## Celebration of "World Soil Day-2022" at ICAR-CIRG, Makhdoom, Mathura

World Soil Day was organized at Central Institute for Research on Goat, Makhdoom, Mathura on 05.12.2022. The programme was attended by 105 participants including 90 scheduled caste farmers of Bharatpur and Mathura districts and the staffs of the institute. Dr. Gopal Dass, Pr. Scientist and PI, DAPSC project, in his address, focused on the purpose of organizing soil day and its importance for sustainable food production in future. He also highlighted the activities of the project with special reference to awareness programmes on natural resource management and income enhancement of SC goat farmers. In this regard he added that various trainings, demonstrations and educational visits are organized from time to time for the benefit of scheduled caste beneficiaries of the project. Dr. Ashok Kumar, Pr. Scientist and I/C, PME cell, told about the importance of soil and the utility of soil health card. He added that soil health card will help the farmers in using the required quantity of fertilizers and unnecessary use of chemicals can be avoided. He also gave his views on the contribution of healthy soil in animal and human life. Dr. Mohd. Arif, Scientist (Agronomy) explained in detail about the World Soil Day and the schemes being run by the government for soil health. He explained that the organic manures in crop production and natural farming using *Jeevamrit* and *beejamrit* can improve the soil health for sustainable food production. The Director of the institute Dr. Manish Kumar Chatli, in his address told the importance of soil in our lives and stressed on the measures required to minimize the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in the soil. He urged the farmers to go for soil testing and soil health card. During this programme, the farmers were given the practical demonstration on taking soil samples for testing the soils of their field and method of preparing *Jeevamrit* and *Beejamrit* in natural farming and their use on crops.