

Scientist–Farmer Interaction Programme Organized at Bassi Village under Soil Health Management Scheme

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A Scientist–Farmer Interaction Programme was successfully conducted at Bassi village, Salumbar district under the Soil Health Management (SHM) Scheme of the Government of India. The programme focused on promoting balanced use of fertilizers, soil health improvement, and cost-effective agricultural practices among farmers of the tribal-dominated Mewar region. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local farmers, particularly small and marginal tribal and SC community farmers, who actively engaged with scientists to understand improved nutrient management practices and sustainable farming approaches. Total 41 male and female farmers participated in the event.

During the interaction, Dr. R. P. Sharma, Principal Scientist emphasized the importance of incorporating pulse crops during the Zaid season to enhance soil fertility through biological nitrogen fixation and better utilization of fallow land. He highlighted that inclusion of pulses can significantly contribute to natural soil nutrient enrichment and long-term sustainability. Dr. R. L. Meena, Sr. Scientist elaborated on the benefits of legume-based crop rotations, explaining their role in improving soil structure, enhancing microbial activity, and reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers. He encouraged farmers to adopt suitable crop rotations in local agro-climatic conditions. Dr. Mahaveer Nogiya Sr. Scientist stressed the importance of soil test-based fertilizer application, particularly for the upcoming Kharif season. He urged farmers to follow recommendations provided through Soil Health Cards to ensure balanced nutrient application, improve fertilizer use efficiency, and reduce input costs.

The primary objective of the programme was to reduce excessive fertilizer use in cropping systems, thereby lowering the cost of cultivation while maintaining soil health and productivity in the tribal areas of Rajasthan. The programme proved to be highly interactive and impactful, strengthening the linkage between scientists and farmers while encouraging the adoption of scientific, sustainable, and economically viable agricultural practices.

