

## Bureau Celebrates World Soil Day on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

ICAR-NBSS&LUP and its Regional Centres celebrated the World Soil Day (WSD) with fervor by organizing various awareness programmes, field days, student campaigns and a radio talk. The programme at the Headquarters at Nagpur was jointly organized by ICAR-NBSS&LUP and Indian Society of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (ISSLUP) under the chairmanship of Dr. N.G. Patil, Director, ICAR-NBSS & LUP. Dr. Prakash Kadu, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture (Dr. PDKV, Akola), Nagpur was the Chief Guest of the event. The gathering was welcomed by Dr. K. Karthikeyan, Secretary, ISSLUP. Dr. D. Vasu, introduced about the WSD theme and the speaker. After the opening remarks by Dr. N.G. Patil, the chief guest delivered an honorary address on the theme of World Soil Day **“Soil and Water: a source of life.”** The speaker mainly focused on soil and water quality, soil and water conservation in rainfed areas, soil degradation and climate change with the help of various case studies. He also pointed out some future thrust areas of research for the young researchers. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. A.O. Shirale.

School and college-going students, and farmers actively participated in the World Soil Day campaigns. Various competitions were arranged for the students at HQrs Nagpur, and Delhi and Udaipur Centres, while RC, Jorhat, Delhi, Kolkata and Bengaluru celebrated this important day amidst the farmers. About 125 Soil health cards/LRI cards and input kits were distributed among farmers by RC, Delhi and Bengaluru Centres. More than 600 participants including 170 farmers and 300 school/college students were a part of the World Soil Day festivities. The importance of this annual event was further highlighted by Dr. F.H. Rahman, Head, RC, Kolkata through a Radio Talk broadcast by All India Radio.



