

## Soil and Water Management: Key to Climate Change Mitigation: Dr. Singh and Dr. Acharya

Dr. A.K. Singh, Former Deputy Director General (NRM) and Vice Chancellor of RVS Agricultural University, Gwalior, along with Dr. C.L. Acharya, Former Director of ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science (ICAR-IISS), Bhopal, visited ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region (ICAR-RCER), Patna. The distinguished visitors engaged with students, inspiring them with insights about the scope and future prospects in the field of agriculture.

During their visit, Dr. Singh and Dr. Acharya inaugurated a newly established horticulture planting materials production unit. This initiative by ICAR-RCER, Patna aims to ensure the availability of high-quality planting materials, which are essential for healthy plant growth and high yields. The timely supply of such materials has been a significant challenge for local farmers. This new unit seeks to address issue of planting materials by providing affordable, quality planting materials for early and off-season vegetable planting.



Following the inauguration, the dignitaries visited Natural Farming field, Integrated Farming System, Micro-irrigation facility, Nutrigarden, and the livestock farms, gaining a comprehensive view of the ongoing efforts and innovations at ICAR-RCER.

In a subsequent interaction meeting, Dr. Singh emphasized the importance of transitioning from traditional cropping systems to integrated farming systems. Dr. Singh highlighted the need for optimizing nutrient use efficiency and water use efficiency to meet farmers' needs sustainably. He also stressed on the adoption of new technologies, particularly the use of drones and nano-fertilizer applications, to enhance agricultural productivity.



Dr. Acharya, in his address, highlighted the importance of increasing the efficiency of all agricultural inputs and managing soil health effectively, considering soil as the foundation for successful and sustainable agricultural practices. He also emphasized the concept of safe water and encouraged young scientists to engage in innovative research while maintaining a lifelong learning attitude. He stressed on the efficient management of soil as key answer to climate change mitigation.

Dr. K.G. Mondal, Director of ICAR-MGIFRI, also interacted with scientists and students on the occasion.

The program commenced with a warm welcome from Dr. Anup Das, the Director of ICAR-RCER. Dr. Das provided an overview of the institute's current research activities and highlighted its noteworthy contributions to society. Additionally, he briefed the guests on the recently established IARI-Patna Hub, showcasing the institute's commitment to advancing agricultural research and innovation.