

'Space technology, digital soil mapping can mitigate impact of climate change'



Dr N G Patil delivering Dr Ashok Juwarkar memorial lecture at CSIR-NEERI on Friday.

■ Staff Reporter

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) organised Dr Ashok S Juwarkar Memorial Lecture on Friday at the NEERI Auditorium. Dr N G Patil, Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (ICAR-NBSS&LUP), was the chief guest while Ajit Kumar Saxena, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MOIL Limited, was the distinguished guest. Dr Atul Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI, was also present on the dais.

Delivering the lecture, Dr N G Patil expressed concern over decreasing per capita availability of arable land and fresh water in India. There is a mismatch between exploitation and conservation of land resources. In this context, space technology and digital soil mapping together can give a promising solution to lessen the impact of climate change on farmers, he added. He said that accurate and real-time soil data could become one of the most valuable resources among farmers.

Speaking further, he stressed on the need for a detailed study on the interaction between climate and soil. Raising concern

over declining grazing land in western Maharashtra, Dr Patil said that weather based crop advisory started by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is enabling farmers to take appropriate measures for crop management. He further briefed about soil maps prepared by ICAR-NBSS&LUP for various states of the country and exhorted to evolve a more rigorous and robust scientific methodology for land use planning using modern tools.

Addressing the gathering, Ajit Kumar Saxena praised the contributions of Late Dr Ashok Juwarkar rendered to MOIL Limited in managing mine spoil dumps in an eco-friendly way. He also mentioned about the eco-restoration work recently carried out by CSIR-NEERI at Gumgaon to manage manganese spoil dumps of MOIL Limited.

Saxena further recalled inclusive approach of Late Dr Juwarkar in solving any environmental issue. He urged CSIR-NEERI to undertake similar work of eco-restoration at MOIL's Dongri Buzurg Mine.

Earlier in his welcome address, Dr Atul Vaidya outlined the significant contributions of late Dr Juwarkar and said that the research work done by latter laid a new foundation in the area of agriculture and environment, and CSIR-NEERI is continuously progressing in this area.

Dr Shalini Dhyani, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI conducted the proceedings and Prakash Kumbhare, Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI proposed the vote of thanks. About 120 students from Institute of Science, Nagpur, Suretech College of Nursing, Nagpur and School of Nursing, Swami Vivekanand Medical Mission, Nagpur visited laboratories of CSIR-NEERI and interacted with scientists on this occasion.