



INDIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

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Man has only a thin layer of soil between himself and starvation — Bard of Cincinnati

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75th Annual Convention of the ISSS

at IISS, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
14-17 November 2010



Venue of the Convention

Convention Features

- National Symposium on "Salt-affected Soils"
- National Seminar on "Developments in Soil Science - 2010"
- The 28th Prof. J.N. Mukherjee-ISSS Foundation Lecture
- The 37th Dr R.V. Tamhane Memorial Lecture
- First Dr. G.S. Sekhon Memorial Lecture
- Presentation by the Doctoral Research Award Contestants

For more details please visit www.iss-india.org

The Indian Society of Soil Science Turns Seventy-five on 22 December 2009: Organized Platinum Jubilee Celebrations on Mega-scale

Inaugural Session

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Society began with inauguration on 22 December 2009 at the Dr. B.P. Pal Auditorium of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. Prof. H.S. Gaur, Dean and Joint Director (Education), IARI welcomed the dignitaries, delegates and guests. Dr. A.K. Singh, President, ISSS, extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, Prof. R.B. Singh, Former ADG (FAO), Member National Commission on Farmers, and Chairman, ASRB; Guest of Honour, Dr. Panjab Singh, Former Vice Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University and Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and the other distinguished dignitaries and guests, including record number of 500 plus delegates. Dr. Singh nostalgically recalled the important milestones in the platinum journey of excellence of ISSS. He exhorted the Soil Scientists to work out research agenda for the next 75 years. Dr. Panjab Singh, Guest of Honour and former Vice Chancellor, BHU and Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR impressed on the Soil Scientists to make accelerated use of information technology, biotechnology and nanotechnology in tackling different challenges faced in the natural resource management.



Dignitaries at the dais on Inaugural Function of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and 74th Annual Convention of ISSS



Lighting of the lamps by the Chief Guest

Prof. R.B. Singh, Chief Guest at the function felicitated and presented the mementoes and citations to senior-most Soil Scientists viz. Dr. J.S. Kanwar, DDG (Emeritus) ICRISAT; Dr. J.S.P. Yadav, Former Chairman ASRB, ICAR; Dr. S.S. Khanna, Former Vice Chancellor of the Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Faizabad; Dr. N.N. Goswami, Former Vice Chancellor of the Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur; Dr. N. Panda, Former Vice Chancellor of Sambalpur

University; Prof. Sant Singh, former Professor, BHU, Varanasi; Dr. S.B. Kadrekar, Former Vice Chancellor Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli; and Dr. L.N. Mandal, Former Vice Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Kalyani for their outstanding contributions. Contributions made by Dr. D.R. Bhumbra, Former Vice Chancellor, Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar; Dr. S.B. Varade, former Director WALMI, Aurangabad; and Dr. I.V. Subba Rao, Honorary Member ISSS and

Former Vice Chancellor, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad were also remembered as they could not attend the function in person because of their ill health. Prof. Singh also conferred the Honorary Membership of the ISSS, highest award of the Society for the year 2009 on Dr. L.N. Mandal.



Dr. L.N. Mandal being conferred the Honorary Membership of ISSS for 2009

Dr. Panjab Singh, the Guest of Honour, presented the Fellowship and other awards of the ISSS for 2009. Fellowship of the ISSS was conferred in person on: i) Dr. K.S. Dadhwal, Head, Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Dehradun; (ii) Dr. K.L. Sharma, National Fellow, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad; and iii) Dr. M.C. Manna, Head, Division of Soil Microbiology,



Senior most Soil Scientists being felicitated and presented the mementoes and citations by the Chief Guest (In photographs with Chief Guest: 1. Dr. J.S. Kanwar, 2. Dr. J.S.P. Yadav, 3. Dr. S.S. Khanna, 4. Dr. N.N. Goswami, 5. Dr. N. Panda, 6. Prof. Sant Singh, 7. Dr. S.B. Kadrekar, 8. Dr. L.N. Mandal)



