

Farmer Field Day

Sukh Da Saah: CII-SIAM initiative on improved crop residue management

27 Feb 2019, Patiala: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) organized a Farmer Field Day of Sukh Da Saah initiative, in Bhorey village, Nabha block, Patiala. Bhorey is one among 9 villages in Nabha Block where the joint initiative has been successfully implemented with over 80% farmers and 5000 acres of land adopting no burning approach. The project was implemented by CII Foundation in partnership with the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) and Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB), Department of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Government of Punjab; Department of Cooperation, Punjab; with field support from Farmer Cooperative Societies and volunteer organisation Doctors for You; and financial support from Birlasoft, Cummins and Rau Study Circle.

Over 300 farmers from nearby villages came together to celebrate the success of zero stubble burning in ongoing cropping season, through use of *in situ* machines, on-field trainings and handholding provided under the initiative. Representatives from CII, PAU, PPCB, and district officials addressed the farmers and visited farm fields where Happy Seeder, Rotavator, Mulcher, etc. were used to enable zero stubble burning.

Appreciating CII and SIAM initiative, along with support of PAU, Kala Ram Kalsana, SDM, Nabha said “Farmers have been concerned about the yield, yet not much focus has gone in the cost involved and soil health. The farmers who used Happy Seeder experienced low sowing cost and are expecting better yield this year. I look forward to this initiative reaching other villages in this year.”

Naman Gupta, Cooperative Inspector, Nabha block, Patiala said “CII has been engaging with us since September last year to spread awareness among farmers to not burn crop residues. The outcome has been very impressive. We will continue to support this initiative”

Gurmeet Singh, Block Agriculture Officer, Nabha “I urge farmers to share their experience with other farmers. You may also share your suggestions with PAU and CII to help them improve the trainings and handholding”

Addressing the farmers, Seema Arora, Deputy Director General, CII said “You all are role models for the farmers across the country. CII-SIAM will continue to support you and ensure zero stubble burning in the coming years.”

Rashid Hasan, Advisor, SIAM said “We look forward to your inputs and guidance for taking the initiative further. Our mission will be accomplished when we achieve 100% stubble burning free fields.”

DS Bhatti, Assistant Director- Extension Education, PAU said “Stubble burning not only affects air pollution in Delhi and cities in Punjab, but impact the air quality in your villages. While most of you have adopted new technology, PAU, along with CII will continue to provide improved and more frequent trainings to support you adopt in-situ technology and save on the cost of sowing crops.”

The farmers, including Harbajan Singh (Bhorey), Pradyuman Singh (Mallehwal), Ratan Singh (Jasso Majra), Amandeep (Gobindpura) shared their experiences, which included advantages of not burning crop residues like reduction in input cost like weedicide application, sowing and irrigation. Farmers who adopted the zero burning approach were felicitated at the event.

In Punjab, CII has been engaging with over 3000 farmers in 19 villages covering 16000 acres of land in Ludhiana and Patiala to enable improved crop residue management. In Ludhiana, the project is being implemented with support from Renew Power, ONGC, and Cummins. The outcome of the project has been very encouraging as more than 80% farmers adopted *in situ* technology and 12000 acres of land became stubble burning free.