

# Conference on Farmers First for Conserving Soil and Water Resources in North Eastern Region (FFCSWR-2017)

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February 09-11, 2017 | Guwahati, Assam



**Venue** | AAU Campus, Khanapara, Guwahati, Assam



## **Organized by**

Indian Association of Soil and Water  
Conservationists, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

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## **In Collaboration with**



Assam Agricultural University,  
Jorhat, Assam



ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil & Water  
Conservation,  
Dehradun, Uttarakhand



Indian Association of Hill Farming,  
Umroi Road, Umiam,  
Meghalaya



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

Soil Conservation Department,  
Government of Assam,  
Assam

## BACKGROUND

It is often said that “soil is the soul and water is life”. In North Eastern Himalayan region natural resources are very important because of geographical location, fragility and marginality. The region is characterized as complex, diverse and risk prone with difficult terrain, ethnicity and land tenure system. Although the average annual rainfall is very high (2000 mm), the region experiences “too much too little syndrome” i.e. rainfall is plenty during monsoon season but scanty during post monsoon phase. About 98% of rain water is lost through runoff and only 2% is utilized. Farmers in the region are resource poor and practice farming mostly for subsistence. The major area at hill tops is absolutely left fallow for 6-7 months due to severe scarcity of water. Practically, all farmers remain idle during this lean period. More than 80% land area is acidic in nature with poor soil fertility status especially in arable lands.

In response to the precarious agricultural and farmers situation and continuing resource degradation in the country, the Indian Association of Soil & Water Conservationists (IASWC) has planned to organize series of conference with the multi-sectoral approach on region wise in line with one of the flagship focuses of the ICAR, “The Farmers First”. This Conference on “**Farmers First for Conserving Soil and Water Resources in North Eastern Region**” has been conceptualized in pursuance of the first conference on Southern region at Bangalore in March, 2013 and second successful conference on Northern Region at Dehradun in March, 2014 in the series.

North Eastern Himalaya (NEH) region include Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Assam comprising of 18.70 m ha land area. Comparatively, the extent of water erosion is more severe in NEHs 22.3% Total Geographical Area (TGA) than north western region (12.6% TGA). Among the North Eastern States, Assam has highest area (46.7% TGA) under severely eroded state followed by Meghalaya (38.9% TGA), Tripura (12.9% TGA), Manipur (11.4% TGA), Arunachal Pradesh (10.84% TGA), Sikkim (4.8TGA) and Nagaland (4.0% TGA). Clearing of forest lands to temporary agricultural land through adoption of *jhuming* on hill slopes, shortening of *jhum* cycle with cultivation of erosion permitting crops along the steep slopes (>60%), burgeoning increase in population including livestock, extensive mining activities, and soil acidification are some of the most common land degradation forces presently operating in NEH region. More attention is deserved in such fragile systems that also have ecological interactions with other regions and have not been adequately heeded by the policy so far. Focus is now given to a more sustainable road-map to development backed by indigenous knowledge and participation through regional planning. The key to such a plan can be provided by the analysis of Farmers view point on regional strengths and weaknesses. Such a strategy can be drawn on the observed responses evinced by the concerned stakeholders to the incentives and limitations imposed by the mainstream development process.

R&D on soil and water conservation and NRM executed by NGOs, State and Central agencies have evolved many potential technologies. However,



significant progress on their large scale adoption or benefits to farmers/end-users and status on resource degradation have been mixed probably due to associated complexities and diversities.

Conservation thrusts of other regions of India will be addressed in future conferences. **The first of its kind Conference series in India will**

help to understand the ground realities, impact of scientific and technological innovations in NRM and sensitize researchers, policy makers and administrators besides enrolling farmers into NRM efforts.

The facilitated participatory deliberations on farmers views and experiences in the conference shall provide enriched syntheses of actionable research ideas, way forward-recommendations and policy frameworks to improve NRM programs, land and water productivities and livelihoods.

## THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE

Considering the increasing awareness about soil and water conservation and integrated watershed management (IWM) and prevailing limited understanding on human dimensions including the experience of farmers/end-users in large scale adoption of several NRM technologies and ITKs, the conference would address the missing links of farmers' participation in technology development and develop shared responsibility for area-specific and need-based R&D in NRM. The conference, therefore, shall deliberate on all the prime concerns of resource conservation in arable and non-arable lands, water resource development, integrated farming systems, impacts of various flagship schemes of GoI like MGNREGA, common guidelines for IWMP, watershed-based management of water resources, PMKSY, agriculture and various ecosystems etc. under the following 6 cross-cutting themes:

