

ICAR-IIWM celebrated 36th Foundation Day

ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar celebrated its 36th Foundation Day on 11th May, 2023 on hybrid mode. Inaugurating the function, **Dr. S.K. Chaudhari**, DDG (NRM), ICAR, New Delhi talked about 35 years successful journey of ICAR-IIWM and its significant research achievements in agricultural water management research. He emphasized on the importance of water management technologies in the country for enhancing agricultural water productivity. He also urged upon the farmers and stakeholders to prepare proper plan to use river water.

Gracing the occasion, **Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee**, IAS, Principal Secretary (Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment), Govt. of Odisha delivered the Foundation Day Lecture on "Policy perspectives in agricultural water management for enhancing water use efficiency in agriculture". Dr. Padhee emphasized on the need of water use efficiency in agriculture, importance of groundwater in agriculture, aggravating water crisis in agriculture by choice of the crops and agri-water export. He urged upon the stakeholders to promote micro-irrigation technologies, crop diversification, cultivation of less water intensive crops, millet-based cropping system etc. Further, he stressed about translation of modern tools and techniques like drones, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and IoT at the ground level, preparedness against the extreme climatic events like droughts, floods and cyclones, economic water use efficiency, incentivising eco-system services, social science research and water policy and governance.

Addressing the gathering, **Prof. Pravat Kumar Roul**, Vice Chancellor, OUAT, Bhubaneswar appraised the significant research achievements of ICAR-IIWM and emphasized about the management of precious natural resources like water and soil etc for sustainable agriculture in the scenario of drought, flood and cyclones. Earlier, **Dr Arjamadutta Sarangi**, Director of the Institute welcomed the distinguished guests and dignitaries and presented the significant research accomplishments of Institute.

On the occasion, esteemed guests felicitated five progressive farmers and farmwomen from different villages of Odisha for adopting and promoting water saving technologies in agriculture, three retired scientists for their life time achievements, and seven outstanding scientists and employees. Guests also released the new website of ICAR-IIWM, Geo-spatial Map of the Institute Research Farm and *Krishi Jal Samachar* besides three technical bulletins and one IIWM-Newsletter during the function. An agricultural exhibition was organized with the participation of all ICAR institutes and regional centres of the state, state line departments, input agencies and start-ups including a special stall of millet-based products. A farmers-scientists interaction meet cum *Kisan Goshthi* was also organized. At the outset, the guests and dignitaries planted saplings in the campus, visited the IoT enabled automation system for AWD method of irrigation in rice and inaugurated the demonstration unit ICAR-IIWM waste water filter.

More than 250 participants attended the programme, while several Directors and staff of ICAR institutes, SAUs and retired staff of the Institute joined virtually. At the end, Dr. S.K. Mishra, Principal Scientist and Organizing Secretary proposed the vote of thanks. In the evening, a cultural programme was organized, where the staff, family members and research scholars actively participated. At the end of the cultural programme, all the participants were felicitated by the Director Dr. Arjamadutta Sarangi and Mrs. Suchitra Sarangi.



Inauguration of the programme by watering of plant



Dr. S.K. Chaudhari, DDG (NRM), ICAR addressing the audience



Dr. A.K. Padhee, Principal Secretary delivering the Foundation day Lecture



Prof. P.K. Roul VC, OUAT addressing the audience



Director Dr Arjamadutta Sarangi presenting brief achievements of the Institute



Guests and dignitaries visiting Exhibition Stalls



Visit of guests and dignitaries to IoT enabled Drip Irrigation demonstration unit



Inauguration of IIWM Wastewater Filter demonstration unit



Progressive farmers and farmwomen being felicitated by guests



Retired staff being felicitated by guests



Guests inaugurating IIWM *Krishi Jal Samachar*



Publications being released by the guests



Farmers-Scientists Interaction Meet in progress



Best performing employees being felicitated by guests



Plantation by guests and dignitaries in the campus



Cultural events performed by staff and family members in the evening