CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

Promoting Sustainable agriculture- Laser technology to level farm land saves water and energy

Fair Farming Foundation recently implemented land laser levelling project in the Bahraich district (UP). Under the project total 1637 Acre of land is covered having 928 beneficiaries.

Farmers in the eastern UP in the Bahraich district typically rely on rainfall or groundwater to flood-irrigate their fields several times each season. But an uneven field (undulating, sloping or rutted) makes for inefficient use of water and of the energy required to bring it to the surface. To minimize this inefficiency, farmers traditionally level their plots using rudimentary tools, such as a wooden beam dragged behind a tractor but we found that was not as effective.

Laser levelling technology was adopted to reduce the amount of water used for irrigation and improve crop establishment and growth, thereby increasing yield. These benefits may endure for several years before re-levelling is required, depending on the soil type and on cultivation and harvesting practices.

Land laser levelling (LLL) will also generate important public benefits in the form of reduced depletion of groundwater, runoff of chemical inputs, consumption of diesel fuel, and the corresponding release of greenhouse gases. These benefits, combined with benefits to individual farmers, mean that LLL could broadly contribute to improving social welfare.

"We believe the need of the hour is climate smart agriculture practices and technologies that save on scarce resources like water and energy along with increasing the yields and incomes. Laser levelling has the potential to enhance productivity. We are working hard to educate farmers to engage in natural farming profitably through the optimum utilization of water & we urge more and more farmers to adopt new technology in agriculture - ranging from improved seeds to storage technologies but it's very important to support them in doing so"

In Pic: Land Laser Levelling Activity.