

**3rd International Conference on Higher Education Institutes Challenges and Solutions for
Sustainable Development Goals 2024
Report on SDG 15: Life on Land**

The 3rd international conference on SDG: 15 Life on Land was jointly organized by the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry & Department of Natural Resources Management, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, SRM College of Agricultural Sciences, SRMIST and the Centre for Research in Environment, Sustainability Advocacy and Climate Change (REACH), SRMIST from 3rd to 5th December 2024.

Day 01

Date: 03 December 2024

Venue: SRMIST, Kattankulathur

The inaugural session of the international conference was held at the SRMIST, Kattankulathur. Dr. R. Angelin Silviya (Co-convener of ICSDG 15), Assistant Professor & Head (SS&AC) and Mrs. C Kanimozhi, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) & In-charge of Urban Farm Centre, SRMIST have participated.

Day 02 (Forenoon)

Date: 04 December 2024

Venue: SRMCAS, Baburayanpettai

The conference began with an invocation song, "*Tamil Thaa Vaalthu*," followed by the traditional lighting of the lamp. Co-convener of ICSDG 15, Dr. R. Angelin Silviya, Assistant Professor & Head (Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry), warmly welcomed the participants, dignitaries and highlighted the conference's objectives focusing on sustainable solutions for Life on Land. The organizing secretary of ICSDG 15, Dr. G. K. Dinesh, Assistant Professor (Environmental Sciences), presented the ICSDG report, detailing the current status and future pathways for achieving SDG 15. Dr. N. Asoka Raja, Associate Dean, and Dr. Kothai Sesathri, Professor & Head (NRM) felicitated the gather. Convener of ICSDC15, Dr. M. Jawaharlal, Dean (SRMCAS), delivered the presidential address, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration for environmental conservation and the need for actionable outcomes from such conferences. His address inspired the audience with practical perspectives on leveraging soil health for a sustainable future.

Invited Lecture 1: Sustainable Soil Management: Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration

Speaker: Dr. Somasundaram Jayaraman, Head & Principal Scientist, ICAR – IISWC, Udhagamandalam

The alarming degradation of 121 million hectares of Indian soil, its implications for food security, and the need for sustainable soil management practices. The importance of soil health, the impact of climate change on soil biodiversity, strategies to protect soil carbon and carbon sequestration were emphasized in the lecture.

Invited Lecture 2: Impact of Microplastics in Agroecosystem

Speaker: Dr. Karthika Sangilidurai, Faculty, Pondicherry University

The impact of Microplastics in Agroecosystems, challenges and advances in microplastic analysis, and its impact on soil ecosystems, urban and agricultural ecosystems,

human health, and marine and freshwater ecosystems were emphasized. Following this, the fellowship opportunities to the U.K. were also discussed.

Day 02 (Afternoon)

Paper Presentations: Various research papers were presented by the participants

Judges: Dr. M. Sanjeeva Gandhi (ENS)

Dr. S. N. Chikkaraju (SS&AC)

Dr. K. Ravisankar (SS&AC)

Poster Presentations: Participants showcased their research through posters.

Judges: Dr. M. Melvin Joe (Agrl. Microbiology)

Dr. K. Anbukkarasi (Agrl. Microbiology)

Dr. C. Dharani (SS&AC)

The conference successfully brought together academia and researchers to deliberate on actionable solutions for SDG 15. It highlighted the need for innovative approaches and global collaboration for sustainable land management. The organizing secretary of ICSDG 15 Dr. T. S. Raja Rajeshwaran, Assistant Professor (SS&AC), delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the speakers, organizers, and participants for their valuable contributions to the success of the conference.

Extension activities:

Rally and Competition were conducted by the students of SRMCAS at Pudupattinam and Vengambakkam villages of Chengalpattu district. The competition was held for students of 6th to 9th and 11th standards. Around 180 students have participated for the rally emphasizing the need of soil testing for maintaining soil health.

Day 3

Date: 05-12-2024

Venue: SRM-CAS, Baburayanpettai

Lecture 3: Soil Microbes and Ecosystem Health

Speaker: Dr. Jaak Truu, Professor in Microbiology, Chair of Genetics, Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Tartu, Estonia

The role and importance of soil microbes and ecosystem health were described by the speaker. Diversity and functionality of soil microbes, Ecosystem impacts and the importance of soil microbiome health, Future directions for sustainable management, Innovations through research and new technologies, and Addressing global change and its implications for soil ecosystems were discussed. Students of SRMCAS interacted with the speaker.

ICSDG15: Organising Committee Member, Mr. K. Ravisankar, Assistant Professor (Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry), delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the speakers, organizers, and participants for their valuable contributions to the success of the conference.

Valedictory

Venue: Mini Hall 1, TP Ganesan Auditorium, SRMIST, Kattankulathur

The organizing team and the presentation winners received their awards at SRMIST, Kattankulathur in the valedictory session. Co-convener of ICSDG 15, Dr. R. Angelin Silviya,

Assistant Professor & Head (SS&AC) and Organising secretary of ICSDG 15, Dr. G. K. Dinesh, Assistant Professor (ENS) accompanied with them.

Oral Presentations winners

Dr. S Rageshwari, Assistant Professor and Head (Plant Pathology)

Ms. R Yuvarani. Postgraduate Scholar (Plant Pathology)

Ms. V S Gurumitha Mrinalini, Undergraduate Scholar (Agriculture)

Poster Presentations Winners

Ms. Arya Suresh, Postgraduate Scholar (Agronomy)

Ms. V Ajay Pratap, Postgraduate Scholar (Agronomy)

Ms. Anjala Leelu Anil, Undergraduate Scholar (Agriculture).

