

IRC Meeting of the Institute Held through Video Conferencing

The Institute Research Committee (IRC) meeting was held from 1-12 June, 2020 under the Chairmanship of the Director, CAZRI in which all the scientists of the institute, Heads of the Divisions, Heads of the Regional Research Stations (RRSs) and PCs of the three KVKs participated through Video Conferencing.

Dr S.K. Chaudhari DDG (NRM) addressed the IRC on first day. Dr Chaudhari congratulated the scientists who brought recognition to the institute and appreciated achievements of the institute. He expressed his great satisfaction on excellent improvement in infrastructure and hoped that some state-of-the-art instruments will be added during next SFC. He showed his concern that manpower is concentrated at the headquarters and underlined the need to strengthen Regional Research Stations both in terms of human and other resources. Dr Chaudhari particularly mentioned the ecosystem-based research approach and called upon the scientists to make CAZRI a great team by giving their 100 per cent to address various issues related to crops, horticulture, agroforestry, livestock, agri-voltaic system etc.

Dr S. Bhaskar ADG (AAF&CC) also joined the meeting. Dr Bhaskar, while delivering his address suggested the need of handholding of young scientists for first few years till they understand arid agro-ecology. He pointed out that the new project proposals should also consider the QRT and RAC recommendations and should be based on firm foundation of agro-ecological approach. More refinement may be required in agri-voltaic model. Fodder production has been and still is a major issue in arid regions. Minimization of water requirement in canal command area was another important issue to be addressed considering very limited availability of irrigation water. He advocated promotion of protected cultivation in peri-urban areas. He appreciated the efforts of institute for development of organo-mineral fertilizers from locally available natural resources. He suggested that improvement of Banni grasslands in Bhuj and local food production in Ladakh should get increased focus. He also gave his valuable suggestions during review of ongoing projects.



In the beginning, Dr R.K. Kaul, In-charge, PME Cell introduced newly joined scientists and highlighted major achievements during the year. Director and Chairman of IRC, Dr O.P. Yadav also welcomed the DDG and ADG and all scientists of the institute. He emphasized the great support of ICAR and SMD extended to the institute and highlighted dedicated efforts of the scientists of the institute during last one year. He further called upon to take **'One Extra Step'** which can make all the difference. He highlighted the need of quantifying ecosystem services of Integrated Farming System in monetary terms; establishing microbial consortium of work undertaken in the institute so far; combining traditional and modern tools and techniques for crop improvement; devising innovations in livestock production and management; preparing evidenced-based information for policy alteration; strengthening further research on integrated farming system; utilizing renewable energy; and enhancing the research outcome for stakeholders.

During the IRC meeting, the progress of ongoing and completed research projects was reviewed. The IRC also approved new research proposals. On last day of the IRC meeting, various issues related to accounts and administration were taken up with the accounts and administration officials. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Kaul to the chair and members of IRC.