

*International Conference on
Conservation Farming Systems and
Watershed Management in
Rainfed Areas for Rural Employment
and Poverty Eradication (ICON-FARM)*

February 12-16, 2008 (Tuesday to Saturday)

Worldwide, conservation farming systems play a major role in sustainable agricultural production. Even after realizing the full potential of irrigation, a major part of the farming areas of most countries will remain rainfed. Land holdings of the poor, small and marginal farmers are mostly dependent upon rainfall. Common property resources like grazing land, tree lots and village tanks – which are the mainstay of the livelihood of the rural landless people are again entirely dependent upon the rainfall of the area. Rainfed areas have, therefore, assumed great importance for adequate and equitable food and livelihood security of the increasing population of the developing countries.

Research in conservation of resources has shown that properly designed systems of conservation farming are more productive and protective of resources in the long run than mono-cropping, to meet the requirements of the people and their animals for water, food, fodder and fuelwood in a sustainable manner.

The strategy of watershed management is now well-validated for synergic convergence of all rural area programmes for creating the maximum impact on employment and poverty eradication. It is in this context that the Soil Conservation Society of India decided to hold this **International Conference on February 12 to 16, 2008, at New Delhi**, on the theme : *Conservation Farming Systems and Watershed Management in Rainfed Areas for Rural Employment and Poverty Eradication*.

The major thrust of the Conference would be on key issues of the scientific care, conservation, development

and management of the *land resource – the mother of the Natural Resources* – and ensuring employment and livelihood security of the poor in all the countries. The productive base and foundation of the land resources is the soil. World Soil Charter, issued by the FAO in 1981 emphasized the importance of soil in these words:

Recognizing the paramount importance of land resources for the survival and welfare of people, economic independence of the country and also rapidly increasing needs for more food production, it is imperative to give high priority to promoting optimum land use, maintaining and improving soil productivity and conserving soil resources.

Increasing globalization, liberalization and privatization regimes have not benefited all sections of society in the developing countries, equally. Poverty continues to be associated with agriculture, *especially rainfed agriculture*, and rural living. *The concerns of the small and marginal farmers, the landless and weaker sections of the society need to be addressed in proper perspective.*

Population is rising and per capita base of land and other natural resources is progressively shrinking. How to produce the diverse needs of humanity today, how to add value to the produce from the land to benefit the small and marginal farmers whose holdings are becoming smaller and smaller from year to year and how to accomplish all these without damaging, the environment, the productive base of the soil and other natural resources are today's challenge and opportunity.

This challenge can be met by converging all the programmes of soil & water conservation and ecology, sustainable production, processing and marketing of the bio-produce, infrastructure and a favourable policy umbrella within the natural boundaries of a watershed. *Call it bioindustrial watershed.*

Many countries of the world have gathered valuable knowledge and experience in watershed management. All will benefit from an exchange of this pool of knowledge and experience which should facilitate formulating

sound policies and programmes for the 21st century and the new millenium.

Theme of the Conference

Conservation Farming Systems and Watershed Management in Rainfed Areas for Rural Employment and Poverty Eradication

Sub-Themes

1. (a) Soil resources mapping for land use optimization, Soil Health, Agro-ecological Zoning and Conservation Planning.
(b) Advances in techniques of RS, GIS, GPS and Decision Support Systems for use in Resource Mapping, Conservation Farming Systems and Watershed Management.
2. In-situ Moisture Conservation, Rainfall Management, Rainwater Harvesting, Water Resource Development & Water Management, Renovation and Restoration of derelict Tanks; and Aqua -culture.
3. Conservation Farming Systems, Organic Farming and Other Field Practices for Enhancing Agricultural Growth Rate, Conservation Capacity, Productivity and Profitability of Rainfed Agriculture and other Land Uses.
4. Fodder & Grassland Development, Animal Husbandry and Village Common Property Resources Management – the Mainstay of the Small and Marginal Farmers.
5. Alternate Land Uses in Rainfed Areas – Conservation Horticulture, Forestry, Agro-forestry and Biofuel Plantations.
6. Reclamation and Development of Wastelands, including Arid Lands, Control of Desertification, Shifting Cultivation, Ravines , saline, alkaline and waterlogged lands and bare or sparsely vegetated Forestland.

7. Value Addition, Employment, Incomes and Profitability in Rainfed Areas through Processing, Storage and Direct Marketing (eliminating middlemen) and Integrated Watershed Management Models , including Bioindustrial Watersheds.
8. Supporting Services : Research & Development; Capacity Building; Extension; Organisation; Legislation; Evaluation; Non-Conventional Energy Sources for Rural Areas ; Credit & Subsidies Regime for Farmers; Infrastructure; Population & Natural Resources ; WTO and Farmers; Policy Umbrella and Other issues of *Ecology, Economics, Employment and Equity* in the Rainfed Areas of the developing countries.