### **1. Land Degradation Assessment and Management:**

- a. Status of Natural Resources in NEHR
- b. State of farming in NEHR
- c. Human induced degradation of Natural Resources

### **3. Integrated Participatory Resource Management:**

- a. Watershed development
- b. Success stories on NRM issues
- c. Development of frame work
- d. DSS - case study specific applications

### **5. Land Management and Eco-systems services:**

- a. Integrated farming system
- b. Micro watershed based farming system
- c. Water harvesting and water resource development
- d. Alternative land management system
- e. Eco-systems services

### **2. Strategies, Opportunities and Potentials:**

- a. Water use and Management
- b. Biodiversity and Sustainability
- c. ITKs
- d. Climate change-mitigation

### **4. Soil Health Management:**

- a. Amelioration of Acid Soils
- b. Restoration and Management of Marshy Lands
- c. Viable alternatives to shifting cultivation or *Jhuming*
- d. Restoration of Land degradation

### **6. Policy issues:**

- a. Farm mechanization
- b. Farm power and Energy
- c. Common Property Resource (CPR)
- d. Land sustainability
- e. Payment for Eco-systems services

**Any stakeholder interested in any of the above themes can participate by paying the registration fee.**

## MODE OF FARMERS PARTICIPATION

This conference being unique and different from others, attracts multi-stakeholders with the focus on farmers and farmers-led researches. All concerned are requested to nominate few innovative

farmers (in the enclosed format) who have unique experiences or richly contributed to production systems through effective soil and water conservation and IWM. The IASWC will select deserving farmers and invite them to the conference at its cost for sharing their experiences on their relevant experiences. Also, those farmers will be felicitated during the conference.

Presentation by chosen farmers on their views and experts on keynote/invited papers and posters of other participants shall be conducted through technical sessions during the Farmers presentation.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS EXCLUSIVELY FROM RESEARCHERS / SCIENTISTS / STUDENTS/ TECHNICIANS / POLICY PLANNERS (POSTER PRESENTATION)**

Abstracts are invited from participants on any of the theme areas mentioning in which the paper fits best in English in MS WORD format. The abstracts should not exceed 400 words, should be typed double spaced leaving 2.5 cm margin on all sides on A-4 paper. Four to five keywords should be given below the abstract in italics. The abstract format is: title (14 pts bold), author(s) (12 pts bold), affiliation (12 pts *italics*), mailing address, telephone/cell phone, fax and e-mail (12 pts normal). Abstracts can be submitted through email ([ffcswr2017@gmail.com](mailto:ffcswr2017@gmail.com)) on or before the due date. Full length paper may be prepared as per the latest guideline of Indian Journal of Soil Conservation available at our website [www.iaswc.com](http://www.iaswc.com). All the accepted abstracts will be printed and the author will be informed for the poster presentation. **Awards will be given for the best poster presentation on each theme areas.**

### **Guidelines for Poster presentation:**

- The entire poster must be mounted on a 36" x 50" foam-core board/hard board. A banner displaying your poster title, name and department should be positioned at top-centre of the board.
- Text should be readable from 5' distance. 18 points font size is preferred. Lettering for the title should be large (at least 70 point font). Use all capital letters for the title. Keep the text brief. Blocks of text should not exceed three paragraphs.
- The numerical data should be presented in the form of graphs. Data may be presented in small table-form.
- Geographically presented paper based on research work is preferred. Limit the text to about one-fourth of the poster space and use "visuals" (graphs, photographs, schematics, maps, etc.) to describe the "story".

## **REGISTRATION FEE**

Registration fee is ₹ 3000/- for delegates and ₹ 1000/- for students and participating farmers. **However, invited farmers will be exempted from the registration fee.** Payment may be made in cash or in the form of demand draft drawn in favour of **"Organizing Secretary, FFCSWR-2017"** payable at **SBI, CSWCRTI Branch, Dehradun** alongwith the registration form. Late fee of ₹ 500/- will be charged over the normal fee after the due date. The students are required to produce a valid identity card/certificate for availing the student discount.

### **Registration fee, payable through NEFT/RTGS: Account details are:**

Account Name : Organizing Secretary, FFCSWR-2017 / Account No : 35234092522 / IFSCCode : SBIN0010640 / MICRCode : 248002033 / Bank: SBI, CSWCRTI Branch, Dehradun

## DATE AND VENUE

The conference is scheduled to be held during **February 09-11, 2017** at **AAU Campus, Khanapara, Guwahati, Assam**.

## ACCOMMODATION

Necessary accommodation will be arranged for the selected farmers and invited speakers. On request, accommodation for all other participants shall be arranged on payment basis in the nearby guest houses and hotels on first come-first served basis. Delegates are requested to send their travel plan in advance to enable us to make accommodation arrangements.

