



INDIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

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"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself" — Franklin Delano Roosevelt

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80th Annual Convention of the ISSS

5-8 December 2015

at UAS, Bangalore



Venue of the Convention

Convention Features

- National Seminar on "Developments in Soil Science - 2015"
- Celebration of International Year of Soils (IYS) 2015
- Special Symposium on "Soil Health : Concept, Status and Monitoring"
- The 33rd Prof. J.N. Mukherjee - ISSS Foundation Lecture
- The 42nd Dr. R.V. Tamhane Memorial Lecture
- Presentation by the Doctoral Research Award Contestants

News, views and critiques for publication in the ISSS Newsletter may please be sent to Dr. D.R. Biswas, Secretary, Indian Society of Soil Science, NASC Complex, Pusa, DPS Marg, New Delhi 110012

Sustainable Soil Management through Interdisciplinary Approach



Soil is a bio-geochemically dynamic entity and a core component of land resources that supports all components of terrestrial ecosystems and thus called Earth's living skin. It is the reservoir of at least a quarter of global biodiversity and demands utmost attention for life sustenance. Soil possess the duality of both mixed biotic and abiotic components, and exhibit continuous as well as discrete features in sustaining ecosystem services. An important mechanism for sustainable functioning in soils and ecosystems is the co-evolution of fast and slow processes over long time periods that maintain its quality. However, the soil quality vary spatially and temporally from field to a regional scale and are influenced by both intrinsic (soil forming) and extrinsic (agro-managements) factors. Despite the link between the quality of the soil resource and the rise and fall of world civilizations that has been repeated throughout history, soil remains an undervalued and underappreciated resource.

The first and foremost role of soil as a substrate remains the production of food and other primary goods contributing to life on this planet. There has been renewed interest in recognizing soil and its functions and processes that occur at the Earth's surface *viz.* influence on climate change (largest store of terrestrial carbon), land degradation (erosion by water and wind, tillage, compaction, sealing, nutrient imbalance and depletion, loss of organic carbon, acidification, salinization/alkalization and pollution) and remediation, the fate and transport of nutrients and contaminants, soil and water quality, global food security, biofuels/energy security, carrying capacity, wetlands function, platform and source for construction, raw materials and many other issues pertinent to the stewardship and conservation of land and water resources.

Thus, it requires an interdisciplinary approach involving biologists, chemists, geologists, geomorphologists, physicists and researchers from other relevant disciplines. It calls for the researchers to prioritize the type of research to be carried out. However, in the soil science community at least, key challenges cannot be identified by committee of experts, who appears to insist on having his or her pet research topic methods in the final list.

Soil scientists generally employ a multi-scale approach-from the molecular to the landscape levels-to address concerns related to environment. For sustainable management of soil resources, many other unique features of soils need to be better recognized and addressed as soils possess, the power

of both life generating and life supporting as well as supplying and filtering capacities. Research has to be strengthened in the following areas to meet the new challenges which soil science is facing:

- Identify and quantify key ecosystem services provided by soil and incorporate them into studies of ecosystems. Soils research to be broadened from production agronomy and basic pedology to a more multifunctional character encompassing production, human welfare and ecosystem functions.
- Characterize the relationship between soil-climate change-human health interactions, as pedosphere and the atmosphere are intricately linked and atmospheric changes affect the human health. Soil may be harmful when emitting gases to the atmosphere, thus contributing to climate change, or by transport of soil solids to open water surfaces and to air by water and wind erosion, influencing human health by ingestion, inhalation, and skin contact.
- Conduct basic research at the plant-soil-microbial interface and on the role of biofilms in geochemical cycling processes. Research is also needed to elucidate the role of specific root exudates in microbial processes in the rhizosphere.
- Characterize long-term resilience of soil, experiencing degradation due to human activity and ease of restoration through judicious management and discriminate use of essential inputs.
- Integrate *in-situ* physical, chemical, biological, and imaging techniques for modeling across spatial and temporal scales *i.e.* geospatial methods to analyze multi-dimensional environmental datasets.
- Encourage greater employment and usage of modern techniques *e.g.*, micro (spectro)scopy in soil characterization, various proximal and remote sensor (*e.g.* electromagnetic induction, diffuse reflectance visible/near/mid-

infrared spectroscopy), global positioning systems, airborne and satellite based hyper-spectral remote sensing, and Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR), *etc.* Employ more mathematical and computational capabilities in modeling (simulation models) and transform architecture into function.

