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Geospatial technologies have immense potential in inventory, mapping: Dr Dwiwedi

■ NBSS&LUP and DST hold national-level Winter School on Advance Geospatial Technologies

■ **Staff Reporter**

ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Nagpur inaugurated Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Delhi sponsored 21-day online national-level Winter School on 'Advance Geospatial Technologies for Assessment and Monitoring of Land Degradation in Changing Climate' on Tuesday.

Dr B S Dwivedi, Director, ICAR-NBSS&LUP, in his welcome address informed that globally about 3.2 billion people are affected by land degradation, especially in small holding and the resource poor farmers.

Climate change and land degradation have far-reaching negative impacts on agricultural productivity, ecological functions, overall quality of life, human livelihoods and food security. He informed that geospatial technologies have immense potential in inventory, mapping and enable us to generate precise geospatial databases on a regular basis for better mapping and monitoring, and management of degraded lands at various scales.

Dr Debpriya Dutta, Associate Head, DST-National Geospatial Programme, DST, Government of India, New Delhi in his inaugural address explained about various techniques and technologies in interpretation of satellite data at various scales. He emphasised that the satellite data from optical, microwave and hyperspectral have immense potential in mapping of land degradation.

He also informed that after interpretation of satellite data, the multilayer analysis and modelling in GIS play a key role in decision making process at various levels. Dr M S S Nagaraju, Head (I/c), Division of Remote Sensing Application informed that recent satellite data have immense potential in mapping and monitoring of degraded lands in the country.

Dr G P Obi Reddy, Principal Scientist and Course Director, Division of Remote Sensing Application while welcoming the guests and participants informed that assessment and monitoring of land degradation through remote sensing offer a series of advantages such as consistency of data, fairly near real-time reporting, and precision in the spatial data. He informed that 28 participants mainly from ICAR, State Agricultural Universities, State Universities and Krishi Vigna Kendra's (KVK's) representing from Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal attending the training.

Dr Nirmal Kumar, Senior Scientist and Course Co-ordinator proposed the vote of thanks.