

## BACKGROUND

Soil - a nature's marvel - is one among the vital natural resources, on whose health, the survival of all mortals depends. "Essentially, all life depends upon the soil. There can be no life without soil and no soil without life; they have evolved together (USDA Handbook 1938)". Much before, a close connection between soil and life was woven in the ancient Indian folklores. Hindu philosophy describes soil 'as the origin and destination of life'. They revere it as 'mother' and regard, if taken care of nurtures mankind with food to eat and raiment to cover and protect body. Contrarily, if abused it will sound death knell for entire life and living. Roosevelt said "The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself".

Healthy soils are the basis for a sustainable food production, yet the role of soils is often neglected and public awareness of soil health and management is generally low. India's food security has gone through a complete cycle since its independence, starting with food shortages, self-sufficiency and now with possible food insecurity. Agriculture sector is witnessing a serious problem of deceleration and stagnation of crop yields, which will probably persist in the coming years. Diminished soil health is resulting from exploitative and intensive agricultural practices, which have put tremendous pressure on the soil causing steady decline in soil environment and increase in nutrient disorders. This needs to be deliberated amongst scientists and farmers for improvement. Farmer's problems need to be addressed on a participatory mode.

Considering the immense importance of Soil for human life, the 68th UN General Assembly declares 2015 as '**The International Year of Soils (IYS)**' aiming chiefly to increase the awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions.

Numerous programmes are being organized worldwide to celebrate the International Year of Soils during 2015. At the National level, the Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS) has suggested several activities at the state level involving different stakeholders. The Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry (SSAC) section, Department of ASEPAN, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, has decided to join these endeavours by organizing a 2-day Seminar cum Discussion on '**Soil Health: Key to Sustainable Agriculture**'.

The Seminar is planned to address the present scenario of soil health and plant nutrition, identify the emerging issues and discuss the ways and means for their mitigation. Thrust will be on the issue of maintenance or improvement of soil health, issues relating to excessive and imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, opportunities for filling the nutrient gap through biofertilizers and other sources of organic inputs, managing the industrial effluents, promotion of soil health centres, organic farming for eco-friendly production system, sensor based land use planning, agricultural diversification & technology transfer mechanisms to address the concerns of farmers.

## MISSION

To prepare a blueprint for the improvement of soil health and its resilience under the changing scenario of Agricultural intensification.

## OBJECTIVES

- To review the present status of soil health to ensure high agricultural productivity.
- To address the concerns of farmers on soil health monitoring, input supply and management & soil pollution.
- To evolve a synergy among techniques developed to conserve the natural resources for reduced risks in crop production.

## SEMINAR EVENT

**Venue:** The seminar will be held at Institute of Agriculture, Visva-Bharati University, Sriniketan-731236, Birbhum Dist., West Bengal.

**Duration:** 14-15 November, 2015

**Themes:**

- Soil testing and Soil Health Cards
- Soil resources and their management issues
- Soil health and Agrochemicals
- Soil and Water conservation
- Soil health under intensive agriculture
- Research-Extension linkages for technology transfer.

**Participants:** Students, Scholars, Scientists, Teachers, Extension workers, NGOs, progressive farmers and farmer groups.

### Technical Sessions:

Session I: Inauguration

Session II: Seminar

Session III: Seminar

Session IV: Brainstorming on 'Soil related constraints & crop production

Session V: Farmer-Scientist interaction on 'Soil tests & Soil Health Card'

Session VI: Seminar continued

Session VII: Plenary (Summary & Recommendations).

### Guidelines for Abstract submission:

Abstracts for oral & poster presentations (within 300 words) may be submitted by e-mail to [ssac.psb.vb@gmail.com](mailto:ssac.psb.vb@gmail.com). All communications should be made through the e-mail only.

The format of the abstract should be as following.

All text should be typed in MS Word with Times New Roman font & 1.5 spacing.

