

World Water Day was Celebrated on 22nd March 2022 at ICAR-Indian Institute of Water Management, Bhubaneswar

ICAR-Indian Institute of Water Management (IIWM), Bhubaneswar has celebrated World Water Day on 22nd March 2022. Technical Programme was organized on this occasion in the institute to deliberate the views of experts on central theme of World Water Day for the year 2022 i.e. 'Groundwater: Making Invisible Visible'. The Chief Guest of the Programme, Dr. P.K. Agrawal, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar emphasized on the need for strengthening our research on effective means for making invisible ground water resources visible and for efficient utilization of visible ground water resources in agricultural sector for enhancing the crop productivity. He appreciated the innovative groundwater management techniques developed by ICAR-IIWM and stressed the need for sensor based precision irrigation and crop diversification from rice to low duty crops in 15-20% area in phased manner. The Guest of Honour Dr. H.K. Panda, Director, Directorate of Soil & Water Conservation & Watershed Development, Government of Odisha explained about the positive impact of creation of water harvesting structures on groundwater recharge in watersheds and expressed his gratitude to ICAR-IIWM for providing key technical input while preparing the proposal for newly initiated REWARD (Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development) Project. The Chief Speaker Dr. S. Mohanty, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIWM delivered presentation on "Groundwater scenario and management strategy in India" highlighting the challenges, scope and future strategies for sustainable development of groundwater resources.

Earlier, Dr. A. Mishra, Director, ICAR-IIWM delivered the welcome address and opening remarks. He gave an overview on spatial distribution of rainfall, status of groundwater resources, categorization of blocks and management strategies and emphasized the need to promote micro irrigation in India for favorable water budget and horizontal expansion of irrigated area. Dr. P.S. Brahmanand, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIWM coordinated this event. Around 80 scientists and staff participated in the Programme.

