



Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL**  
**Govt. Degree College Handwara**

<http://gdchandwara.edu.in/>  
Email: [Handwaracollege@gmail.com](mailto:Handwaracollege@gmail.com)  
Phone No: +91 94199 21420



No. DCH/2024/

1404

Date:

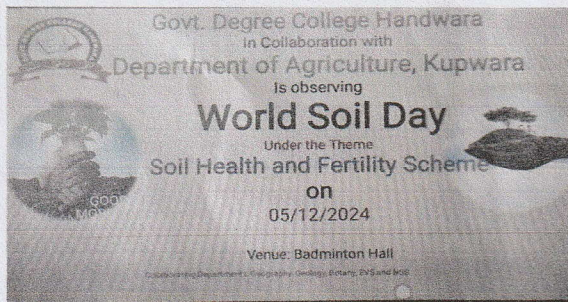
5-12-2024

**Report on International Soil Day Celebration at GDC Handwara**

**Date:** 5th December 2024

**organized by:** Department of Geography, Geology, Botany, and EVS of GDC Handwara, in collaboration with District Agriculture Officer Kupwara.

The International Soil Day 2024 was celebrated with great enthusiasm and awareness at Government Degree College (GDC) Handwara on 5th December 2024. The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of soil conservation and sustainable farming practices. The celebration was organized by the Departments of Geography, Geology, Botany, and Environmental Science (EVS) of GDC Handwara in collaboration with the District Agriculture Officer Kupwara.



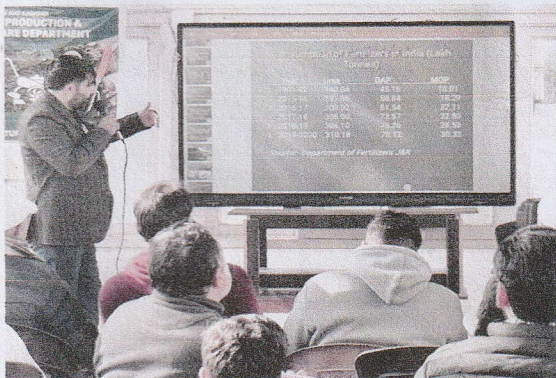
The event commenced with a warm welcome address by the Principal of the College, Prof. G.R. Ganai, who delivered the keynote speech. In his address, Prof. Ganai highlighted the significance of soil health and its direct impact on agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability. He stressed that soil is a finite resource and that its degradation can lead to severe consequences for food security and ecological balance. Prof. Ganai also emphasized the need for collective efforts to conserve soil and promote sustainable agricultural practices.



Following the keynote address, Dr. Mudasir, the Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO) of Handwara, delivered an informative presentation on the topic of soil health and organic farming. Dr. Mudasir discussed the benefits of organic farming over conventional agricultural practices, such as reducing the dependency on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, improving

soil fertility, and contributing to the overall health of the ecosystem. He also shared practical tips on how local farmers can adopt organic farming methods and improve soil health for better agricultural yield.

Amreen Akhtar, a student of the Department of Botany took the stage next and presented an insightful talk on soil conservation measures. She explained various methods of soil conservation, such as terracing, contour ploughing, and afforestation that can help in preventing soil erosion and maintaining soil fertility. Her presentation was well-received by the audience, as it emphasized the need to integrate conservation techniques into daily agricultural practices to sustain soil quality for future generations.



The penultimate session featured a live demonstration on soil testing, which was demonstrated by Mr. Altaf Hussain from the agriculture department. The demonstration aimed to educate the attendees on the importance of testing soil to understand its nutrient content, pH levels, and other factors that influence crop growth. The experts showed how soil testing can help farmers make informed decisions regarding the use of fertilizers and improve the overall health of their soil. The demonstration was highly interactive, with many students and attendees engaging in the process.



The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Prof. Nissar Ahmad, Head of the Department of Botany. Prof. Nissar thanked all the speakers, participants, and organizers for their contributions to the success of the event. He also extended special thanks to the District Agriculture Officer Kupwara for their collaboration in making the event possible. Prof.

Nissar reiterated the importance of soil health and encouraged everyone to continue spreading awareness and adopting practices that promote soil conservation.

### **Conclusion**

The International Soil Day celebration at GDC Handwara was a resounding success. It provided a platform for students, faculty, and the local community to come together and learn about the crucial issue of soil conservation and sustainable farming practices. The event not only raised awareness but also provided practical knowledge that could be applied in day-to-day agricultural practices. The collaboration between the college and the District Agriculture Officer Kupwara was instrumental in making this event impactful and educational.

The event served as a reminder of the critical role that soil plays in sustaining life on Earth and the urgent need for responsible soil management.

**Principal**