Special Lectures

Eminent Scientists/Policy-makers will be invited to deliver special lectures .

Presentation of Selected Papers

Selected speakers will be invited to make their presentations on their papers already received, on the theme and sub-themes.

Poster Paper Exhibition, attended by the authors

The Poster Sessions relating to each objective will be organized for wider participation. Each author will be provided with a space of 90 cm × 90 cm to put up his/ her posters. Posters should be readable from a distance of 2m. The title, author, name, affiliation etc. should be followed by sections consisting of *Introduction, Objectives, Main Body of the Paper, Results, Conclusions and Selected References.*

Language

The official language of the Conference will be English.

Venue

NASC Complex (Pusa), NewDelhi-110012

Duration

- (i) The Conference : February 12-16, 2008.
- (ii) Field Visits for Delegates: from February 17, 2008

Schedule

Submission of Abstract	:	30-09-2007
Acceptance of Papers	:	15-10-2007
Receipt of full-length paper	:	31-10-2007

(All Abstracts as well as full-length papers will be submitted both in hard copy and electronic-medium)

Registration Fee (*to be submitted by 31.10.2007*)

Foreign Delegates

Delegates	:	US\$ 400
(Late submission)	:	US\$ 450
*Students/Research Scholars	:	US\$ 200
(Late submission)	:	US\$ 225
For each accompanying member	:	US\$ 100

Indian Delegates

Members of SCSI	:	Rs. 3000.00
(Late submission)	:	Rs. 3500.00
Non-members	:	Rs. 3500.00
(Late submission)	:	Rs. 4000.00
*For Students/ Research Scholars	:	Rs. 1500.00
(Late submission)	:	Rs. 1750.00

For each accompanying member : Rs. 1000.00 (Indian)

**Students/Research Scholars have to provide a certificate from their Head of the Institution/Department for availing of these rates.*

Further Information on Submission of Papers

Abstracts will be of about 500 words. A committee will screen the abstracts and decide about the nature of presentation (oral/poster). Authors will be duly informed about the acceptance of their papers. Please provide the e-mail address of the author to whom communications may be sent.

Full length papers:

A hard copy of the manuscript and the abstract (along with the same in diskette in MS Word - 98/2000) may be made available. Only those papers which are accepted will be published in the Proceedings.

Accommodation

A wide range of accommodation varying from 5-star hotels to guest houses will be available. Tariffs are as under:

(i) 5-Star Hotels

Single Occupancy : US \$ 150-250/ day

Double Occupancy : US \$ 250-300/ day

(ii) Medium Range Hotels (3 -4 stars)

Single occupancy : US \$ 100-150/ day

Double occupancy : US \$ 200/ day

(iii) Unstarred Hotels

Single occupancy : US \$ 50-100/ day

Double occupancy : US \$ 50-125/ day

Please Note:

These tariffs are based on current rates; however, they may change by the time of the Conference.

Limited accommodation may also be available for the delegates from India in various Guest Houses at the National Agriculture Science Centre Complex (NASC) and other Campuses.

About Delhi / New Delhi city

(Delhi and New Delhi are old and new parts of the same city)

The city of Delhi/New Delhi has a long history and has several ancient and modern places of interest. Local sight-seeing trips and visits to important shopping complexes and markets will be arranged for those interested. A post-Conference tour to important places will be organized for the registered delegates and their spouses at subsidized rates.

New Delhi is a cosmopolitan city. It presents a unique amalgam of ancient culture and modernity. Here the visitor is enchanted by the magnificence of the relics of ancient (5000 year old) Hindu era, glory of Mughal Monuments and the grandeur of modern buildings and shopping centres. The varied cultural activities offer myriad experiences and speak of the unity in diversity of India.

At a short distance from Delhi (200 km, South-East) is the famous city of the **Taj Mahal, Agra**. It is one of the seven wonders of the modern world. Arrangements can be made, on request, to take you there.

About 260 km South-West of Delhi is located the city of **Jaipur, also known as the Pink City**. The glory of the various Kings is beautifully reflected in the magnificence of its palaces.

The famous **Tiger Reserve, The Corbett National Park**, is about 6 hours' drive from New Delhi. The Park is located in the midst of the Himalayan hills of Kumaon and provides a unique experience of Elephant Safari.

For bird watchers, the **Keola Devi Ghana Bird Sanctuary at Bharatpur** is about 180 km from New Delhi. The Sanctuary harbours the most exquisite birds from all over the globe.

Visit to one of the **State Agricultural Universities** can also be arranged. There are many other places of tourist

interest and attraction, which might fascinate you. The travel counter will be pleased to provide information of your interest and arrange travel plans.

February is a cold month in Delhi. Temperatures would be around 20°-25°C (Maximum) and 5°-10°C (Minimum). Woolens would be needed.

