

Visit of Dr S Bhaskar, ADG (AAF&CC), ICAR, New Delhi during January 18-19, 2020 at ICAR-CAZRI, RRS, Bhuj, Gujarat

Dr S Bhaskar, ADG (AAF&CC), ICAR, New Delhi along with Director, CAZRI, Jodhpur visited ICAR-CAZRI Regional Research Station, Bhuj, Gujarat during Jan. 18-19, 2020. Dr Devi Dayal, Head, RRS, Bhuj gave a brief account of achievements of the station highlighting significant accomplishment of the RRS and the KVK. Then, the ADG took round of the research laboratory and the research farm. Dr Bhaskar appreciated the efforts on establishing different halophytes and agro-forestry species at the farm. The three-tier cactus based agro-forestry model being developed at the farm was also appreciated by him. He further advised to develop and demonstrate the agro-forestry models intercropped with field crops. Dr Bhaskar also visited farmers' fields where high value crops like capsicum, cucumber and papaya are being grown under shade-net house and Date Palm farm where approximately 10,000 date palm (Desi cultivar) were planted.



ADG (AAF&CC) along with the Director and Scientists of RRS visited Banni grassland. *Prosopis juliflora*, an invasive tree, has covered most of the grassland area. Also due to increase in soil salinity, instead of palatable grasses, halophytic vegetation like *Suaeda* spp, *Cressa cretica* are growing abundantly in grassland. Dr Bhaskar, advised the scientists of RRS to study the ecology of existing vegetation based on soil quality parameters and have a demonstration plot of suitable grass species/halophytes.