Fellows of ISSS 2009: 1. Dr. K.S. Dadhwal, 2. Dr. K.L. Sharma, 3. Dr. M.C. Manna

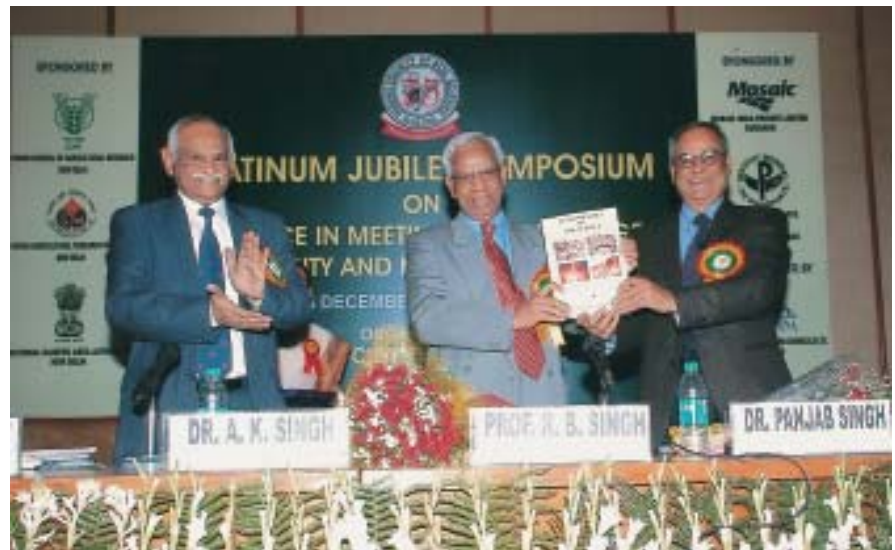
Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal. Dr. S.S. Tomar, Director Research Services, JNKVV, Jabalpur was conferred fellowship in absentia. Dr. S.K. Chaudhari, Principal Scientist, CSSRI, Karnal was conferred the 12th International Congress Commemoration Award for 2009 and Dr. Uttam Kumar Mandal was presented the Golden Jubilee Commemoration Young Scientist Award for 2009. A set of publications brought



Dr. S.K. Chaudhari receiving the 12th International Congress Commemoration Award 2010



Dr. Uttam Kumar Mandal receiving the Golden Jubilee Young Scientist Commemoration Award



Release of publication by the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour

out on the occasion of the Convention was released during the inaugural ceremony.

Prof. R.B. Singh in his inaugural address emphasized on following the holistic approach in conservation, utilization and management of the natural resources and preserving them for the posterity. He exhorted the leaders of

Soil Science to guide the younger generation Scientists in developing the monitoring skills which could be used in convincing the managers that change in soil, water and energy or balance among them make a difference for the livelihood.

Inaugural function formally came to a close with a vote of thanks by Dr R.K. Rattan, Organizing Secretary, Platinum Jubilee celebrations and Professor, Discipline of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, IARI, New Delhi.

Mega Exhibition “Natural Resource Management for Food Security” – A Main Attraction

A mega exhibition organized on the theme “Natural Resource Management for Food Security” was inaugurated by



Prof. R.B. Singh delivering the inaugural address



Dr. J.S. Kanwar, living legend of Soil Science and DDG (Emeritus) ICRISAT inaugurating the exhibition

revered Dr. J.S. Kanwar, living legend of Soil Science and DDG (Emeritus) ICRISAT immediately after the inauguration. Exhibition remained open for all the four days.

Dr. J.S. Kanwar Delivers the Plenary Lecture



Plenary lecture on the topic *Soil Science in Meeting the Challenge for Food Security and Environment Quality* was delivered by Dr. J.S. Kanwar after the inaugural function and inauguration of the Exhibition. Dr. N. Panda chaired the session.

