

### **National conference on “Earth and Environment: Pollution and Prevention”**

National conference on “Earth and Environment: Pollution and Prevention” 28-30 January, 2014 was held with association of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MOES), New Delhi at Amity University Campus, Noida.

In the inaugural ceremony, convener of the conference Prof. Tanu Jindal welcomed the guests and highlighted the themes of the conference. Eighty eight papers were presented in different sessions of three days on major themes:

- Land use and soil health
- Ocean and water resources
- Air quality, atmosphere and climate change

She emphasized on the importance of soil health, environmental conservation.

Maj. Gen. KJ Singh, Group Vice Chancellor, Amity University and Maj. Gen. PD Bhargawa, Dy Pro Group Vice Chancellor, Amity University, presided over the function and conveyed his best wishes for the success of the conference.

Prof. H.C. Agarwal, Vice President, INSCR, Advisor, Centre for Science & Environment and highlighted the activity of INSCR for prevention of soil deterioration. The eminent guest of honours Dr. K.C. Gupta, Director, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow, discussed about toxicological impacts of the harmful chemicals causing imbalance of the soil microflora. Dr. P.B. Rastogi, Director, Impact Assessment in Ministry of Environment & Forest, intimated the initiatives of Ministry on environmental impact assessment in relation to soil conservation.

Dr. Rup Lal, General Secretary, INSCR and Dean, Examinations, Department of Zoology, University of Delhi, discussed about the degradation of persistent toxic Lindane pesticide in soil using genetically modified bacteria. Dr. SV Eswaran, Emeritus Scientist, CSIR, St. Stephan's College, DU, Delhi, also presented his views on human values and environmental ethics. On the occasion, Dr. S.S. Kukal, Professor, Department of Soil Science, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, spoke on the modern technological life style and environmental degradation due to huge energy consumption.

Discussions were made on problems of soil, water and air contamination, the potential to influence the soil ecosystem, agriculture, environment and economy.

Water, soil, air, earth are the elixirs of life and essential for our existence. Pollution due to natural and anthropogenic activities are as an inexhaustible resource, which is used and overused

continually for increasing production. The soil today has virtually become lifeless in many places. The need to take actions to sustain soil and its immediate environment has become an imperative and challenging task in today's environment.

On the day of valedictory ceremony Dr. Rajendra Kumar,..... addressed the gathering. The summary of the deliberations were made. The participants gave their feedbacks and were delighted to learn and exchange the ideas over the three days period listening to various research deliberations on environmental pollution, soil health and sustainable agriculture. An interactive session was held with all delegates and students and many ideas originated for further research and studies on the conference themes. For sustainable outcomes, action plan was discussed for organizing future collaborative events and projects for improvement of environment, soil and agriculture scenario in India.

Prof. Tanu Jindal in her vote of thanks said that there is need for real green revolution for the protection of earth and environment. After all final truth is