

Declining agriculture land, food crisis are major challenges: Kranti

■ Staff Reporter

THE agriculture scientists and the members of planning commission should think seriously about the declining of land use for agriculture, increase in population and the food crisis to be faced by people in future. There is a need to chalk out the concrete plans to increase production and per capita productivity of food grains in the country, said, Dr Keshav R Kranti, Director of Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR).

Dr Kranti was delivering a lecture on 'Feeding the Billions with Declining Land Resources' organised by Indian Society of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (ISSLUP) on Friday at S P Raychaudhary Auditorium, NBSS-LUP, Amravati Road. Dr Arun Chaturvedi, President, ISSLUP presided over the function.

Elaborating on the issue with statistical figures Dr Kranti said, the country's ranking in production of different agricultural products is declining. In Maize



Dr Keshav R Kranti, Director of CICR addressing the gathering on Friday. (Pic: Moonlight)

production India is on 8th position, in wheat its rank is 27th, in rice it is placed at 29th position, in cotton production its position is 33rd and in Soghum production it on 31st level as compared to other countries. The productivity levels are very low in the country. The fertile land is very less and land is losing its fertility due to climate change, large usage of chemicals, pesti-

cides, insecticides and chemical fertilizers. The situation is becoming grave and strong steps are needed to be taken to improve the same, he added. Dr Kranti also expressed the need for exclusive technology revolution in agriculture and horticulture sector.

S.K.Singh, Director of NBSSLUP stressed on the conservation of natural resources and land use planning for crop production.

In his presidential address Dr Chaturvedi mentioned about the various conflicts of land use, required for food, clothing, industrial products and housing and the commercial benefits overriding the need for food security. Giving example from Nagpur he said that 45 percent of the District is now being developed under Nagpur Metropolitan region which includes some of the best soils of the region.

G P Obi Reddy conducted the proceedings.



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