ISSS Lectures Add Glitter to the Celebrations

During this Convention three special lectures namely, 27th Prof. J.N. Mukherjee - ISSS Foundation Lecture, 36th Dr. R.V. Tamhane Memorial Lecture and first Prof. S.K. Mukherjee Memorial Lecture were delivered by Dr. I.M. Chhibba in absence of Dr. K.L. Sahrawat, Dr. H.S. Sen and Dr. D.L. Deb, respectively.

Platinum Jubilee Symposium on “Soil Science in Meeting the Challenges to Food Security and Environmental Quality” spread over the four days was organized under the following four themes:

1. Soil Health and Nutritional Security
2. Enhancing Nutrient and Water Use Efficiency for Improving Crop Productivity and Environmental Quality - New Dimensions
3. Land Use Planning for Meeting the Societal Needs
4. Soil Science in the Next 25 Years

National Seminar

A National Seminar on ‘Developments in Soil Science - 2009’ was organized, in which 290 papers in poster sessions were presented in the afternoons of 23rd and 24th December, 2009. Out of the poster presentations spread over two sessions, three were selected for the Best Poster Presentation Award.

Seventy-fourth Annual General Body Meeting held on 23 December 2009

The 74th Annual General Body Meeting of ISSS was held on 23 December 2009. Dr. A.K. Singh, President of the ISSS conducted the meeting attended by 189 members of the Society. The business of the meeting was transacted as per the listed agenda. Dr. Singh delivered the presidential address. *Full address appears in the June 2010 issue of the Journal of the Indian Society of Soil Science* The meeting came to a

close with a vote of thanks by Dr. S.K. Mahapatra, Joint Secretary, ISSS.

Cultural Programme

Cultural programme depicting the cultural heritage, folk music and dance sequences of different parts of India was presented by professional artists of the Delhi-based Oaknerl troupe on the evening of 22 December 2009.

Sponsors of the Platinum Jubilee Symposium

Following organizations were the official sponsors/co-sponsors of the Platinum Jubilee Symposium.

1. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
2. Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi
3. National Rainfed Area Authority, GOI, New Delhi
4. Department of Science and Technology, GOI, New Delhi
5. IMPHOS, World Phosphate Institute, Morocco
6. MOSAIC India Private Limited, Gurgaon
7. Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd., Hyderabad

Grateful thanks are expressed to all these organizations.



74th Annual General Body Meeting in progress

Chapter Activities

Rahuri Chapter

Rahuri Chapter of ISSS organized a special lecture by Dr. Harmandeep Singh, Dy. Director (India West) International Plant Nutrition Institute, Pune on “IPNI Global Science to Local Impact” on 8.9.2009. Dr. A.S. Jadhav, Incharge Vice Chancellor and Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, MPKV Rahuri, Dr. R.S. Patil, Associate Dean, PGI, MPKV Rahuri, Dr. Prakash Kulkarni, Technical Advisor, Dr. A.N. Deshpande, President Rahuri Chapter, Dr. A.R. Dhage Secretary and staff and students of the university attended the talk.

Akola Chapter

Akola Chapter of ISSS organized a state level Seminar on “Soil Resource Management for Sustainable Soil Health and Food Security” during 2-3 January 2010 at Dr. PDKV, Akola. The Seminar was inaugurated by Dr. K.P.R. Vittal, Director, National Institute for Abiotic Stress Management, Baramati, Pune in the gracious presence of Dr. Dipak Sarkar, Director NBSS&LUP, Nagpur. Dr. V.M. Mayande, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University presided over the function.

DDG (NRM) Visits Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth

Dr. A.K. Singh, President ISSS and DDG (NRM) visited Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri for group meet of Chief Scientists on Water Management project on 11.4.2009. Dr. Singh was felicitated by the Rahuri Chapter of ISSS. On the occasion Dr. R.B. Desmukh, Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri, Dr. Ashvani Kumar, Director, WTCER, Bhubaneswar, Dr. A.N. Deshpande, President, Rahuri Chapter, Dr. A.R. Dhage, Secretary, Dr. R.B. Nazirkar, Treasurer and all members of Rahuri Chapter were present.