Title: all capitals, bold, 16 pt

Author(s): Author<sup>1</sup>, Author<sup>2</sup> and Author<sup>3</sup> (Bold, 12 pt)

Address: (11 pt)

e-mail: only one e-mail of Corresponding author's should be provided

Abstract body: (12 pt)

Keywords: up to 5 nos. (12 pt)

**Oral presentation:** Power point presentation (7 minutes).

**Poster presentation:** Size of the poster should not exceed 125 cm x 100 cm. We encourage you to prepare posters either on a single paper sheet or several A4 pages, which may be placed & pinned in order. We will be glad if you avoid the printing on plastic/rexin/synthetic materials which would be a burden to our soil.

Most of the presentations would be in the form of poster presentations

## REGISTRATION

Filled-in-Registration form may be scanned and send through e-mail along with the abstract to [ssac.psb.vb@gmail.com](mailto:ssac.psb.vb@gmail.com)

### Registration fee:

Indian Delegate : Rs. 2500/-

Foreign Delegate : \$ 200/-

For Student Delegate : Rs. 1000/-

Accompanying person: Rs. 1000/- (without registration kit)

Spot registration: Rs. 500/- extra

### Mode of payment:

Registration fee may be paid online by net banking or deposition the cheque at your local S.B.I. branch. Keep the online deposition/transfer slips with you for reference, which should be shown at registration desk as proof of your payment. Hereunder are provided the bank account details:

Bank Name: State Bank of India

Branch: Sriniketan

Name: SHKSA

A/C No.: 35211163615

IFSC: SBIN0012391

### Accommodation:

The accommodation will be provided in University guest houses and hotels on sharing basis. Students may be allotted dormitories. Delegates may send their request for accommodation along with the registration form.

### Transport:

Name of the nearest railway Station: Bolpur (Santiniketan).

Shantiniketan & Sriniketan is well connected by Road. The transport facility will be available at Bolpur (Shantiniketan) Railway Station for the delegates who would provide their detail travel plans well in advance. The Sriniketan & Santiniketan (Twin campuses) of Visva-Bharati University are within 5 Km from Bolpur (Shantiniketan) Railway station.

The detailed travel plans may be sent to: E-mail: [ssac.psb.vb@gmail.com](mailto:ssac.psb.vb@gmail.com)

In case of any assistance you may contact to: Dr. P.K. Biswas (9434514218) / Dr. M.C. Kundu (9433885263)

### Climate:

During the month of November, the weather will be slightly cold with the mean temperature between 10 to 20° C. The participants are advised to bring warm clothes.

**Last date for Abstract Submission: October 15, 2015**

**Last date for Registration: October 31, 2015**

**Register using this link: <http://goo.gl/forms/iuBEorZEjs>**

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
(Please fill in block letters)

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Institute: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Pin: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

5. Title of the abstract: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Preferred Mode of Presentation:  Oral  
 Poster

7. I would like to attend the conference as:  
 Scientist/  Academician/  
 RA/  SRF/  Student/  
 Industry sponsored delegate

7. Accommodation:  Required  
 Not required

8. Registration Fee:  Paid online  
 Cheque deposited  
 Spot registration

Deposited Cheque No. \_\_\_\_\_

Online Transaction No.: \_\_\_\_\_

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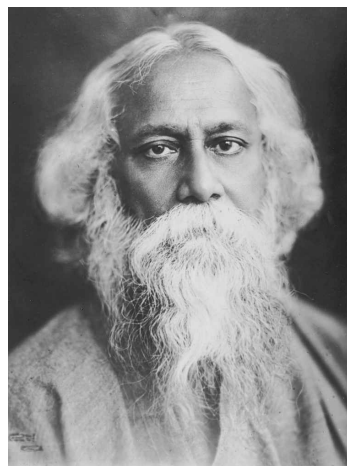
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9. Details of your journey:  
Reaching Date & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Return Date & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_



This is the very soil of our village, our mother, our nurse,  
in whose lap our country is being born every day.

Rabindranath Tagore

*healthy soil for a healthy life*



2015  
International  
Year of Soils

**National Seminar**  
on  
**Soil Health: Key to Sustainable Agriculture**  
**(SHKSA)**

**14 - 15 November, 2015**

Organized by



Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry  
Palli Siksha Bhavana  
(Institute of Agriculture)  
Visva-Bharati  
Sriniketan

**Note:** All correspondence should be addressed to the Organizing Secretary through e-mail only.