



Symposium on benefits of potassium

LUDHIANA: A function to release the proceedings of an international symposium on the role of potassium and benefits in improving nutrient management for food production, quality and reduced environmental damages, was organised at the committee room of the Punjab Agricultural University vice-chancellor here on Thursday.

It was organised by International Potash Institute (IPI), International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) and OUAT Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology.

PAU Vice-Chancellor Dr Baldev Singh Dhillon said food security was the prime concern. Among different agricultural constraints, the stress due to declining per capita avail-

ability of cultivable land and renewable water resources and threat of global warming and uncertainty of climate was important, he said, adding that rice, which was not the traditional crop of Punjab, had covered a larger area. Dr Dhillon said leading soil scientists from the PAU namely Dr GS Sekhon, Dr G Dev, Dr JS Grewal and Dr NS Pasricha were associated with the IPI as directors. He said soil scientists of the PAU in collaboration with the IPI had made notable contributions towards enhancing agricultural production and hoped that the tie-up would grow further in future. He

suggested that some mutually beneficial research projects could be developed between the two institutes.

Dr Magen said there were different concerns, including climate change, nitrogen and phosphorus cycles, crop nutrition that needed to be addressed.

Among others present included Dr Hillel Magen, director, IPI, Dr Eldad Sokolowski, agronomist, coordinator, China and India, Dr Surinder K Bansal, director, Potash Research Institute of India, PAU Registrar Dr RK Mahey, director research Dr SS Gosal, director, extension education Dr MS Gill, Dean, Col-

lege of Agriculture, Dr DS Cheema, technical adviser to the VC Dr PK Khanna, director, electron microscopy and nano science lab, Dr SS Mukhopadhyay, former senior soil scientist Dr MS Brar.

Research papers by eminent scientists on topics of balanced fertilisation such as role of potassium in plant nutrition, importance of soil fertility mapping through GIS and role of potassium in alleviating abiotic stress were presented.

Earlier, Dr MS Brar, organising secretary, said nine papers of the proceedings had been published in the journal plant and soil (Vol 335). — TNS

VC lists food security as prime concern

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Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) Vice-Chancellor Baldev said on Wednesday that food security was the prime concern of researchers. He spelt out the other agricultural constraints such as stress due to the declining per capita availability of cultivable land and renewable water resources and threat of global warming. He was addressing a gathering during the release of the proceedings of the international symposium on potassium, role and benefits in improving nutrient management for food production, quality and reduced environmental damages.

The function was jointly organ-



ised by the IPI (International Potash Institute), the IPNI (International Plant Nutrition Institute) and OUAT (Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology).

Dr Dhillon said many leading soil scientists from PAU, namely Dr. G.S. Sekhon, Dr. G. Dev, Dr. J.S. Grewal and Dr. N.S. Pasricha, were associated with IPI, as directors.

He suggested that some mutually beneficial research projects can be developed between the two institutes. IPI director Hillel Magen said the balanced fertilisation was a vital tool in achieving improved crop production.

“The relatively low levels of potash fertiliser application in agriculture leads to mining from soil which re-

sults in negative impacts, including preventing full use of applied nitrogen and phosphorus fertilisers that limit yields reducing farmers’ profits and affecting the future food security efforts”, said he.

Dr Eldad Sokolowski, Agronomist Coordinator between China and India, in his address, said that the proceedings carried papers by eminent scientists on a wide ranging topics of balanced fertilisation such as role of potassium in plant nutrition, importance of soil and fertility mapping through GIS.

“The volume includes presentations that analyse situation of potassium-centric balanced fertilisation in soils with focus on geographic reasons within south Asia”, he said.