

CSSRI organized *Pre-Kharif Kisan Goshthi* under Farmer FIRST Programme

ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute organized Pre-Kharif Kisan Goshthi at village Kathwar, Kaithal on May 25, 2020 under Farmer FIRST Programme. A total of 120 farmers participated in the programme. Dr. Parvender Sheoran, PI, briefed about the on-going project activities and underlined the need of farmers' participatory trials to cope up prevalent high RSC waters induced soil sodification limiting crop production in the adopted villages. He urged the farmers to disseminate the experiences gained thorough different technological modules including salt tolerant varieties, ground water recharge, soil and water tested based gypsum and pressmud application, residue management etc. to their neighbouring farmers and nearby villages. He also stressed the farmers to be in regular contact with the State Agriculture Department functionaries and District KVK for updated technologies and various schemes of state Govt. The farmers were also sensitized about the precautionary measures to be taken during this critical period of COVID-19 and keep themselves safe and healthy while undertaking farm and household activities.

Dr. Nirmalendu Basak highlighted the need of Soil Health Cards for better reclamation and management of affected soils and balanced fertilization to curtail the production cost. Dr Ashwani Kumar told about the government initiatives for subsidised farm implements to tackle the labour scarcity during the periods of rice transplanting. About 40 SC farmers of Kathwar, Geong and Mundri villages who were trained earlier at ICAR-CSSRI, Karnal under SCSP programme, were distributed one knapsack sprayer, 10 kg seed of salt tolerant rice CSR 30 basmati variety and 4 kg biofertilizer. In addition, 60 farmers were given the good quality seed of popular variety CSR 30 Basmati under Farmer FIRST programme.

