

## Training of *Krishi Mitras* from Jodhpur and Barmer districts organized in Public Public Partnership Mode

Acute shortage in manpower and resources in public agricultural extension system calls for collaborations with external organizations to effectively reach the unreached farming community. Under this initiative, two Trainings of Trainers of two-days duration each on **“Improved Technologies for Enhancing Production and Income in Western Rajasthan”** were organized from 23-24 and 29-30 August, 2017 at CAZRI, Jodhpur. The trainees were 80 *Krishi Mitras* (KM) from Jodhpur and Barmer districts working with MPOWER. Each KM is an innovative farmer/farm woman working as para-extension professional supervising five *Krishi Sakhis* who in turn monitor 30 farmers each. In effect, each KM is responsible for guiding 150 farm families in adoption of improved agricultural technologies.



The training included interactive lecture sessions on use of certified/quality seed for sowing, scientific crop production practices, pest and disease management, rodent control, food processing and value addition.



The field visits to research farms in CAZRI such as arid horticulture, Integrated Farming Systems, organic farming, *Krishi Vigyan Kendra*, indigenous livestock based dairy unit, crop cafeteria, central nursery and baked functional foods/processing laboratory were organized. Dr. O. P. Yadav, Hon'ble Director, in his inaugural address emphasized on the seasonal unemployment in agriculture and added that key to

increase farmers' income lies in providing gainful employment opportunities to farmers throughout the year. The trained KMs would further train *Krishi Sakhis* and farmers in their respective work areas using technology folders provided by CAZRI as resource material. In this process, CAZRI technologies would be reaching to 12000 farm families indirectly through 80 KMs. The collaboration between CAZRI and MPOWER is a fine model of public-public partnership in effectively reaching the unreached farming community. Drs. Pratibha Tewari, B. L. Manjunatha and Nand Kishore coordinated the trainings.

