

ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru celebrated World Soil Day on 5th Dec 2022

ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (NBAIR), Bengaluru celebrated “World Soil Day 2022” at Yelahanka farm campus on Monday, 5th December with full zeal and enthusiasm. **Dr D. Gowrisankar, Director, International Cooperation, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Bengaluru was the Chief Guest. NBAIR Director, Dr S.N. Sushil welcomed everyone and inaugurated the event with a brief note on soils:** Where food begins. He highlighted the Government's efforts in improving soil health through various policy initiatives and programmes. He suggested that the soil health can be further improved by reduction in hazardous chemical pesticide use by way of bringing more area under biointensive pest management through promotion of bioagents and biopesticides. The messages of Hon'ble AM and DG, ICAR to this effect were read out during the event by Dr Mahesh Yandigeri.

Dr. D. Gowrisankar in his talk on "Exploring soils from space & soil candidates in outer space" highlighted the space research in relation to the soil science including remote sensing and soil mapping. The space exploration has also created a brand-new window of opportunity for the study of extraterrestrial soils – "astropedology". The nature of soils on celestial bodies beyond the Earth is a fast growing area of interest for their suitability to grow crops and extraction of useful minerals. He further explained that these soil candidates in a pedological sense, have significant information regarding the surfaces of planets, moons, asteroids, and comets in our solar system. By studying these physically and/or chemically weathered particles would help in implementation of possible farming on planetary bases and possible human colonization in the future. He add on to say that it is also possible to grow plants for food supply, purifying water for reuse, and engineering for waste treatments in space.

Parallely, ICAR-NBAIR in collaboration with ICAR-KVK, Krishnagiri, TNAU-Regional Research station, Paiyur and State Dept. of Agriculture, Krishnagiri and Tirupattur organized a field programme on World Soil Day-2022) at RRS, Paiyur, Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu. Dr. D. Mathiazhagan, M.L.A, Bargur constituency, Krishnagiri District graced the function as chief guest, and advocated the farmers for judicious use of agro-inputs for better soil health. Dr. M. Sampath Kumar, Senior scientist, ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru in his key note address informed, timely use of biocontrol and its compatible approaches will not only control insect pests and also saves the soil from harmful effect of chemical insecticides. ICAR-NBAIR has exhibited the bio technologies involving parasitoids, predators and insect pathogens in the programme, which was well received by the farming community. The officials from KVK, Krishnagiri, State Dept. of Agriculture, Krishnagiri and Tirupattur districts, staffs from RRS, Paiyur were also present in the event. A total of 200 farmers from various blocks of Krishnagiri

and Tirupattur districts of Tamil Nadu attended the mega event. The programme was vividly covered in the local newspapers.

On campus celebration



Field programme



Local media coverage

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