Post-Conference Tours

Details of Post Conference tours are as under:

S. No.	Sector	Hotel Tariff (Per Person)
1.	Delhi- Jaipur- Udaipur - Delhi 3 nights - 4 days	650-700
2.	Delhi - Agra - Delhi 1 night - 2 days	200-225
3.	Delhi - Jaipur - Agra -Khajuraho - Varanasi - Delhi 6 nights - 7 days	900-950
4.	Delhi - Mumbai - Aurangabad- Delhi 3 nights - 4 days	650-700
5.	Delhi - Goa - Delhi 3 nights - 4 days	650-700
6.	Delhi - Chennai - Pondicherry 3 nights - 4 days	650-700
7.	Delhi - Calcutta -Bhubaneswar - Puri Bhubaneswar - Delhi 4 nights - 5 days	850-900

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Suraj Bhan, *President* or **Shri B. Rath**, *Secretary General*
Soil Conservation Society of India at the address :
G-3, National Societies Block, Room No. 89, 90, 97, Ground
Floor, National Agriculture Science Centre (NASC) Complex,
Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, (Pusa), New Delhi-110 012
Telefax: 91-11-25848244
Email: soilcsi@yahoo.co.in ; bhan_suraj2001@yahoo.com
Website: www.soilcsi.org

Steering Committee of the Conference

Chairman

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan

Co-Chairmen

Shri M.V. Rajasekharan
Dr. Mohan Kanda

Vice Chairmen

Dr. P.K. Mishra
Dr. William D. Dar
Dr. Mangla Rai
Dr. Daniel Gustafson
Dr. G. Madhavan Nair

Members

Prof. V.L. Chopra
Prof. J.S. Bali
Dr. M.L. Dewan
Dr. K.G. Tejwani
Dr. J.S.P. Yadav
Dr. C.R. Hazra
Prof. Gajendra Singh
Shri V.B. Eswaran
Shri Bhaskar Chatterji
Dr. (Mrs.) Rita Sharma
Dr. J. S. Samra
Dr. Jagdish Kishwan
Dr. P.L. Gautam
Prof. Jaswant Singh

Member Secretary

Dr. Suraj Bhan

Organizing Committee of the Conference

Chairman

Dr. Mohan Kanda

Vice Chairmen

Dr. Suraj Bhan

Shri Shamsher Singh

Members

Prof. J.S. Bali	Dr. N.K. Tyagi
Dr. S. Subramaniyan	Dr. V.K. Verma
Dr. S.P. Gawande	Shri Prem Narain
Shri D.C. Das	Shri K.S. Money
Dr. R.L. Karale	Dr. S.P. Wani
Mrs. Mridula Singh	Shri S.K. Pattanayak
Prof. J.K. Singh	Shri Prabhat Kumar
Shri O.S. Sushindiren	Dr. V.V. Sadamate
Shri Vijay K. Sardana	Brig. Shiva Kumar
Dr. S.N. Das	Mrs. Archana Singh
Dr. A.K. Bhattacharya	Shri B.S. Patel
Shri C.M. Pandey	Dr. V.N. Sharda
Shri V.K. Bharti	Dr. M.S. Mallappa
Dr. R.S. Kureel	Dr. A.K. Singh
Shri S.K. Dalal	Shri K.B. Singh
Dr. B.S. Negi	Dr. P.K. Mandal
Dr. C.P. Reddy	Dr. K.C. Momin
Dr. (Ms.) Archana Mittal	Shri J.P. Mahalle
Dr. Sanjay Arora	Shri V.D. Patil
Shri D.D. Banswal	Shri Madan Lal
Ms. Neera Mishra	Dr. R.K. Sahu
Dr. Anand Swarup	Dr. Shankar
Shri Pratap Singh	Shri L.K. Tewari
Dr. V.S. Dinkar	Shri R.A.S. Patel

Member Secretary

Sh. B. Rath

* REGISTRATION FORM

International Conference on Conservation Farming Systems and Watershed Management in Rainfed Areas for Rural Employment and Poverty Eradication (ICON-Farm)

*February 12-16, 2008 (Tuesday to Saturday)
NASC Complex (Pusa), Dev Prakash Shastri Marg,
New Delhi 110 012, India*

Surname _____
(Prof/Dr/Mr/Ms)

Given Name _____

Organisation/Institution _____

Address : _____

City _____ Pin Code : _____

Tel. : (O) _____ (R) _____ (Mobile) _____

Fax : _____ E-mail : _____

I shall participate in the Conference : Yes /No

I intend to contribute a paper titled _____
under the Session/Sub-Theme: _____

Preferred Presentation : Oral/Poster (Please check)

I enclose a Demand Draft No. _____

Dated _____ for Rs./US\$ _____

in favour of "ICON-FARM", Payable at New Delhi, India,
towards Registration fee.

Date _____ Signature _____

**Delegates will themselves arrange to meet their cost of
participation in the Conference*