

**National Conference on
“Farmers First for Conserving Soil and Water Resources
in Southern Region” (FFCSWR-2013)
March 14-16, 2013**

Recommendations

The Conference on “Farmers First for Conserving Soil and Water Resources in Southern Region” (FFCSWR-2013) was organized by **Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Research Centre, Bellary and Udthagamandalam and Indian Association of Soil and Water Conservationists, Dehradun and University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore** to bring together farmers, researchers, policy makers, planners, administrators, NGOs and stakeholders on a common platform to share and discuss technological advancements, experiences and other issues related to adoption of Soil and Water Conservation practices in South India. In all, about 160 registered delegates including 32 farmers and many invited resource persons, experts, research managers and policy planners participated in the three days deliberations held at **Karnataka Veterinary Council (KVC), Hebbal Campus, Bangalore, Karnataka during March 14-16, 2013**. The coverage consisted of 25 ICAR Institutes including 9 KVKs and 4 SAUs and 8 Central and State agencies including NGOs. A total of 76 papers including key note addresses and posters were presented. A brief of the recommendations is given below:

1. Research and Development:

- Use of new science tools like RS, GIS, and GPS for farmers participatory appraisal and scientific assessment of water harvesting structures are needed.
- Need of Monitoring of water quality in bore wells being recharged artificially through harvested water.
- Documentation and evaluation of farmers practices (ITKs) for developing simple, cost effective, productive and protective conservation measures as modern technical knowledge (MTKs).
- Up-scaling of custom hiring centers of farm machineries for timely operation by small and marginal farmers at village level is needed.

2. Capacity Building:

- Need of capacity building and awareness creation at farm and watershed level for resource conservation and livelihood generation in which unemployed rural youth and farm woman get priority.
- Promotion of model village on watershed mode following all improved practices as learning and technology dissemination center.

3. Policy:

- All existing NRM schemes should be converged with MGNREGA programme through a single window system for developing appropriate land use plan and creating additional assets and employment opportunities.
- Incentive should be given to farmers for ecosystems services through effective Soil and Water Conservation measures. Also tax exemption to the households who have constructed roof water harvesting ground water recharge structure, compost pits, waste water recycling etc. in a scientific manner.
- Strong policy support is needed to conduct participatory research in the farmer's field by compensating the yield loss to farmers (if any) through a MOU between the researchers and farmers. Also incentive mechanism for scientists and technicians involved in outreach programme may be initiated.