

NBSS&LUP holds Interactive workshop on  
**Evaluating soil site suitability for major crops in Marathwada region on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

ICAR-NBSS&LUP organized Organization of one-day Interactive workshop on *Evaluating soil site suitability for major crops in Marathwada region using GIS-based multi-criteria decision analysis* on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023 involving Vasantnao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidhyapeeth (VNMKV), Parbhani and eight Krishi Vigyan Kendra of districts of Marathwada region. Director of the Bureau, Dr NG Patil welcomed the Chief Guest of the workshop Hon'ble Deputy Director General (NRM), ICAR, Dr S.K. Chaudhari and Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, VNMKV, Parbhani Dr Indra Mani as Guest of Honour and informed to conduct a series of workshop on evaluating soil suitability for seeking crop diversification of India, particularly Marathwada region using minimum dataset acquired digital soil mapping for developing soil maps for major crops of India. Dr Chaudhari in his remark conveyed that this Bureau is quite old, working since last many years for developing soil maps for the crops of the country to give proper shape to the data through useful tools generated to make best use of these data for developing soil site suitability and sustainable land use plans for the crops for Marathwada region which has very unique characteristics and social matrix with its ecosystem. He also understood that this initiative is worthwhile where this platform where university and ICAR scientists would interact together and KVK scientists working directly with farming communities would bring out robust plans so that we can go with a very good methodology for better interventions in future endeavor. Vice Chancellor Dr Indra Mani added in the light of DDG NRM that with the survey carried out by the university found that many of the farmers do not utilize resource properly as the selection of a crop for different depth of soils must be considered wisely as the soil is a basic base for crop growth as one cannot separate the soil with climate but they are interrelated and impact the crop growth. Panel discussion mainly held on soil and climatic parameters more influencing the crop site suitability and change in cropping pattern as Marathwada region which holds 95 per cent cultivable area. The region faces recurring drought and receives erratic rainfall, thereby impacting the yield of the crops. Scientists from universities and KVKs detailed the impact of above parameters on cropping pattern as well as their suitability to particular districts as soils of the districts varied significantly. Scientists from Regional Centres of the Bureau also participated in the virtual workshop. Dr M.S. Raghuvanshi, Pr. Scientist coordinated the workshop and Dr Hritick Biswas, Incharge PME placed a vote of thanks.