Awards/Recognitions to Society Members

- Dr. A.K. Singh, President ISSS and DDG (NRM), ICAR received the 10th Hari Krishna Shastri Memorial Award of IARI, New Delhi for the



Dr. A.K. Singh, President ISSS and DDG (NRM), ICAR receiving the 10th Hari Krishna Shastri Memorial Award of IARI from H E Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India

year 2009 consisting of a cash prize of Rs. 25,000/- and a commendation certificate for his outstanding research contributions in the area of natural resource management (Water management).

- Dr. A.K. Patra, Principal Scientist, SSAC, IARI was elected Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences.
- Dr. K.M. Manjaiah, Senior Scientist, SSAC, IARI was elected Fellow of the Indian Society for Nuclear Agriculture and Biology.
- Dr. Ch. Srinivasarao, Principal Scientist, CRIDA, Hyderabad received the 16th Sukumar Basu Memorial Award 2007-08 of IARI, New Delhi consisting of a cash prize of Rs. 10,000/- and a commendation certificate for his outstanding research contributions in the area of Soil Science. Dr. Ch. Srinivasarao, was also nominated as Chief Editor of the Indian Journal of Dryland Agriculture and Development, Hyderabad.
- Dr. R.K. Rattan, Dr. S.P. Datta and Dr. J.C. Katyal received the Dhuru Morarji Memorial Award (first prize) for the best article in Agriculture 2008-09 from FAI.
- Dr. V.K. Suri has been nominated by the ICAR as a member of ICAR-CWC Joint Panel, a working group under the chairmanship of DDG(NRM), ICAR.
- Dr. S. Riazuddin Ahmed, Principal Scientist, AICRP and STCR, ANGRAU, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad received the Janna Reddy Venkata Reddy award - a gold medal and



Dr. S. Riazuddin Ahmed, Principal Scientist, AICRP and STCR, ANGRAU, Hyderabad receiving the Janna Reddy Venkata Reddy Award

citation - from Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Govt. of India during 41st University Convocation on 26.3.2009 for the year 2007 for the best research work done on Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh. This award is sponsored by the Farmers Welfare Trust, Hyderabad.

- Dr. Jagadish Prasad, Principal Scientist, NBSSLUP, Nagpur has been nominated by Chhatisgarh Govt. as a member in the Committee of State Project Sanctioning and Monitoring.
- Dr. A.N. Deshpande, President Rahuri Chapter of ISSS and Head Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, is elected as an Executive Member of the Indian Society of Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad for the years 2009-2011 from Central Zone of India.
- Dr. Sanjay Arora, Senior Scientist, CSSRI, RRS, Bharuch (Gujarat) was nominated as Councillor (West Zone) of the Indian Society of Soil Survey & Land Use Planning, Nagpur.
- Dr. Vilas Kharche, Professor, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Dr. PDKV, Akola has been awarded the Vasantrao Naik Memorial Gold Medal for his research paper on ‘Long-term Integrated Nutrient Management for Securing Soil Quality under Intensive Cropping System on Vertisols of Maharashtra’ by V.K. Kharche, A.A. Kulkarni, S.R. Patil and R.N. Katkar presented in National Seminar held on 27-28 February, 2010

Visits of Members Abroad

- Dr. V.S.Tomar, Vice Chancellor, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwa Vidyalyaya, Gwalior visited China to participate in Shangri-La writer-shop on water, carbon, biodegradation in mosaic landscapes, 12-16 May 2009 and presented a paper on "Land degradation in India: A case study of Chambal ravines in Madhya Pradesh".
- Dr. Amitava Rakshit, Assistant Professor, BHU, Varanasi was recognized as BV.Nxt Fellow and participated in Biovision 2009 forum meeting at Lyan, France from 7-11 March 2009.

