

Awareness Programme on Balanced Fertilizer Application and Integrated Nutrient Management under the MGMT Programme

As part of the MGMT programme, the ICAR–Indian Veterinary Research Institute conducted an awareness and outreach programme on 11 May 2026 in Village Bhagwatipur Rajaram, Bareilly district. The team comprised Dr. Bablu Kumar, Dr. Brijesh Kumar, Dr. Hari Abdul Samad, Dr. Siddharth Gautam, Dr. V.V.N. Durga Prasad Dangeti, and Mrs. Meeta Saxena. During the programme, the team interacted with local farmers and discussed the importance of balanced fertilizer application and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) practices in sustainable agriculture. The campaign aimed to sensitize farmers about the harmful effects of excessive and indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and to encourage environmentally sustainable farming practices for maintaining long-term soil fertility, crop productivity, and ecological balance.

The experts explained the adverse impact of continuous and excessive chemical fertilizer use on soil health, including nutrient imbalance, decline in soil fertility, and environmental degradation. Farmers were advised to adopt need-based and soil-test-based fertilizer application practices to ensure efficient nutrient utilization and reduce unnecessary input costs. Special emphasis was laid on the use of organic manures, compost, green manuring, and bio-fertilizers as eco-friendly alternatives and supplements to chemical fertilizers. The team also educated farmers on Integrated Nutrient Management practices that combine organic and inorganic nutrient sources for sustainable crop production.

In addition to crop nutrition management, the team provided guidance on scientific livestock management practices aimed at improving animal health, productivity, and overall farm sustainability. Farmers were encouraged to adopt proper feeding, hygiene, and health-care practices for livestock. A total of 30 farmers actively participated in the programme. The participants showed keen interest in the discussions and appreciated the efforts of the institute in disseminating scientific knowledge directly to the farming community.





ICAR-IVRI Mukteshwar Organizes One-Day Awareness Camp on Balanced Fertilizer Use and Soil Health Management at Village Sunkiya

ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Mukteshwar organized a one-day awareness and training programme for farmers at Village Sunkiya on 11 May 2026 on the theme “Balanced Fertilizer Use and Soil Health Management.” The programme was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Yashpal Singh Malik, Joint Director, Mukteshwar, with the objective of creating awareness among farmers about soil testing, balanced fertilizer use, organic farming, and soil fertility conservation. During the programme, Dr. Manish Tomar and his team provided detailed information on soil health and the scientific application of fertilizers. Farmers were informed that the excessive and imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers is continuously reducing soil fertility, increasing production costs, and adversely affecting crop quality. The experts emphasized that adopting soil test-based farming practices has become essential for maintaining long-term soil productivity and sustainable agriculture.

The camp also included detailed guidance on the scientific method of collecting soil samples. Farmers were informed that soil samples should be collected from different parts of the field at the appropriate depth, while taking necessary precautions during sampling. They were also educated on how soil samples are collected, packed, and sent to laboratories for testing, and how fertilizer recommendations can be made based on soil test reports for balanced nutrient management. Addressing the farmers, Dr. Manish Tomar explained that balanced fertilizer use not only reduces cultivation costs but also helps maintain soil fertility for a longer period, leading to better and high-quality crop production. He emphasized that excessive use of chemical fertilizers is harmful to soil health and gradually decreases land productivity. He further highlighted that hilly regions have good potential for traditional and organic farming. Since most farmers in Kumaon and other hill areas already follow livestock-based farming systems, they can effectively use farmyard manure, vermicompost, Jeevamrit, and other

organic resources to reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers. This improves the biological quality of soil and promotes sustainable and safe crop production.

During the training, farmers were also informed about organic farming, crop rotation, green manuring, vermicomposting, mulching, and rainwater conservation techniques. They were encouraged to develop low-cost and sustainable farming systems using local resources and livestock-based inputs. At the end of the programme, technical literature and training booklets related to vermicompost production and soil sampling were distributed among the farmers so that they could apply scientific knowledge in their fields and adopt balanced fertilizer use and organic farming practices effectively. The participating farmers showed keen interest in the training programme and asked several questions related to soil testing and balanced fertilizer use, which were answered in detail by the experts. A total of **38 farmers** attended the programme. Through this initiative, farmers were made aware of the importance of balanced fertilizer use and organic farming practices.

