

## International Decade of Soils (2015-2024) – Special Seminar

Special Seminar on “ Soil and Nutrients Management for Sustainable Agriculture” in connection to International Decade of Soils (2015-2024) jointly organized by Soil Science Society of Pakistan ((SSSP- an organization of around 500 professional members)) and Department of Soil Science, Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam on December 4, 2017 at Senate hall (Admin. Block), SAU, Tandojam sponsored by Fatima Fertilizers Group and Analytical Measuring Systems Pvt. Ltd. The soil scientists, researchers, faculty members and students of Department of Soil Science and Agronomy, SAU, NIA, Pakistan Agriculture Research Council, Agriculture Research Institute, Tandojam and Agriculture Extension Sindh, farmers, fertilizer industry representatives attended the event and shared their experiences. Prof. Dr. Mujeeb-u-ddin Sahrai Memon was the chief guest at the occasion, while Mr. Noor Muhammad Baloch, Director General Agriculture Research, Sindh and Eminent Prof. Dr. Kazi Suleman Memon were the Guest of Honours. Other guests were Dr. Muhammad Mahmood-ul-Hassan, General Secretary, SSSP, Mr. Muhammad Yousuf Memon, Director Nuclear Institute of Agriculture (NIA), Dr. Saghir Ahmed Sheikh, Dean Faculty of Crop Production, Dr. Inayatullah Rajpar, Chairman Department of Soil Science, Dr. Muhammad Ismail Kumbhar, Event Coordinator and Dr. M. Tariq Siddique, Treasurer SSSP. Dr. Ghulam Murtaza Jamro was the Focal Person of the seminar/ Vice President (Sindh), SSSP. Dr. Javed Ahmed Shah, Executive councillor (Sindh), SSSP acted as Secretary of the event.

This is second time in the history of SSSP (1<sup>st</sup> was in 2004 when SSSP organized 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Soil Science at SAU, Tandojam) that the SSSP had considered to organize an event at SAU, Tandojam. The event was comprised of two sessions i.e. inaugural and technical sessions. During inaugural session, Dr. Mahmood-ul-Hassan welcomed the participants and said special thank you to administration of SAU, Tandojam particularly Vice Chancellor for providing permission for organizing any event at Tandojam. He announced that EC of SSSP has decided that 2020 International Congress on Soil Science will be held at SAU, Tandojam. Prof. Dr. Mujeeb-u-ddin Sahrahi in his speech highlighted the importance of soil and nutrient management for sustainable agriculture. He also appreciated the activities of SSSP and assured full support to EC of SSSP for holding International Congress on Soil Science in 2020 at SAU, Tandojam.

During Technical Session, Prof. Dr. Mehrunisa Memon, Department of Soil Science, SAU, Tandojam, Dr. Mahmood-ul-Hassan GS, SSSP and Principal Scientist, NARC, Islamabad, Dr. Nizamuddin Debar, Head Soil and Environmental Sciences Division, NIA, Tandojam, Mr. Ariz Muhammad Mashori, Sr. Technical Services Officer, Fatima Fertilizers Company Ltd. Muhammad Sarwar Rahi, Technical Manager, FMC United delivered their talks related to theme of seminar. Dr. Muhammad Younis Arain, Director Plant introduction Institute, Karachi and Dr. Qurban Ali Panhwar, Senior Scientist, NIA, Tandojam acted chair and co-chair of the technical session respectively. The shields were presented to all guests and invited speakers by the society. Appreciation certificates were also given to volunteers who played active role in organization of the event. In the last, Dr. Ghulam Murtaza Jamro, Focal Person of the seminar thanked all the participants, SAU administration, sponsors and society.