

## 16<sup>th</sup> S.K. Mukherjee Memorial Lecture at P.A.U. Ludhiana by DG, FAI



The Ludhiana Chapter of Indian Society of Soil Science, Department of Soil Science, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana organized the 16<sup>th</sup> S.K. Mukherjee Memorial Lecture on 12 September 2025 in the, PAMETI Conference Hall. Dr. Suresh Kumar Chaudhari, Director General, FAI and Former DDG-ICAR (NRM) gave the Memorial Lecture on **Overview of Fertiliser Policies in Indian Agriculture**. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. S.S. Gosal of the University was the Chief Guest.

At the outset, DG, FAI, complimented the untiring efforts and contributions of Dr. Mukherjee in the field of clay mineralogy, membrane electrodes, clay chemistry, etc, Then he covered the areas of rank of India in world consumption of N+P+K and production of N+P in 2023; major fertiliser policies such as Retention Price Scheme in 1977, Decontrolled of P&K Fertilisers in 1992, New Pricing Scheme for Urea in 2003, Nutrient Based Subsidy on P&K Fertilisers in 2010, New Investments Policy (NIP) 2012 in urea sector, and New Urea Policy 2015 (NUP 2015) for gas based urea units; no. of plants and capacity as on 1 April 2025; urea projects commissioned under NIP 2012 and planned; production, import and consumption of fertiliser products and raw materials/intermediates/feedstock, total NPK consumption, kg per hectare and N:P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>:K<sub>2</sub>O use ratio from 2020-21 to 2024-25; central subsidy on urea and P&K fertilisers from 2020-21 to 2025-26; relation between nutrients consumption and food grains production from 1960-61 to 2024-25; region-wise nutrients consumption & N:P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>:K<sub>2</sub>O use ratio and relation between top ten consuming states and population in 2024-25; endophytic bacterial diversity under organic and mineral fertiliser treatments; impact of long-term fertiliser and manure application on microbial count under Long-term Fertiliser Experiments in India; trends in consumption of water soluble fertilisers, bio-fertilisers, micronutrients and micro-irrigation systems over the years; nutrient status and use efficiency; production, import and consumption of fertilisers, kg per hectare, N:P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>:K<sub>2</sub>O use ratio in selected countries in 2023; influencing factors on international prices; average cost of imported fertilisers to India over the years; etc.

In the concluding remarks, DG, FAI, underlined that distorted NPK consumption ratio has been harming the soil health in the process. There is a need for encouragement of new/innovative products. Urea needs to be brought under ambit of NBS policy till the subsidy is transferred directly in the bank account of the farmers. To sustain soil health, holistic approach of integrated nutrient supply system comprising of organic fertilisers, bio-fertilisers and other alternative sources should be encouraged by all stakeholders.

Dr. S.S. Gosal and Dr. Rajeev Sikka, Head, Department of Soil Science dwelt upon the recent advances in research of the University and department.