

### **World Soil day organized by ICAR-IIOR under Farmer FIRST Programme**

The ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research celebrated the World Soil day on 05-12-2021 at Gurudhotla, a FFP adopted village. Around 175 farmers from the Farmers FIRST programme villages and neighbouring villages participated in the day long interaction and awareness programme on the theme. Further, a training programme was also organized on value addition of pulses and oilseeds towards Doubling Farmers Income.

The day long programme included monitoring the farmers' fields and interactions with them on the NRM, crop technology component including various aspects of soil management. The field interaction focussed on the soil and moisture conservation practices, use of microbials, PSB, and importance of use of gypsum, micro nutrients and Integrated Nutrient Management in oilseeds based cropping systems towards sustained land productivity. This was followed by a talk on the theme **“Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity”** by experts from the institute. The farmers were apprised of the measures to be taken up for preventing soil salinization. An interactive session was conducted on crop planning in paddy fallows and in the ensuing Zaid situations. Soil health cards prepared by the institute were distributed to the tribal farmers. Black gram seeds were distributed to farmers for paddy fallow situation. With the objective of improving health and nutrition, vegetable seed kits were distributed on the occasion. The officials from State Dept. of Agri emphasised on the importance of controlling soil salinization for sustaining the health of the soil in the long run. They suggested for taking up pulses in paddy fallows and advised farmers to take up green manuring on a regular basis for improving the soil health.

A few farmers from the adopted villages shared their experiences on the advantage of using PSB, Rhizobium and microbial agents as seed treatment in pulses and oilseeds. The programme was coordinated by Dr(s).S.V.Ramana Rao, Aziz Qureshi, P.Lakshamma, S. Senthilvel and K.T.Ramya from the team of FFP, ICAR-IIOR.



**Monitoring of fields and interaction with the farmers**



**Awareness cum interaction programme**



Distribution of soil health cards and seeds