

State Level *Kisan Mela* and Farmers Innovation Meet organized at CAZRI, Jodhpur

The Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur organized a State Level Kisan Mela and Farmer's Innovation Meet at Jodhpur during 13-15 September, 2018. The event was inaugurated by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. While addressing the farmers as the Chief Guest of the inaugural ceremony, Shri Shekhawat emphasized upon use of modern farming, improved technologies and government policies towards achieving the vision of doubling farmers' income by 2022. He appreciated farming community for adoption of new agro-techniques, line departments for delivering improved technologies to farmers' field and scientific community for providing a wide range of choices of new techniques to farmers. Sh. Jogaram Patel, MLA of Luni; Dr. Balraj Singh, Vice-Chancellor of Agriculture University, Jodhpur; Dr. P.L. Saroj, Director of CIAH, Bikaner; and Sh. R.K. Thanvi, CGM of NABARD, Jaipur addressed the farmers. Several directors of ICAR institutes were also present on the occasion.



Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director highlighted the significant role played by institute in developing and disseminating technologies for improving the livelihoods of the farmers as well as conservation of natural resources. He called upon farmers to adopt latest technologies in improving productivity.

More than 8000 farmers and farm women from almost various districts of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Jammu & Kashmir participated in the *Kisan Mela*. More than 100 exhibition stalls were displayed by various stakeholders in farming. Three best organizations each in public and private sector were felicitated for displaying best exhibition stalls.

Kisan Goshthis (Farmer-Scientist interaction) were organized on all three days to provide solutions related to crop production, livestock, soil management, horticulture, water harvesting, rangeland and pasture management, food processing, solar energy and rodent control etc. Institute research farm visit was organized at Crop Cafeteria, Protected Agriculture, Solar Agri-Photo Voltaic System, Horticulture, Organic Farm Unit, Seed Production Unit, Napier Grass Block and Dairy Unit, etc.

Five farmers were felicitated as CAZRI *Kisan Mitra* on this occasion to recognize their contribution in adoption, upscaling and promoting of technologies in their villages and around. Two videos of CAZRI "*Shushk Kshetron ka Samanvit Vikas*" and "*Safalta ki Kahani-Kisano ki Jubani*" were released on this occasion. More than 1600 farmers were registered on M-kisan portal for receiving regular SMS advisory through mobile phones. Dr. Pratibha Tewari, Head was the convener of the event.