

## Dr. T.R. Sharma, Deputy Director General (Crop Science) visited CAZRI RRS, Leh

Dr. T.R. Sharma, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi visited the Regional Research Station, Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Stakna, Leh. He was accompanied by along with Dr. V.K. Yadav, Project Coordinator, Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi.

Dr. M.S. Kanwar, Head RRS Leh and staff warmly welcomed the dignitaries and provided an overview of the research and extension work undertaken by Dr. Kanwar especially in crop cultivation, vegetable production and agro-forestry. Dr. Sharma took keen interest in Salix-alfalfa silvo-pastoral system and an integrated multi-storied agroforestry model involving alfalfa, apple, apricot, poplar, and Robinia fodder trees, which contribute to the region's sustainable farming efforts. Dr. Sharma emphasized the need to focus on fodder trees and native grasses, particularly legumes, to ensure fodder security during the winter months. His guidance aimed at enhancing research efforts towards sustainable food and fodder production in the region, addressing the unique challenges posed by the cold-arid climate. This visit underscored the significance of research and innovation in ensuring food and fodder security in the high-altitude regions of India.



Dr. Akash R Chichaghare elaborated on the benefits of this integrated multistorey agroforestry system for enhancing soil fertility and fodder availability in Leh region. Dr. Changchuk Lamo and Dr M Rajasekhar explained the application of a multipurpose solar dryer for drying apricots and vegetables, which plays a crucial role in preserving fruits and vegetables for winter consumption, a key challenge in Leh's harsh winter months.