

ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal
Virtual short course on agroforestry concluded

3.03.2022

10 Days short-course on “Recent Developments in Agroforestry Dimensions for Managing Salt-Affected Ecologies” concluded at Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal. The course was institutionalized with the aim to provide the latest and innovative technical know-how to the 30 active researchers and technocrats representing 12 states and one union territory across the country from ICAR institutes, central/state agricultural universities, ICFRE institutes and KVKs. Dr A Arunachalam, Director, ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi, UP in his valedictory speech applauded the role of agroforestry in soil reclamation and addressing the climate change adversities. He said that India is the first country in the world to have independent agroforestry policy which shows the concern of the union government in promoting the agroforestry. The Prime Minister had made a call of ‘har med par ped’ for introduction of tree in every landscape to increase the tree cover in the country from 24.47 per cent to 33.0 percent as envisaged in Indian Forest Policy, 1952. He also said that ‘back to basic’ is the mantra to have workable solutions for human ailments and environmental concerns. Niti Ayog has recently constituted a task force on agroforestry after visualizing the importance of it as green path way to improve soil health besides multifarious outputs in the country. The stringent efforts at scientific and policy levels will certainly helpful in achieving the target of Land Degradation Neutrality by 2030 envisaged in sustainable development goals (SDGs) of United Nations as per the commitment of union government in CoP-2019, New Delhi declaration.

The Guest of Honour, Dr Parbodh Chander Sharma, Director, ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal laid the stress on tree breeding through latest techniques of molecular and genomic approaches for higher abiotic tolerance and biomass gains within short time. He highlighted the role of CSSRI in soil reclamation and its contribution to the national food basket. He said that trees are going to be at central stage for addressing social and environment concerns in future.

At the outset, Dr Rakesh Banyal, Course Director welcomed all and presented the report of the short course. He briefed about the deliberations on various aspects of agroforestry dimensions in managing salt affected ecologies. He highlighted the importance of the course during the present scenario for sharing the latest technical know-how pertaining to the management of the salt affected soils with the participants. After this, Dr RK Yadav, head, Soil and Crop Management division also expressed his views on agroforestry options in managing salt affected ecologies in which he narrated the marginal landscapes are the only option to increase the tree cover and biological yield to feed the burgeoning population.

Compendium was released by chief guest and guest of honour during the session in which all the lectures were compiled for the reference of the participants and others working on agroforestry options in managing salt affected ecologies. Participants gave their feed-back about the short course in which they thanked the institute for providing such knowledgeable platform for them to have the over view of the latest techniques in managing salt affected ecologies through agroforestry options.

All the heads of the divisions/PC/RRS, scientists and research scholars attended the program. Dr. Ram Kishor Fagodiya, Course Coordinator, presented the vote of thanks.

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