Appointments

- Dr. Murugesu Boopati appointed as Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University *w.e.f.* 4.6.2009
- Prof. Saroj Kumar Sanyal took over as Vice Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur *w.e.f.* 4 January 2010.
- Dr. S.K. Chandra joined as Director, Planning, Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa (Samastipur) with effect from 1.7.2009.
- Dr. M. Suryanarayan Reddy assumed the charge of Professor and Head, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, College of Agriculture, ANGRAU, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad with effect from 3.4.2009.
- Dr. Ramesh Chandra, Professor, Soil Microbiology took over as Head, Department of Soil Science, College of Agriculture, GBPUAT, Pantnagar with effect from 1 June 2009.

Forthcoming Seminars/ Symposia/ Conferences/ Workshops

August 1-6, 2010: 19th World Congress of Soil Science, Brisbane, Australia.

Information: website: <http://www.ccm.com.au/soil/>; E-mail : soil@ccm.com.au.

November 11-13, 2010: National Conference on Watershed Management on Sloping Lands for Environment and Livelihood Security, Shillong, Meghalaya. Contact: SCSi, New Delhi. www.soilcsi.org, Email: soilcsi@yahoo.co.in

December 3-7 2010: N2010 Reactive Nitrogen: Management for Sustainable Development Science, Technology and Policy, New Delhi. Contact: Dr. M.S. Sachdev, Conference Coordinator, N2010, Room 225, NRC on Plant Biotechnology, LBS Building, IARI, New Delhi-110012 E-mail: ing.scon@gmail.com Phone: +91-9811379500; <http://www.n2010.org/>

Science News

Heavy Snowfall over Himalayas Makes Drought over India More Likely

Science Daily (Apr. 23, 2010) - Scientists from the Walker Institute at the University of Reading have helped to explain why heavy snowfall over the Himalayas in winter and spring can lead to drought over India, especially in the early part of the summer monsoon. This work forms part of the Climate Programme of the National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS).

As far back as the 1880s scientists have known that increased snow over the Himalayas can be linked with weaker summer monsoon rains over India. However, the mechanisms explaining this link have never been properly understood.

The new research, published this week in *Climate Dynamics*, studies the mechanisms using the Met Office/Hadley Centre Climate Model. It shows that greater snowfall reflects more sunlight and produces a cooling over the Himalayas. This in turn means a weakening of the monsoon winds that

bring rain to India. The relationship is strongest in the absence of warm (El Nino) or cold (La Nina) conditions in the tropical Pacific, because these are normally the dominant control over Indian rains.

Dr Andy Turner, lead author of the research, says "Our work shows how, in the absence of a strong influence from the tropical Pacific, snow conditions over the Himalayas and Tibetan Plateau could be used to help forecast seasonal monsoon rainfall for India, particularly over northern India during the onset month of June. The onset timing of the monsoon is very important for agriculture; a lack of rainfall early in the growing season can have a devastating impact on crops."

Previous studies have also found links between snowfall over a much larger area of northern Eurasia, but this study suggests that the Himalayan region has a stronger influence on Indian rainfall.

The monsoon rains over India and the rest of South and East Asia are relied on by more than a third of the world's population.

This research is based on a large number of experiments with the Met Office/Hadley Centre Climate Model which have been used to show robust relationships between the monsoon and winter/spring snow. This study shows in detail the mechanisms linking heavy snowfall over the Himalayas and Tibet in winter and spring with summer monsoon drought, particularly in the early part of the season (June).

Source: Turner, A.G. and Slingo, J.M. 2010. Using idealized snow forcing to test teleconnections with the Indian summer monsoon in the Hadley Centre GCM. *Climate Dynamics*; DOI: 10.1007/s00382-010-0805-3

News, views and critiques for publication in the ISSS Newsletter may please be sent to Secretary, Indian Society of Soil Science, NASC Complex, Pusa, DPS Marg, New Delhi 110012