

## AGRICULTURE RESIDUE BURNING AT INTERNATIONAL FORUM

Dr. Brijendra Pateriya, Director, Punjab Remote Sensing Centre (PRSC), Ludhiana invited to discuss “Agriculture residue burning” issue and its monitoring using Space and Geospatial technology at 24<sup>th</sup> meet of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) working for space activities in the Asia-Pacific region HELD during 13-17 November 2017, Bengaluru. He was the only state officer in the country who represented Indian state centres on the issue of Agriculture residue burning in Punjab and adjoining states for mitigation of the problem by engaging all stakeholders with a promising resolution. He urges Asian Development Bank (ADB) and JICA to work out a program and policy so that crop burning issue may be handled effectively not only in Indian states but in this Asia-Pacific region including Forest fires and global warming challenges linked with this problem and directly related to health of the people and large farming community. He emphasizes to provide financial support and advance technological solution in overall interest of the large population. The meet was attended by head of space agencies of participating countries including India, United Nations, Japan, and other apart from high-ranking officials at APRSAF to discuss international cooperation for space activities in concrete terms. 40 countries are the part of APRSAF. It is an honour for Punjab to get an opportunity to get invite first time on such prestigious platform.

APRSAF currently organizes four working groups—Space Applications, Space Technology, Space Environment Utilization, and Space Education—to share information about the activities and future plans of each country and region in these respective areas. APRSAF also supports the establishment of international projects as solutions for common issues, such as disaster management and environmental protection, so that participating parties will benefit from mutual cooperation.

