

## Orientation Training Programme for Soil Chemists on 'Soil Testing and Fertilizer Recommendation'



ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram conducted five day orientation training (Jan. 19 -23, 2016) programme on soil testing and fertilizer recommendation for 20 soil chemists working in various soil testing laboratories i.e. Meerut, Bulandshahar, Bagpat, Hapur, Gautambudh Nagar and Ghaziabad of Meerut zone under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) for soil health card scheme. Dr. J.P. Singh, Director (Acting) inaugurated the training programme and emphasized the importance of the training for soil testing and preparation of soil health cards and thus, benefiting the farmers by way of applying the fertilizers as per the soil test report for increased and sustained crop production. Dr. Rambir Katara, Deputy Director (Agriculture) in his remarks appealed the Soil Chemists to apply the knowledge and skill acquired during the training to their work place for better output. Dr. Harendra Singh, Assistant Director (Soil Testing Laboratory/Culture), Meerut focused on the need and background of the training programme.

The orientation training programme consisted of five theory lectures followed by lab practical. The trainees were imparted skill in handling of pH, EC meter, spectrophotometer, flame photometer and atomic absorption spectrophotometer. Preparation of various standard solutions, titration for organic carbon, estimation of pH, EC, available P, K, S, Mn, Zn, Cu, Fe and B in soil was carried out by trainees in soil lab of the institute. Trainees were also acquainted in grid based soil sampling practically using GPS, interpretation of soil test results and fertilizer recommendation in preparation of soil health cards.

The training programme was conducted by Dr. R.S. Yadav, Principal Scientist (Soil Science) and I/C, Soil Lab. Dr. Anil Kumar, Principal Scientist (Extension Education) and I/C, HRD co-ordinated the programme. Practicals and handling of instruments for the trainees in the lab were carried out by Mr. R.B. Tiwari, STO (Soil Lab) and Dr. Vinod Sharma, STO.