

ICAR Director Dr Mohapatra asks scientists to compute sustainability index of crops

■ Staff Reporter

"NATIONAL Bureau of Soil Survey & Land Utilization Planning (NBSS&LUP) should compute sustainability index of crops and link it to the market to highlight their commercial advantages," said Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, Department of Agriculture Research and Education, Government of India and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

He was interacting with scientists at NBSS&LUP recently. Dr. Mohapatra advised the scientists to also highlight commercial advantages of land and validate the developed land use plans before providing the same to stakeholders.

Dr. Mohapatra was welcomed by Director of the organization, Dr. S.K. Singh. He interacted with scientists of the organization on various aspects of on-going research programmes namely, Land Resource Inventory (LRI) (on 1:10000 scale), Development of National Soil Geoportal Bhumi and



Dr S K Singh felicitating Dr Trilochan Mohapatra.

Agricultural Land Use Planning using LRI database.

Dr. Mohapatra also asked Dr. S K Singh to ensure that comprehensive land use plans of all the 29 states are developed within six months that should take into account their sustainability, profitability and impact on environment. He desired that monitoring of changes in soil properties under dominant land use systems be studied so that stakeholders could be warned of encountering adverse impact, to enable them undertake

timely appropriate measures.

In response to Dr Mohapatra's query on the utility of geoportal for stakeholders in the agricultural sector, Dr S K Singh and Dr G P Obi Reddy, Principal Scientist explained that the geoportal would contain exhaustive information on soils, landforms, slope, land use, land degradation, land capability, land suitability, etc. Such information is very useful for deciding suitable interventions for land use and management of natural resources. The stakeholders engaged in crop planning and agricultural land resource managers will hence find the Geoportal very useful.

Dr Mohapatra also addressed the staff of the city based ICAR institutes namely, CCRI, CICR and Ginning Training Centre (CIRCOT, Mumbai). Prior to his address, he was felicitated by the Directors of the four ICAR institutes. He lauded the efforts of the NBSS&LUP for developing Bhoomi Geoportal. Dr Sushamoy Chatterji, Principal Scientist conducted the proceedings.