

# Workshop on “Organic Farming: Concerns about crop productivity and soil health”

Workshop on **Organic Farming: Concerns about crop productivity and soil health** sponsored by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare was organized by ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram on 7 January 2016. Members of Task Force on Organic Farming and Non-chemical farming, Principal Investigators of Network Project on Organic Farming (NPOF), officials from DAC&FW, National Centre of Organic Farming and Scientists of ICAR-IIFSR participated in the workshop and deliberated on policy for promotion for organic farming in the country without compromising the crop productivity and soil health.

Dr A.K. Sikka, DDG (NRM) informed that organic farming has advantages over chemical management in agriculture, but considering the food requirement in terms of quantity and quality, proper policy needs to be designed for organic farming after taking in to consideration of crop productivity in different regions.

Shri Ashok Dalwai, Additional Secretary (INM) in his opening remarks informed that organic farming in the country is being promoted through *Paramparaghat Krishi Vikas Yojana* with a target of creating 10,000 clusters. Crop productivity under organic farming is a major a concern and considering the food security issue, proper policy of promoting organic farming in the country is essential.

Dr J.P. Singh, Director (Acting), ICAR-IIFSR welcomed the participants while Dr N. Ravisankar, Principal Scientist & National PI, NPOF presented an overview of results of NPOF especially on crop productivity and soil health along with policy input.

After the detailed deliberations, recommendations for promotion of organic farming were finalized besides identification of researchable issues.

## Salient recommendation

“Organic farming should be promoted in phased manner in the identified niche areas (hilly, rainfed & drylands) and crops (positive crops to organic management, low volume-high value). “**Certified organic farming**” with combination of tradition, innovation and scientific organic packages should be promoted in the de-facto organic areas (hills) and rainfed/ dryland regions for safe food security and climate resilience, besides increased income of farm households. Accelerated adoption of “**towards organic**” (integrated crop management) approach for intensive agricultural areas (food hubs) will positively contribute to the cause of soil, human, livestock and eco-system health, the basic objective of organic agriculture”.

The workshop was organized as a pre-cursor to “National Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Farmers Welfare” to be held during 17-18 January 2016 at Gangtok, Sikkim.



Shri Ashok Dalwai, Additional Secretary (INM) and Dr A.K. Sikka, DDG (NRM) interacting with the participants



Discussion and formulation of policy and recommendations on organic farming