

## Soil Health Management for Improving Cotton Productivity



Dr. Suresh Kumar Chaudhari, Director General, FAI, New Delhi delivered the Dr. V. Sundaram Memorial Lecture on **Soil Health Management for Improving Cotton Productivity** on 27 April 2026 at ICAR-CIRCOT, Matunga, East Mumbai. The function was organised by Indian Society for cotton Improvement (ISCI) and ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology (CIRCOT). A Book on Dr. P.G. Patil : A Memorial Tribute published by ASCI was also released.

DG, FAI covered areas related to the topic such as evolution of fertiliser responsive high yielding varieties of wheat and rice in 1960s and emphasis was on more use of fertilisers at that time, followed by impetus to use fertiliser judiciously; emerging challenges in agriculture such as decline in use of organic sources over the years; inefficient use of fertilisers and irrigation water; adverse effect of climate change; imbalance in N;P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>:K<sub>2</sub>O use ratio; dwindling of micro- and macro flora; consequences of deterioration of soil health; fertiliser management from Soil Health Cards possible but not for soil management. He then acknowledged soil health a vital component of human body; importance of balancing Punch Tattava for human body and soil; necessity of integration i.e. use of fertilisers along with farm yard manure, city compost, vermicompost-, bio-fertilisers, green manuring for improving soil health; proper care of soil linking to care of future generation; and investment in soil health essential to improve agricultural production on sustainable basis. At the end, he complimented the efforts of Dr. Sundaram for upliftment of the agriculture in general and society in particular.

Dr. Himanshu Pathak, DG, ICRISAT; Dr. C.D. Mayee, Former Chairman, ASRB & President ISCI; Dr. K.P. Kachru, Former ADG, ICAR; Dr. S.K. Shukla, Director, ICAR-CIRDOT; Mr. Vaishali P. Patil and Dr. G. Anup, Editor of Book provided valuable information to the delegates at this occasion.

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