- There is a need to re-look or revisit syllabus, curricula and contents of teaching, research and education (transdisciplinarity) in the field of soil science so as to respond to the emerging potentials and opportunities of demographically active and knowledge enriched societies.

The goal of improving food security and nutrition, in the context of population growth, land degradation and climate change cannot be attained satisfactorily unless soil resource data are placed at the very top of the development agenda (policy, strategy and action plan). This can be done by sensitizing the decision-makers about the need for robust investment in sustainable soil management activities aiming at healthy soils for different land users and population group leading to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. This requires the involvement of all stake holders and effective mechanisms to co-ordinate action and make decisions that benefit the civil society.

The pro-nutrition agriculture may be encouraged to ensure healthy soils, plant and inhabitants. The GOI launched gigantic scheme to provide Soil Health Card to every farmer in a mission mode. This card will carry soil nutrient status and crop-wise recommendation of nutrient/fertilizers requirements making it possible for farmers to improve productivity by using appropriate inputs, however, it may not serve the purpose in fullest strength if water availability is not looked into. Water is becoming scarce and its quality is also deteriorating. In India, the factors which led to Green Revolution have become subjects of criticism because gain (productivity) resulted in pain (ecosystem deterioration) because of misusing scientific and technological

breakthroughs to indiscreetly and greedily exploit of soil resources. In general, nearly 70 per cent nutrients gets absorbed by feeder roots of plough layer but water availability should be ensured up to root zone of the crop. However, the soil-water-nutrient availability to be looked through soil processes *viz.*, development of salinity/sodicity, development of compact layers, clay enriched horizon or pedal shrinking and swelling soils, *etc.* which have tremendous influence on water and nutrient availability and *in-turn* the crop productivity. In general, nutrient availability in soils is based on the mineral fabrics and additionally the soil minerals has to be visualized as sink and source for pollutants, metalloids and as an indicator for climate change.

Soil Scientist should work in close association with crop scientists to come out with varieties/plant types having high nutrient absorption capacity with higher WUE. Further, one could try to modify the present agricultural practices so that, soil layers colonized by crop roots be able to retain more water and nutrients than is currently the case, thereby enabling crop yields to increase. The root CEC may be good indicator for screening efficient genotypes for higher nutrient and water productivity. Switching over from traditional puddled rice to aerobic rice would be a welcome approach for efficient utilization of green water and/or brackish water through different methods of irrigation. The proper utilization of soil and water through watershed programme is the need of hour. The watershed has an environmental function to maintain water quality and quantity, and prevent downstream erosion. Soil survey and SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) data can maximally be utilized for predicting the regional soil moisture availability and hydraulic properties of soils.

Isolation of native, efficient and resistant strains of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria have great potential in enriching the soils and *in-turn* productivity and quality of food grains. The conservation agriculture may have long-term effect in stabilizing the proper rhizosphere population and may grant us bliss and sustenance.

However, uses of soil nano-clay for improving rhizosphere function and nutrient dynamics in soil-rhizosphere-plant system (root-soil interface) should be given due attention.

To hasten the aforesaid actions, we have to enhance the quantity and quality of site-specific soil data and information (data collection/generation, analysis, validation, reporting, monitoring and integration). Upgradation of the relevant documentation tools and training materials (traditional and emerging pedagogic channels) should be explored to ensure maximum dissemination of such material.

Soil Science Research in India



Soil Science research in India has evolved in a highly skewed fashion over the past 5 to 6 decades. This has serious implications by way of our ability to generate and extend knowledge and technologies for sustained resource use, environmental protection and for achieving food security goals. There is an urgent need to view soil science research in the broader context of multi-functional role of soils and to take corrective steps for adopting more integrated approaches aimed at addressing issues of sustainable resource use and agriculture and those related to environment.

Russian scientists viewed soils as an independent natural body. Accordingly soil was recognized as a distinct organism with definite morphologic and constitutional (physiological) features with specific physical properties, chemical composition and biological make up. Following from this concept development of soil science was viewed as an independent branch of science in the family tree of natural sciences. In India, as in many countries of the world soil science research was pursued as a part of the agricultural research aimed at producing enough for the increasing population and considering that agriculture constituted a major land use.

Remote sensing and GIS-based regional geomorphological mapping, water resource mapping, research in pedometrics, application of land evaluation techniques including fuzzy logic, linear goal programming *etc.* in rational and judicious allocation of available land for different uses may go a long way in management of soil resources.

The soil science community needs to continue to redefine its disciplinary context and expand its core activities. These measures are critical, not only to meet contemporary societal challenges and the needs, but also to respond effectively and engage actively in central

issues addressed by the scientific community.

