

**World Soil Day Celebrations at ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad on 5th
December 2023**

S. No.	Name of the Institute	The number of participants who attended		No. of soil health cards distributed to farmers	No of VIPs attended	Name of prominent VIPs (MP/MLAs etc.) attended
		Total	Farmers			
1.	ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad	275	240	240	-	-

ICAR-IIRR celebrated **World Soil Day** in the forenoon of the 5th of Dec, 2023 on the theme of **“Soil and Water: A Source of Life”** at Burgula Village, Farooq Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana with a view to connecting people with soils and raise awareness on their critical importance in our lives.

The Programme was attended by Dr. RM Sundaram, Director, ICAR-IIRR Scientists of ICAR-IIRR and the Officials of the State Department of Agriculture and Farmers. At the outset, Dr. MBB Prasad Babu, Head (Soil Science) welcomed the dignitaries, farmers and explained the reason behind the Soil Day celebration and also the importance of the soil and water management in crop production.



Dr. Surekha, Principal Scientist (Soil Science) emphasized the use of timely testing of soil and water; soil test-based application of fertilizers could reduce the indiscriminate use of chemical inputs in the soil; further stressed upon the usage of farm available inputs like FYM, green leaf manure, and green manure to reduce the inputs and improve the soil health.

Dr. Sridevi, Principal Scientist (Agronomy), explained practices on water savings in rice cultivation and suggested to utilize the services of scientists of IIRR for the selection of chemical inputs like herbicides, fertilizers, fungicides, etc. Dr. RM Sundaram, Director, ICAR-IIRR, urged the farmers to protect and conserve the soil by using recommended practices like minimum tillage, crop rotation, retention of straw, manures, cover cropping, organic matter addition, etc. Also, recommended the use of high-yielding and nutrient-efficient varieties developed by the institute for less dependence on chemical inputs and to reduce the cost of cultivation. He also distributed the rapid, manual soil testing kit developed in the institute to the farmers (60Nos). Dr. Brajendra, Principal Scientist (Soil Science) demonstrated and trained the farmers about the analysis of soil using a rapid, manual soil test kit. Soil samples were analyzed by Drs. Gobinath, and Bandeppa using the rapid soil health testing kit, and the soil health cards were distributed. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Manasa followed by lunch for all the visiting farmers.



In the afternoon, another awareness program was organized in the ICAR-IIRR auditorium where in about 150 farmers from Raibarily, Hamirpur, Banda, Prayagraj, and Chittrakut areas of Uttar Pradesh were informed of the importance of soil health and the need for its maintenance for a sustainable environment and hands-on training on using the rapid, manual soil testing kits was imparted. Seed samples of the biofortified rice variety, DRR Dhan 48 too were distributed.



Another programme was organized at KVK Jammikunta, Karimnagar, Telangana, along with Sewa Spoorthy Foundation, Hyderabad, where soil testing kits were demonstrated distributed to about 75 farmers.