

International Women's Day Celebration – 2026

ICAR–NBSS&LUP, Nagpur and its Regional Centres

International Women's Day-2026 was celebrated at ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Nagpur and its Regional Centres through an Awareness-cum-Sensitization Programme on "Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) at Workplace" on 9th March 2026. The programme aimed to promote awareness about workplace safety, gender sensitivity, and the rights of women employees. It was a moment of great pride for NBSS&LUP that Dr. Jaya N. Surya, from the Delhi Regional Centre, received a Certificate of Recognition as an Eminent Woman Scientist for her outstanding contributions in the field of Natural Resource Management and conservation on the occasion of International Women's Day at ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS), Bhopal. This recognition reflects the dedication, leadership, and scientific excellence of women researchers who contribute significantly to sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. During the programme, Dr. Jyotiprava Dash shared the various initiatives and activities undertaken by NBSS&LUP to ensure women's safety at the workplace. She highlighted the importance of awareness about the SHE – Box portal, the role of institutional mechanisms, and the institute's continuous efforts to create a safe, respectful, and supportive working environment for all employees.

The Chief Guest, Advocate Ketaki Deshpande Lulay, Nagpur, delivered an informative lecture on the key provisions of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act, 2013. She elaborated on the role and functioning of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) and highlighted the importance of ensuring a safe, respectful, and inclusive workplace. In her address, she emphasized the need for continuous awareness, preventive measures, and strong institutional support to effectively address issues related to workplace harassment. Drawing on her professional experience, she presented practical examples and real-life case studies that helped participants understand the various forms of workplace harassment, their psychological impact on victims, and the legal remedies available for protection and redressal. She encouraged employees to come forward and report incidents without fear or hesitation, stressing that awareness of rights and proper institutional procedures is essential for prevention. She also emphasized the shared responsibility of both individuals and organizations in fostering a culture of respect, gender sensitivity, and zero tolerance toward harassment in the workplace.

Dr. N. G. Patil, Director, ICAR-NBSS&LUP, Nagpur, expressed his thoughts on the institute's commitment to maintaining a safe and inclusive workplace for all employees. The programme was attended by scientists, technical, administrative, supporting, project, and contractual staff of the institute, along with participants from its regional centres. Around 180 employees participated in the programme. The programme concluded with an interactive session, during which participants actively engaged in discussions and sought clarification on various aspects of the POSH Act and workplace safety, enhancing their understanding of rights, responsibilities, and institutional procedures. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Sirisha Adamala, Scientist and Chairperson/Nodal Officer of the Women Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)/Grievance, ICAR–NBSS&LUP, Nagpur. The women staff of the institute expressed their gratitude to the Director, ICAR–NBSS&LUP, Nagpur, for his support in organizing the programme.

The year 2026 has been declared as the 'UN Year for Women Farmers,' highlighting the crucial role of women in agriculture and food security. In this context, ICAR–NBSS&LUP Regional Centre, Delhi also celebrated International Women's Day 2026 at Bhoorgarhi village, Dasna, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The programme was organized by Dr. Ritu Nagdev, Scientist, with the objective of recognizing the important role of women in agriculture and rural development. Around 52 women farmers actively

participated in the event. During the programme, Dr. Ritu Nagdev spoke about women’s empowerment, the importance of education, small-scale livelihood activities, and awareness of various government schemes for rural women. Dr. Abir Dey discussed the role of education in women’s development and highlighted the importance of maintaining soil health to improve agricultural productivity. Dr. R. K. Meena interacted with the participants and emphasized the significant role of women in family and society, along with the importance of proper nutrition for better health. The programme provided a meaningful platform for women to share their experiences, learn new ideas, and feel encouraged about their valuable contribution to agriculture and the community.

