

## **ICAR-Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres**

### **World Soil Day celebration at ICAR-CRIJAF**

ICAR-CRIJAF, Barrackpore celebrated World Soil Day on 5th December, 2023 on the theme, “Soil and water: a source of life” whose aim was to create awareness about the importance of healthy soil and its effects on crop production. Dr. Gouranga Kar, Director ICAR-CRIJAF delivered a key note address on “Soil and water a source of life”. Dr. Kar emphasized that healthy soils and availability of pure water can significantly contribute to end hunger and creating a healthy planet. He also addressed the excessive use or the misuse of fertilizers which can have negative effects on ecosystems and contribute to climate change, including biodiversity loss and greenhouse gas emissions. Prof. Tapas K. Biswas, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, lent his expertise in an online mode, enriching the program further. In a notable turn, Shri Dhrubajyoti Dey, Joint Commissioner, Kolkata Police, graced the occasion as the chief guests, engaging in insightful interactions with the audience. In this occasion, 100 soil health cards were prepared and distributed to farmers in different villages of the North 24-Parganas district in West Bengal. The event witnessed the participation of over 200 participants including 100 farmers, students of IARI Kolkata hub & students of KP Law Institute and research scholars & scientists of ICAR-CRIJAF. Topics such as soil health, integrated nutrient management, soil salinization in India, and ecological and social concerns were thoughtfully addressed. Earlier, Dr. B. Majumdar, Principal Scientist, Crop Production Division, welcomed the participants and briefed them about the importance and the need to conserve soil. On this occasion, a success story of AICRP-STCR & an E learning lesson on soil sampling developed by DST (SEED) & AICRP-STCR were also released by the chief guest and dignitaries.



