

## ICAR-CAZRI bags three Prestigious National Awards for its contribution in arid farming

ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur has bagged three most prestigious National awards. The awards were declared and given by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on its 92<sup>nd</sup> Foundation day and Award Ceremony that was graced by Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare Sh. Narendra Tomar and Hon'ble State Ministers Sh. Parshottam Rupala and Sh. Kailash Chaudhary on 16 July, 2020.

The prestigious awards included Vasant Rao Naik Award for Research Application in Agriculture in Dryland Farming System for the team having Dr. S.P.S. Tanwar, Dr. Akath Singh, Dr. M. Patidar, Dr. B.K. Mathur and Dr. Praveen Kumar. They have worked to develop location-specific rainfed integrated farming system models to achieve higher levels of sustenance and livelihood security in water scarce arid Western Rajasthan. Crop and varietal diversification, intercropping, rejuvenation of senile agri-horti systems, silvi-pasture systems and low-cost nutrient supplementary feeding technologies have been standardized, demonstrated and upscaled. The integration of these technologies transformed the farms of poor farmers to integrated farming systems. It has ensured year round employment to farm family, availability of fodder to livestock and 2-3 times higher and sustainable income. The systems also helped in mitigation of climate change through sequestration of carbon in soil and perennial component on the farm. The award includes a cash prize of Rs. 1 Lakh and citation.



The high-status Fakruddin Ali Ahmed Award for outstanding Research in Tribal farming systems was conferred to Dr. A. Saxena, Dr. M.S. Raghuvanshi and Dr. S.K. Chouhan for their work undertaken at Regional Research Station, Leh. The team has focused on improving livelihood of these people through

scientific interventions, transferring of modern and socially acceptable technologies for enhanced productivity and widening the basket of food crops. Farmers were trained on new and improved farming practices of cereal and fodder crops, benefits of crop diversification, quality fruit production and plant protection measures. Awareness camps for orchard management, sanitation, animal health, community seed bank was conducted. The award includes cash Prize of Rupees one lakh and citation.

CAZRI Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pali got Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay *Krishi Vigyan Rashtriya Puruskar* for its outstanding contribution in improving the income of farmers through upscaling of improved salt tolerant crop varieties, round-the-year fodder production technologies, recognition of local varieties by farming communities including the world famous Karchia Local Wheat, popularization of drip methods of irrigation to save water and constantly motivating the farmers for adopting new technologies.