It is high time to increase awareness on the fundamental and multiple roles of soils for human-being, food and nutritional security, sustainable development and climate change adoption and mitigation, but such programme need to be further pursued and hoisted properly during the “International Year of Soils”. Let us work jointly so that soil may remain in harmony with environment and society.

Healthy Soil for Healthy Life.

Dr. Jagdish Prasad
President, ISSS

Traditionally soil science research has been pursued through well defined sub disciplines, namely, (i) soil genesis, classification and mapping, (ii) soil chemistry, (iii) soil physics, (iv) soil fertility and plant nutrition, (v) soil biology and (vi) soil technology (including soil and water conservation, soil reclamation *etc.*). While the role and importance of all sub-disciplines was well recognized when the agricultural research system was revamped in early sixties, this appreciation was gradually lost. The primary focus of agricultural research and development starting mid-sixties related to the relatively narrow and short-term objective of achieving self-sufficiency of foodgrains production and to achieve these object a crop based approach to enhance productivity was the primary strategy. A combination of fertilizer responsive high yield crop cultivars, expending irrigation and enhancing fertilizer use became the ‘mantra’ for achieving development objectives. The role of soil scientists in pursuing such a strategy became increasingly limited to defining inputs use and management rather than ‘resource management’ *per se*. The limitations of such an approach were recognized starting early nineties when issues of sustainability of production system was increasingly questioned. An unintended consequence of the approach to research was a gradual neglect of research in several of the sub disciplines. The neglect of specialized sub disciplines specific research aimed at obtaining insights into the functioning of soil

systems was further neglected due to recruitment procedures which would not recognize specialized training needs in relation to research in sub disciplines. This has resulted in a highly skewed manpower with almost a vacuum in such areas as soil physics, soil biology, soil morphology and genesis *etc.*

There is now an increasing recognition that soils have a role far beyond meeting the immediate food production needs. Sustainability of food production systems is undoubtedly critical. Soils play a central role in regulating hydrologic and bio-geochemical cycles. Soils support and constitute a habitat for large biodiversity both underground and above ground. They are a storehouse for carbon and can contribute to sequestering large amounts of atmospheric carbon. Soils play a critical role in filtration and maintaining quality of groundwater, disposal and degradation of water, and in maintaining exchange of gases *etc.* Soils play multifunctional role through and interplay of soil physical, chemical and biological properties in different agro-ecological settings. Globally evolution of soil science has taken place through better understanding of physical, chemical and biological processes and through constant intermixing of sub disciplinary research areas recognizing the holistic nature of soil science as key to address complex societal (productivity, environment, sustainability) problems.

New challenges call for in-depth understanding of physical, chemical and biological processes underpinning the multifunctional role of soils. There is an urgent need therefore to view soil science research in India from a broader context of their multifunctionality and to take corrective steps by promoting more bal-

anced and integrated approaches aimed at optimizing the processes for a range of services including provisioning (sustain food, fuel, fibre), regulating (nutrient cycling, water retention and release, GHG emissions and carbon sequestration) and supporting (nutrient cycling, habitat for biodiversity, degradation of

plant and other materials). A holistic approach to the development of disciplines is absolutely essential to achieve goals of sustainable resource use and development.

I.P. Abrol
Centre for Advancement of
Sustainable Agriculture

Seventy-ninth Annual Convention of the Indian Society of Soil Science

The 79th Annual Convention of the Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS) was held at the Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University in collaboration with Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad during November 24-27, 2014.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session was held on 24 November 2014 at the Auditorium of the Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad. On behalf of the Hyderabad Chapter of the ISSS, Dr. P.C. Rao, welcomed the delegates and expressed this event as an unique chance for the scientists and researchers to enhance their academic knowledge. Dr. A. Padma Raju, Vice Chancellor, ANGRAU welcomed the delegates. Dr. R.K. Rattan,



Dignitaries at the dias on inaugural function of the 79th Annual Convention of ISSS

President, ISSS, extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, Dr. J.S. Samra, Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority, New

Delhi; the Guest of Honor, Dr. J.S. Kanwar, an eminent soil scientist and DDG (Emeritus), ICRISAT; Past Presidents of ISSS present in the inaugural ceremony, members of the Council of ISSS, University officials, delegates from all parts of the country; and other distinguished guests. In his presidential remarks, Dr. Rattan highlighted about the achievement of the aims and objectives of the ISSS in enhancing the visibility of Soil Science and Soil Scientists across the globe. He also emphasized on food and nutritional security, over-exploitation of natural resources, etc. Guest of Honor, Dr. J.S. Kanwar gave his remarks on ISSS response statement.

