

ISS Organized Interactive Workshop on Contingency planning for Kharif crops in Madhya Pradesh

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Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal organized an interactive workshop on ‘Contingency planning for *Kharif* crops under delayed monsoon in Malawa plateau region of Madhya Pradesh’. Farmers from Malawa plateau region were the main stakeholders of this workshop as the region’s *kharif* crop sowing is being affected by delayed onset of monsoon. About 100 farmers from Mengrakalan, Parwalia, Mugaliahaat and Misrod attended the workshop.

Dr Pitam Chandra, Director, Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal was the Chief Guest of the function. He stressed upon the importance of farm machinery in land preparation, sowing and fertilizer application as the time is the most limiting component under the delayed monsoon condition. He highlighted the importance of farm machinery bank/co-operative societies for use of heavy agricultural machinery in future farming for minimizing production cost and improving farm income particularly for small and marginal farmers.



Dr. A.K. Patra, Director, IISS, Bhopal welcomed the Chief Guest, panel of experts, farmers and media persons. He expressed his concern for the preparedness in tackling the ongoing crisis of timely sowing of *kharif* crops in the region. He informed the farmers about the technologies available for minimizing the loss of production due to late sowing of *kharif* crops.

Dr D.D. Kulkarni, Joint director, HSADL advised the farmers to ensure proper diet and clean drinking water for farm animals under the drought like conditions.

Dr. A.P. Dwivedi represented the Zonal Coordinator-VII, which manages KVK activities of Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Orissa. He highlighted the activities and preparedness of zonal co-coordinator for tackling the ensuing problem of delayed monsoon.

Mr. Komal Prasad Ahirwar, Joint Director, Department of Agriculture, Government of Madhya Pradesh informed the house about the government initiatives and schemes in tackling the delayed monsoon arrival. He gave brief account of rainfall deficit in different districts of Madhya Pradesh and the technological options for countering the problem of late monsoon arrival. He also stressed upon the preparedness of farmers for catch crop and early *rabisowing* in case of complete failure of *kharif* crops.

Panel of scientists from IISS, Bhopal made an elaborate presentation on technological interventions and availability under the delayed monsoon condition for initiation of discussion in the workshop. The panel of experts comprised of scientists from IISS, Bhopal, College of Agriculture, Sehore; Zonal Coordinator, Zone VII; Directorate of Soybean Research, Indore; State Agricultural Department, CIAE, Bhopal; Indian Institute of Pulse Research Regional Centre, Bhopal; and several other agencies. Farmers from different parts of Madhya Pradesh. interacted with the panel of experts and gained the knowledge on suitability of crops/cultivars, seed treatment, integrated nutrient management practices, water management and insect pest management under delayed monsoon conditions.

Dr Sanjay Srivastava, Principal Scientist, IISS and organizing Secretary of the workshop proposed vote of thanks.

(Source: IISS, Bhopal)