghalaya Chapter for improving soil health in this hilly tract. He announced that the SCSI-Meghalaya Chapter has decided to develop village *Thadmongiaw* as Model Fruit Village with the aim of raising the income of farmers, securing nutritional security and to check the prevailing soil erosion problem. The fruit plant plantation drive in the village was also initiated on this auspicious day. More than 500 fruit plant saplings of different fruit species were distributed to the selected farmers. He urged the farmers to raise these plants just like their children. Dr. P.K. Bora, Professor & Incharge of School of Natural Resource Management also addressed the farmers with the request

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to take maximum benefit of such type of programmes. The Chief Guest of the function and Dean of the College, Dr. N.B. Singh congratulated SCSI-Meghalaya Chapter team for organizing such a wonderful programme with the remarks that the significance of celebrating the 'World Soil Day' lies in our re-affirmation to preserve the soils and to create healthy soils for a healthier and more sustainable life of humanity. He urged the gathering to lend a hand to save soils and make every day 'Soil Day.'



Activities like essay competition for the students on the theme of "Stop Soil Erosion, Save Our Future!" and conducting on farm demonstration on scientific method of collecting good soil samples for farmers have been organized on this occasion. Around 100 Soil Health Cards were distributed to the farmers and the student winners of essay competition in three categories *viz.* I, II and III were awarded with cash prize during the celebration. All the School Incharges of the College, Senior Professors, faculty members, village headmen, students and members of SCSI-Meghalaya Chapter also participated in this event. The programme ended with vote of thanks proposed by N.J. Singh, Assistant Professor (Soils) & Secretary, Meghalaya Chapter of SCSI.

2nd Asian Conference on

"RAIN WATER HARVESTING: TRADITIONS TO MODERN APPROACHES"

Dates: 12-15th October, 2020

Venue: Patna, Bihar

Organized by

Soil Conservation Society of India, New Delhi
In collaboration with
Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour, Bhagalpur

Editorial Board

Suraj Bhan, Sanjay Arora, Jagat Vir Singh

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