## TRANSPORTATION

The delegates will have to make their own arrangements for transport from Airport, Railway station and Bus stand. Good transport services like pre-paid taxi, private taxi are available at domestic airport and railway station at Guwahati. The transport from guest houses to the conference venue and back on all the three days of the conference will be arranged by the organizers.

## ABOUT GUWAHATI

Guwahati, also known as the "City of Eastern Light" is the largest city, not only in Assam, but also the entire north east. The city of Guwahati is quite hilly and uneven, with approx. 1750 mm of rainfall per year and temperatures ranging between 40°C to 5°C. People all over the world prefer to visit Guwahati when there is moderate rainfall and the fluctuations in temperature are the least. Statistics show that mostly two times in a year, the streets of Guwahati are crowded with tourists. Mainly from the month of September to November and between the months of January and March, the weather is just right for visitors to tour Guwahati. The famous spots and events that make Guwahati a special tourist destination can be enlisted as follows: **Kamakhya Temple, Bhubaneswari Temple, Navagraha Temple, Guwahati Planetarium, Guwahati Museum, Assam State Zoo, Botanical Garden, Pandu, Kaziranga and Manas, Dipor Bil, River Brahmaputra etc.** Guwahati is an important educational and commercial hub and is home to many top class colleges and universities.

## IMPORTANT DUE DATES

<b>Last date of Abstract submission</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>November 10, 2016</b>
<b>Intimation of acceptance of abstracts</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>December 10, 2016</b>
<b>Submission of full length papers</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>January 10, 2017</b>
<b>Last date for Registration (without late fee)</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>January 20, 2017</b>
<b>Conference dates</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>February 09-11, 2017</b>

## NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>:</b>	Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & DG (ICAR), New Delhi
<b>Co-chairman</b>	<b>:</b>	Dr Sandeep Dave, Jt. Secretary, DoLR (Gol), MoRD, New Delhi
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		Dr AK Sikka, Head, IWMI, New Delhi
		Dr AK Singh, DDG (Agril. Extension), ICAR, New Delhi
		Sh CM Pandey, Additional Commissioner, Gol, MoA, DAC, New Delhi
		Sh S Choudhury, Director of Soil Conservation, Assam

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

<b>Patron</b>	Dr KM Bujarbaruah, Jorhat
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<b>Organizing Secretary</b>	Dr D Mandal, Dehradun
<b>Jt Organizing Secretary</b>	Dr R Kaushal, Dehradun

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Dr Subhash Babu, Umiam	Sh CR Das, Assam	Sh EP Marak, Assam

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Sh CJ Saikia, Hamren	Sh SK Deb, Assam	Sh P Dutta, South Bank
Sh Arup Rai, Haflong	Sh A Ahmed, Jonai	Sh BA Ahmed, Baksa
Sh K Singha, Assam	Sh A Nath, Lass	Sh S Rehman, Nalbari
Sh Z Hussain, Kokrajhar	Sh B Mushahary, Chirang	Sh A Hussain, Darrang

## LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AT GUWAHATI, ASSAM

<b>Chairman</b>	Dr GN Hazarika, Jorhat
<b>Co-Chairman(s)</b>	Dr RK Avasthe, Gangtok; Dr AK Tripathi, Umiam; Sh HC Roy, Kokrajhar; Sh J Malakar, Diphu
<b>Jt Organizing Secretary</b>	Dr Anup Das, Umiam

### Coordinators

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Dr Bibhash C. Verma, Umiam	Mrs T Kalita, Galaghat	Sh M Chutia, Jorhat
Sh M Hazarika, Barpeta	Sh TP Hazarika, Nagaon	Sh R Choudhury, Kohora

### Members

Dr JMS Tomar, Dehradun	Dr AS Panwar, Umiam	Dr DJ Rajkhowa, Umiam
Dr Arnab Sen, Umiam	Dr RK Singh, Umiam	Smt A Tamuli, Mahur
Sh SC Chaliha, Tezpur	Smt S Terongpi, Diphu	Smt D Brahma, Baksa
Sh P Mudoj,	Sh P Mili, Lakhimpur	Sh J Talukdar, Jorhat
Sh K DOUNGEL, Maibong	Sh D Sarma, Nagaon	Sh G Kalita, RVP
Sh M Goswami, South Bank	Sh S Sarma, Haflong	

## ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

**Organizing Secretary, FFCSWR- 2017,**  
Indian Association of Soil & Water Conservationists,  
ICAR-IISWC, 218 - Kaulagarh Road, Dehradun- 248 195 (UK).  
Phone: 0135 - 2104568, 2758564; Mobile: 9412019784  
Fax: 0135 - 2754213, 2755386; E-mail: ffcswr2017@gmail.com

### Contact Person at Guwahati, Assam

**Dr Anup Das,**  
**Joint Organizing Secretary, FFCSWR-2017,**  
ICAR RC for NEH Region, Umroi Road, Umiam- 793103.  
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Fax: 0364 - 2570306; E-mail: anup\_icar@yahoo.com

# हिन्दुस्तान

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## सीएसडब्ल्यूसीआरटीआई में होमा सम्मेलन

### किसान बोलेंगे और वैज्ञानिक सुनेंगे

**देहरादून | परिषद संवाददाता**

केन्द्रीय मृदा एवं जल संरक्षण एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान (सीएसडब्ल्यूसीआरटीआई) में पड़ोसी (सीएसडब्ल्यूसीआरटीआई) में पड़ोसी बार एक अगोवा सम्मेलन आयोजित किया जा रहा है। इसमें किसान मिट्टी व जल संरक्षण पर अपने सुझाव देने और फिर वैज्ञानिक उन्हें वैज्ञानिक स्वरूप प्रदान करेंगे। यानि किसान बोलेंगे और वैज्ञानिक सुनेंगे।

सम्मेलन में जम्मू कश्मीर, हिमाचल प्रदेश, पंजाब, हरियाणा, दिल्ली व उत्तराखण्ड के किसान हिस्सा लेंगे। वैज्ञानिक संस्थानों में आमतौर से सम्मेलन को एकपरएकीएसडब्ल्यूआर-2014 का नाम दिया गया है। सम्मेलन में शिवालय, हिमालय व ट्रांसहिमालय तथा ट्रांस गोंडिक प्लेन व पलड़ प्लेन पर अलग-अलग चर्चा होगी।

नए तौर तरीकों के बारे में समझते हैं, लेकिन इसमें किसान अपने अनुभव व सुझाव रखेंगे। 22 मार्च से हो रहे तीन दिवसीय सम्मेलन के समन्वयक डा० जी०पी० जुयाल ने बताया कि संस्थान के निदेशक डा० पी०के० मिश्रा के निर्देश पर यह सम्मेलन आयोजित किया जा रहा है। सम्मेलन के आयोजक सचिव डा० एन०एन०कुमारलंघन ने बताया कि सम्मेलन को एकपरएकीएसडब्ल्यूआर-2014 का नाम दिया गया है। सम्मेलन में शिवालय, हिमालय व ट्रांसहिमालय तथा ट्रांस गोंडिक प्लेन व पलड़ प्लेन पर अलग-अलग चर्चा होगी।



## Registration Form for Participation

in  
**Conference on  
Farmers First for Conserving Soil and Water  
Resources in North Eastern Region  
(FFCSWR-2017)**

February 09-11, 2017 | Guwahati, Assam

Name of Participant and Organization: .....

.....

Designation: ..... Mailing Address: .....

.....

Telephone: ..... Fax: .....

Mobile: ..... E-mail: .....

Please specify: Participation with / without paper presentation

Title of the Paper(s): .....

.....

.....

The paper prepared for discussion under theme: .....

.....

.....

I enclose a Demand Draft no./Multicity Cheque: ..... dated .....

for ₹ ..... (Rupees .....)

in favour of **“Organizing Secretary, FFCSWR-2017”** towards Registration fee payable at

**SBI, CSWCRTI Branch, Dehradun OR send the fee by RTGS and provide the details.**

Note: For Registration fee, payable through NEFT/RTGS, Account details are as follows:

Account Name: Organizing Secretary, FFCSWR-2017 / Account No: 35234092522 /

IFSC Code: SBIN0010640 / MICR Code: 248002033 / Bank: SBI, CSWCRTI Branch,

Dehradun.

Enclosing an Abstract: Yes / No

Date: .....

**(Signature of the Participant)**

**Nomination Proforma for Farmer Participation**

**in  
Conference on  
Farmers First for Conserving Soil and Water  
Resources in North Eastern Region  
(FFCSWR-2017)**

February 09-11, 2017 | Guwahati, Assam

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Name of the Farmer: .....

Mailing Address: .....

.....

Telephone: ..... Mobile: .....

E-mail: .....

Soil & Water Conservation Technology Innovation/Adopted/Demonstrated: .....

.....

.....

Language of his/her deliberation: .....

Other relevant information, if any: .....

.....

Date: .....

**(Nominated by Head of Department/Institute)**