

PRESS RELEASE

Farmers and Industry Unite To Stop Crop Residue Burning Farmer Outreach Event in Nabha District, Patiala

20 October 2022, Nabha, Punjab

Over 400 farmers, school children, women from the villages, Government officials and industry members participated in an event organised at Khanoura Village, Nabha, Patiala to strengthen the efforts to end stubble burning. The event was organised by the CII which runs a crop residue management initiative in Punjab and Haryana to promote viable alternatives to stubble burning. It was supported by Indian Oil Corporation, which is partnering CII in its crop residue management campaign.

With CII's interventions, crop residue burning has drastically reduced in 73 villages in Nabha Block, Patiala District.

Speaking at the event, MLA Nabha, Gurdev Singh Dev Mann highlighted the growing issue of global warming and the role of air pollution in aggravating it. He emphasised the importance of collective action to deal with this challenge of growing pollution and global warming, saying that the world is interlinked and everyone must do their best to solve the problem. He elaborated on the efforts of the Government, CII's project and project supporters like IOCL to help farmers and urged them to avail of the machinery and training and adopt viable alternatives.

Adding another dimension to the conversation, ADC (Development) Patiala, Isha Singhal said that the victims of stubble burning were the farmers themselves since stubble burning was negatively impacting the health of the people and the soil. Hence they must commit to not burning stubble.

Kuldeep Inder Singh, Block Agriculture Officer, Nabha, said that farmers must focus on finding the best way to manage the crop residue so that the environmental impact is less. He shared ways and spoke of the machinery and technical know-how and assistance which is now easily available even to small farmers to manage crop residue.

Mr N Senthil Kumar, ED, NRPL, Indian Oil Corporation appreciated the efforts of farmers and said corporates should support the adoption of viable alternatives to stubble burning.

Mahant Harvinder Singh Khanura, a prominent citizen of village Khanura shared his experience of bringing farmers together to solve the problem of stubble burning in this, area and appreciated the efforts of CII.

Also present at the event was SDM Nabha, Kanu Garg and Sarpanch's of 25 villages.

The farmers from across the district, of different ages and land-holding sizes, shared their experiences spelling out challenges and solutions. 93 year old Balwant Singh shared how stubble burning was ruining soil quality and the health of people and urged farmers to adopt viable alternatives for their good health as well as the good health of the soil. Several farmers from different villages spoke of how with the availability of machines and technical assistance, they had significantly reduced stubble burning.

At the event, farmers who had not burnt stubble were recognised and honoured with certificates of appreciation, presented by the MLA.

An interesting and inspiring part of this farmer engagement was the recital of an inspiring poem by an 11 year old school student.



In order to encourage farmers to adopt the "Zero Stubble Burning" approach, CII has adopted 250 villages in the districts of Fatehgarh Sahib, Patiala, Ludhiana, Barnala, Sangrur, Malerkotla, and Taran Taran.

The crop residue management initiative is being rolled out under the technical guidance and training support of Punjab Agriculture University and in partnership with industry such as Birlasoft, Indian Oil Corporation, Goodyear, PTC Foundation, PFS, Apraava Energy, SBI Card, Fidelity, SIAM, BPCL, ONGC, GAIL, Royal Enfield and Cummins.

Field support is being given by grassroots organisations such as Doctors for You, GBDSGNS Foundation and Guru Nanak College Trust, Doraha.