Dr. J.S. Kanwar was honoured by the Society for his outstanding achievements and contributions to soil science and society. A special publication on "Dr. Jaswant Singh Kanwar: Indian Soil Scientist of the Transitional Millennium - A Tribute" was released on this occasion.



Lightening of inaugural function of 79th Annual Convention



Dr. J.S. Samra honoring Dr. J.S. Kanwar, Indian Soil Scientist of the Transitional Millennium



Front page of the Souvenir

Chief Guest, Dr. J.S. Samra, Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority presented various Awards of the ISSS for 2014. Dr. D.R. Biswas, Secretary read the citations. Honorary Membership of the ISSS, highest award of the Society, was conferred on Dr. R.P. Dhir, Former Director, CAZRI, Jodhpur; and Prof. György Várallyay, Research Professor (Emeritus), Institute for Soil Sciences and Agricultural Chemistry, Centre for Agricultural Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary in absentia. Dr. S.K. Sanyal, Former Vice Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Kalyani was awarded the Platinum Jubilee Commemoration Award of the Indian Society of Soil Science-2014. Dr. Tapan Adhikari, IISS, Bhopal was



Dr. S.K. Sanyal receiving Platinum Jubilee Commemoration Award from Dr. J.S. Samra



Dr. Tapan Adhikari receiving 12th International Commemoration Award

awarded the 12th International Congress Commemoration Award. Dr. N.P.S. Yaduvanshi, IARI, New Delhi and his team, was awarded the ISSS-Dr. JSP Yadav Memorial Award for Excellence in Soil Science. Dr. Sanjib Kumar Behera, Pedavegi was awarded the Golden Jubilee Commemoration Young Scientist Award. A set of publications brought out on the occasion of the Convention were released during the inaugural ceremony. In his inaugural address, Dr. Samra emphasized on the



Dr. N.P.S. Yaduvanshi receiving ISSS-Dr. J.S.P. Yadav Memorial Award for Excellence in Soil Science



Dr. S.K. Behera receiving Golden Jubilee Commemoration Young Scientist Award

policy issues like biophysical properties, land review and right survey on forestry.

Inaugural function formally came to a close with a vote of thanks by Dr. G. Padmaja, Organizing Secretary, 79th Annual Convention of ISSS.

Special Lectures

During the Convention, three special lectures were organized. The 32nd Prof. J.N. Mukherjee - ISSS Foundation Lecture was delivered by Dr. Tapas Bhattacharyya, NBSS&LUP, Nagpur. He delivered this lecture on the topic "*Pedology: The Grammar of Soil Science*" on 24 November 2014. Dr. A.K. Sikka, Deputy Director General (NRM), ICAR chaired the session. The 1st Dr. S.N. Saxena Memorial Lecture was delivered



Dr. Tapas Bhattacharyya delivering the lecture

on 24 November 2014 by Dr. Sunil K. Sharma, MPUAT, Uadipur on the topic “*Long-Term Fertilization and Soil Health: A Relook*”. Dr. D.K. Das, Former President ISSS chaired the session.



Dr. Sunil K. Sharma delivering the lecture

The 41st Dr. R.V. Tamhane Memorial Lecture was delivered on 25 November 2014 by Dr. B.S. Dwivedi, Head, Division of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, IARI, New Delhi on the topic “*Revisiting Soil Testing and Fertilizer Use Research*”. Dr. S.S. Khanna, Former President ISSS chaired the session.



Dr. B.S. Dwivedi delivering the lecture

Dr. J.S. Kanwar Brain Storming Session on “Soil Science Education and Society”

Half-a-day **Dr. J.S. Kanwar Brain Storming Session on “Soil Science Education and Society”** was held on 25 November 2014 with Dr. R.B. Singh, Chancellor, CAU, Imphal in the Chair,



Dr. J.S. Kanwar Brain Storming Session on “Soil Science Education and Society” (L to R: Dr. R.B. Singh, Dr. J.S. Kanwar, Dr. J.C. Katyal and Dr. B.S. Dwivedi)

Dr. J.C. Katyal, Former President, ISSS Co-chaired this session and Dr. B.S. Dwivedi, IARI, New Delhi was the Rapporteur. Panelists in the session included Dr. J.C. Katyal, Delhi; Dr. A.K. Singh, Gwalior; Dr. Pradeep K. Sharma, Jammu; Dr. S.K. Sanyal, Mohanpur; Dr. P.C. Rao, Hyderabad; Dr. Neelam Saharan, Mumbai and Ms. Trisha Roy, New Delhi.

