

# High input cost and stagnant prices affecting us, say farmers

■ Staff Reporter

DURING the World Soil Day programme in the premises of ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP) at Amravati Road recently, the farmers expressed their agony.

The progressive farmers who were invited to the event to share their views on utility of soil health cards for balanced nutrient management in black soils of Vidarbha region, said that increasing cost of crop production and stagnant prices in the market were adversely affecting their interest in agriculture.

Dr P Chandran, Acting Director of NBSS, spoke on the role of Soil Health Card (SHC) in doubling the farmers' income, a flagship project of Government of India. SHC will reduce the cost of cultivation and decrease the soil and environmental degradation, he



:Farmers with scientists at NBSS&LUP, during World Soil Day event.

said. It will increase production on sustainable basis through integrated plant nutrient management, he added. He also talked about the need for co-operative farming and value addition to farm produce to increase income of farmers.

Dr N G Patil conducted the programme. Dr R P Sharma, Scientist of the Bureau, said that 12 soil

parameters were included in SHC to manage soil for the best quality production and productivity. He explained that soil sampling was the most important step to generate SHC. SHC launched by the Government of India is the first step towards increasing crop production to ensure food security and help in doubling the farmers' income in future, he said.