

## PRESS RELEASE

### **National Symposium of Natural Resource Management inaugurated at SKUAST-Jammu by Ministers for Agriculture and Horticulture**



Sh. Ghulam Hassan Mir, Minister for Agriculture Production and Sh. Raman Bhalla, Minister for Housing, Horticulture, Youth Affairs, Sports and Culture J&K Govt. inaugurated two days' National Symposium on **Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Hill Farming Systems for Livelihood Security** at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J). The national symposium is being organised by **Soil Conservation Society of India**. Sh. Ghulam Hassan Mir, who was the Chief Guest of the inaugural session, impressed upon the scientists and extension agencies to reach the farmers for addressing the important issues of soil conservation and water management. He said that land and water are the important drivers of agriculture and its sustainability. Sh. Raman Bhalla, who was the Guest of Honour emphasised on horticulture sector and application of advance technologies like high density plantation, canopy management and other advances in science for making horticulture industry economically vibrant.

Prof. Pradeep K. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu who presided over the inaugural function delivered a keynote address and delineated the roadmap for natural resource management that includes soil, water and forest cover. He impressed upon the scientists attending the symposium to come out with key recommendations which will be valuable for the hill agriculture. Dr. J.K. Ladha renowned international scientist at International Rice Research Institute, Philippine and Prof. Pradeep K. Sharma, renowned Soil Scientist and Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-J were conferred with the life time achievement award at the inaugural function by the Soil Conservation Society of India.

More than 120 delegates from all over the country and abroad are participating in the two days symposium. Dr. Suraj Bhan, President of the Society gave an overview about the work being done by the society for soil conservation and making sustainable use of natural resources. The Symposium is being organised by the local chapter of Soil Conservation Society of India under the convenership of Dr. K.R. Sharma, Prof. & Head, Div. of Soil Sciences, SKUAST-J and Dr. P.K. Rai, Organising Secretary.

The deliberation during two days symposium will help in framing the policy at the national and state level for better management of natural resources for sustainable development of agriculture and horticulture sectors.