National Seminar

A National Seminar on ‘Developments in Soil Science - 2014’ was organized, in which a total of 100 papers in oral and 221 papers in poster sessions were presented on 24th afternoon, 25th afternoon and 26th November 2014 forenoon. Out of the poster presentations spread over three sessions, three were selected for the Best Poster Presentation Award.

Chapter Activities

Following an encouraging response during the previous years, Chapters of ISSS were invited to display in the form of posters their activities of the preceding one year. These posters remained on display during 24-26 November 2014 with one of the Chapter representatives available for discussion for a limited time fixed each day. The Chapters participating in this programme were: Bangalore, Bhopal, Delhi, Gwalior, Hisar, Hyderabad, Indore, Ludhiana, Parbhani and Ranchi. Poster presentations were informative, interesting and well laid-out. Visitors appreciated the efforts of the Chapters.

79th Annual General Body Meeting

The 79th Annual General Body Meeting of ISSS was held on 25



GB Meeting of ISSS in progress

November 2014. Dr. R.K. Rattan, President of the ISSS, chaired the meeting attended by 133 members of the Society. The business of the meeting as per the listed agenda, was transacted. The proceedings of the 78th Annual General Body Meeting held on 24 October, 2013 at Jodhpur, were considered and confirmed by the house. Dr. R.K. Rattan delivered the presidential address. The meeting came to a close with a vote of thanks by Dr. D.R. Biswas, Secretary, ISSS.

Cultural Programme

Cultural programme depicting the cultural heritage of the region held on the evening of 24 November 2014 was the key attraction of this technically-rich convention.

Concluding Session

The concluding session was held on 26 November 2014 with Dr. R.K. Rattan, President of the ISSS in the chair. In-depth review of all the special and technical sessions including Dr. J.S. Kanwar Brain Storming Session was made. Dr. I. Rashmi, IISS, Bhopal was awarded the ISSS Best Doctoral Research Presentation Award for the year 2014, while the other contestants, namely, Dr. Chakpram Birendrajit, Dr. Arunima Gogoi, Dr. P. Venkataram



Glimpse on cultural programme

Muni Reddy and Dr. Susmit Saha were given Commendation Certificates. Ms. Ritika Joshi, Mr. K. Anudeep Naidu and Ms. Priyanka were awarded the Zonal Award from North Zone, South Zone and West Zone, respectively. Dr. A. Padma Raju, Vice Chancellor of ANGRAU, presented award/commendation certificates. Efforts made by the Members of the Hyderabad Chapter in making the Convention a memorable and grand success were highly commended; the delegates gave the standing ovation to the organizers. At the end of the concluding session, the annual

convention was declared formally closed by Dr. R.K. Rattan, President of the ISSS.

Awards/Recognitions to Society Members

Dr. Jagdish Prasad, President ISSS and I/C Head, Division Soil Resource Studies, National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur received "Special Honour Award-2014" by Soil Conservation Society of India, New Delhi during 3rd International Conference on Natural Resource Management for Food Security and Rural Livelihood held at New Delhi during February 10-13, 2015.



Concluding Session of ISSS in progress



Dr. Jagdish Prasad receiving Special Honour Award-2014

Dr. V.K. Kharche joined as Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Nagpur *w.e.f.* November 14, 2014 under Dr. PDKV, Akola.

Dr. Anil R. Chinchmalatpure, Principal Scientist has been appointed as the Head, ICAR-CSSRI, RRS, Bharuch, Gujarat.

Dr. K.M.Manjaiah, Principal Scientist, Division of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, IARI, New Delhi has been nominated as Regional Coordinator (North Zone), National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board (NAEAB), ICAR.

Dr. Amitava Rakshit, Faculty, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry has been awarded (i) Best Teacher Award (2nd time) by Institute of Agricultural Science, BHU, Varanasi in association with Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi for the year 2013-14 and (ii) Innovative Young Scientist Award by Asian PGPR Society at the National Workshop on "Advances in PGPR Research" held during October 7-8, 2014 at Institute of Agricultural Sciences, BHU, Varanasi.

Dr. Ritesh Saha, Senior Scientist, ICAR-Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore, Kolkata received Dr. B. C. Deb Memorial Award for Popularization of Science for the year 2014-15 by Indian Science Congress Association, Kolkata.

