

ICAR-RCER Celebrates World Soil Day: Focus on Sustainable Soil Management

ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region (ICAR-RCER), Patna, commemorated World Soil Day on 5th December, 2024 with a focus on “Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage”. The event aimed to raise awareness about the critical role of soil and water health in promoting sustainable agri-food systems.

Approximately 70 participants, including farmers, students from the IARI Patna hub, and scientific staff from ICAR-RCER Patna (HQ), attended the event. The program emphasized the importance of maintaining healthy soil and eco-friendly management practices to ensure sustainable agriculture. During the event, soil health card reports of the farmers’ fields along with recommendations and improved chemical and organic fertilizers like Naro urea, Sagarika etc. were distributed to farmers of Dulhin Bazar village, in order to encourage practical steps toward sustainable farming practices.

Dr. Anup Das, Director of ICAR-RCER, emphasized the critical importance of soil health in achieving sustainable agriculture and ensuring food security. He stressed the need for regular soil quality assessment through testing and analysis to understand its condition and nutrient status and focussed on conservation agriculture, crop rotations etc. During the program, Dr. A.K. Singh, Director of Research at BAU, Sabour, encouraged farmers to adopt balanced fertilizer use. Additionally, Dr. Ashutosh Upadhyaya, Head of the Division of Land and Water Management, delivered the keynote lecture, outlining various methods to maintain soil and water quality. Experts from various divisions shared valuable insights: Dr. A.K. Chaudhary discussed integrated nutrient management and balanced fertilization; Dr. Kamal Sarma highlighted the role of soil and water quality in fish farming; and Dr. Ujjwal Kumar emphasized climate-resilient soil health practices. The students and farmers also interacted with the experts on various aspects of soil and water management for sustainable farming. Interactive sessions allowed farmers and students to engage with scientists, addressing soil and water management challenges. The event was coordinated by Dr. Prem Kumar Sundaram, Dr. Kirti Saurabh, Dr. Pawan Jeet, Dr. Arti Kumari and Dr. Govind Makrana. The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Arti Kumari, Scientist, ICAR-RCER.

At the Ranchi Centre of ICAR-RCER, an enthusiastic participation of around 350 school students and staff marked the event. The program focused on educating young minds about the importance of soil health and engaging them in discussions on sustainable agricultural practices. Activities included interactive sessions and demonstrations aimed at fostering a sense of responsibility toward soil conservation among the youth. At KVK, Ramgarh, the event attracted more than 50 farmers, who actively participated in workshops and demonstrations highlighting practical soil management techniques. The focus was on equipping farmers with knowledge and tools to enhance soil fertility and adopt sustainable

farming practices tailored to local conditions. Similarly, the program held at KVK, Buxar, witnessed the participation of approximately 45 persons, including farmers and other local stakeholders. The activities revolved around promoting the use of improved agricultural inputs and eco-friendly practices for better soil management and productivity.

This multi-location celebration of World Soil Day by ICAR-RCER, Patna, successfully disseminated critical knowledge and resources, fostering a deeper understanding of soil health's role in sustainable agriculture across diverse communities.



ICAR-RCER, Patna
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520+ farmers, students & researchers participated