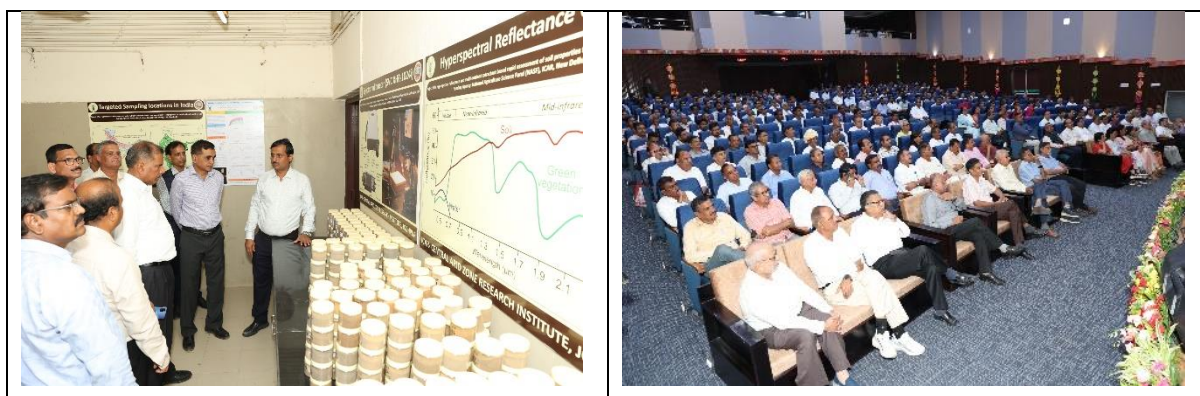


## ICAR-CAZRI Jodhpur celebrates its 66<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day

ICAR-Central arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur celebrated its 66th Foundation Day on October 1, 2024. Dr. K.D.Kokate, former Deputy Director General (AE), ICAR graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, in the presence of Dr. B. Venkateswarlu, former Vice Chancellor, VNMKV, Parbhani, Dr. K. Sammi Reddy (Director, NIASM-Baramati) and Dr. Rajbir Singh, ADG (AAF&CC), ICAR-New Delhi as Guest of Honours and Dr. R.K. Yadav (Director, CSSRI, Karnal), Dr. N.G. Patil (Director, NBSS & LuP, Nagpur), Dr. Sunil Kumar (Director, IIFSR, Modipuram), Dr. J.P. Mishra (Director, ATARI, Jodhpur), Dr. R.K.Bhatt (Former Head, CAZRI), Sh. G.P. Sharma (Former Joint Secretary-Finance, ICAR) were Special Guests. Retired employees, CAZRI Kisan Mitra, farmers and all the employees of CAZRI gathered to celebrate the event. Speaking on this occasion, Dr. Kokate appreciated the phenomenal progress made by CAZRI over the years and recalled the Institute's past work on Natural resources, especially on sand dune stabilization.



Dr. Kokate applauded the significant research achievements made by CAZRI under the leadership of present Director, Dr. O.P. Yadav and urged younger generation to carry forward the present status as accomplished. Dr. Venkateswarlu also appreciated mentioning CAZRI's impact of research and interventions that has brought in a major transformation of this desert terrain from the earlier forest-based system into an agri-production system and stated how this convergence is impacting over all development for arid region stakeholders.



Dr. Sammi Reddy, in his address, looked for frequent knowledge sharing between NIASM and CAZRI in the field of abiotic stress management for salinity, water and also in Polyhouse precision system, etc. He appreciated the concept of CAZRI model of organizing the Walking workshop.

Dr Rajbir Singh, ADG in his address, looked for similar activities in the CAZRI's regional stations which are located different parts of arid region and emphasized how similar research out puts can be demonstrated, especially in the newly established RRS-Leh. Directors of all other institutes and Other

special guests spoke high of CAZRI's achievements and congratulated the Director for his innovative idea and visions which has yielded vast improvement in research and management and looked for a greater number of inter-institutional projects among CAZRI and other institutes.



Director, Dr. O.P. Yadav in his welcome address presented a brief outline on the activities of the institute. Highlights of major achievements include release of two Moth varieties from this institute (CAZRI Moth-4 and CAZRI-Moth-5) for cultivation in India, Hyperspectral remote sensing-based investigation of natural resources, Advanced instrument for in-situ measurement of sun induced fluorescence (SIF) from photosystem-I and II of crops and recognition of 24 institute technologies and their certification by ICAR-New Delhi. On this occasion, Scientists/Technical/Administration and other staffs were awarded for their achievements and contributions. Dr. M.P.Rajora, Principal Scientist, was awarded the Dr. Shankarnarayan Memorial award for his contribution in the field of rangelands and desertification research. The Chief Guest, Dr. Kokate digitally released e-Publications of "Decadal Achievements of all the Regional Stations of CAZRI.

Earlier on 30<sup>th</sup> Afternoon, upon their arrival, guests were accorded warm welcome by the Director and Heads followed by their visit to Institute farm where scientists explained activities in the newly established Integrated Crop cafeteria, Agri-ecotourism park, Integrated Farming systems, small ruminant facility, Melia-dubia & Gmelina based agro-forestry, crop and grass breeding seed production system and polyhouse precision farming. The guests also visited Agri-Voltaic System, Spectro-radiometer and hyperspectral remote sensing laboratory, soil lab and Desertification/RS-GIS lab.

Dr. R.K.Kakani, Head and convener of 66<sup>th</sup> Foundation day proposed the vote of thanks.