Dr. Subhash Chand, Assistant Professor (Sr. Scale), Department of Soil Science, SKUAST (K), Shalimar, J&K, elected as Councilor, Northern Zone of Indian Society of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning.

Forthcoming Conferences

January 3 to 7, 2016: 103rd Session of the Indian Science Congress Association to be held at Mysore under the auspices of University of Mysore, Mysuru.

January 12-13, 2016: 18th International Conference on Soil Organic Matter

Science. Johannesburg, South Africa. <http://www.waset.org/conference/2016/01/johannesburg/ICSOMS>

January 23-26, 2016: 2nd International Conference on Desalination and Environment, Qatar.

January 25-26, 2016: 18th International Conference on Land Degradation and Sustainable Soil Management, Istanbul, Turkey webpage: <https://www.waset.org/conference/2016/01/istanbul/ICLDSSM>

March 6-11, 2016: International Coastal Symposium 2016 (ICS2016), Sydney, Australia.

March 7-9, 2016: 12th International Conference of the Egyptian Soil Science Society (ESSS) – Development of Water and Soil Resources: Challenges and Solutions; Ismailia, Egypt.

April 9-20, 2016: International Conference on Soil Science and Soil Agrotechnology, Liberty Central Saigon Centre, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. <http://icssa2016.weebly.com>

May 31 to June 2, 2016: International Conference on Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Land Use, Budapest, Hungary. website: <http://caslu2016.mtafki.hu/venue.html>

June 27 to July 1, 2016: 7th Global Workshop on Digital Soil Mapping, Århus, Denmark. webpage: <http://digitalsoil.auinstallation35.cs.au.dk/digital-soil-mapping-workshop-2016/>

June 6-9, 2016: 3rd Annual International Conference on Earth and Environmental Sciences, Athens, Greece. <http://www.atiner.gr/earth.htm>.

July 17-22: 2016: EUROSOIL International Congress, Istanbul, Turkey.

Editor's Note

On behalf of all the members of ISSS, I extend my gratefulness to Dr. Jagdish Prasad, President ISSS for his lead article entitled "*Sustainable soil management through interdisciplinary approach*" and Dr. I.P. Abrol, CASA, New Delhi for his thought provoking article on "*Soil Science Research in India*". I place on record my personal gratefulness to all those whose gestures enabled us to make the Newsletter informative and interesting. The next issue of the newsletter will be published electronically in September 2015. Please send any news, general interest items, etc. to the Society office (iss1934@gmail.com).

K.M. Manjaiah

<http://10times.com/eurosoil-international-congress>

July 17-23, 2016: 8th International Acid Sulfate Soil Conference, College Park, Maryland, USA. website: <http://www.midatlanticsoilscientists.org/acid-sulfate-soils-conference>

September 4-7, 2016: 15th Workshop on Progress in Trace Metal Speciation for Environmental Analytical Chemistry (TraceSpec 2016), Gdańsk, Poland. Website: <http://chem.pg.edu.pl/tracespec/welcome-word>



Dear Members of the ISSS,

Council of the Indian Society of Soil Science decided to have a series of events for a range of audiences throughout the year as mark of celebrations of **International Year of Soils 2015**. To accomplish this task and objectives of the Society, on behalf of the Council and also on my own behalf, I request you to kindly take necessary initiatives to celebrate the International Year of Soils 2015 by doing some activities.

D.R. Biswas
Secretary, ISSS

Memorial lectures organized by different Chapters of ISSS during 2014

Memorial lecture	Organizing chapters	Speaker	Delivered on
Dr. SP Raychaudhuri	Bhopal	Dr. A. Rajarajan	23-09-2014
Dr. DP Motiramani	Akola	Dr. A.S. Dhawan	11-11-2014
Dr. BV Mehta	Navsari	Dr. K.P. Patel	02-09-2014
Dr. NS Randhawa	Tirupati	Dr. V.R.R. Parama	23-09-2014
Dr. RS Murthy	Ludhiana	Dr. S.K. Chaudhari	17-10-2014
Dr. RR Agarwal	Varanasi	Dr. Biswapati Mandal	24-09-2014
Dr. TD Biswas	Jabalpur	Dr. Anil Kumar Singh	03-09-2014
Prof. SK Mukherjee	Jodhpur	Dr. S.K. Sanyal	19-09-2014
Dr. GS Sekhon	Bangalore	Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao	10-09-2014
Dr. NP Datta	Ranchi	Dr. D.K. Kundu	15-09-2014