

REPORT OF POPULAR LECTURE BY Dr S.K. Saha

The Indian Society of Agrophysics and Indian Society of Remote Sensing – Delhi chapter jointly organized a popular lecture on 29-Sept-2009 “**Remote Sensing Derived Indicators for Desertification and Risk Zoning**”, by Dr. S.K. Saha, Head, Agriculture & Soils, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun. The lecture was delivered in the seminar hall of Division of Agriculture Physics, I.A.R.I., New Delhi from 2:15 to 3:15 PM. Dr A.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (NRM) and Chairman ISRS-DC chaired the session and conducted the proceedings. The lecture was attended by around forty participants including students.

Dr Ravender Singh, Head, Division of Agricultural Physics welcomed the dignitaries, speaker and participants to the popular lecture. It was followed by introduction of the speaker by Dr A.K. Singh. In his lecture, Dr Saha gave the definition and importance of the subject of Desertification, international programme undertaken in this field, followed by details of the remote sensing indicators of desertification. He presented case studies on how remote sensing has been used for monitoring and assessment of soil erosion, wind erosion, soil salinization, changes in land use/cover etc. using remote sensing inputs. He presented the details of national desertification mapping programme and how in future remote sensing and GIS can be used for desertification risk mapping and developing appropriate desertification management action plans.

After the lecture, Dr H.S. Gaur, Dean and Jt Director (Edu), IARI, gave his remarks on the talk. Dr V.K. Sehgal, Member ISRS-DC presented formal vote-of-thanks. Light refreshments with tea were served during the lecture.