

Training Course on Spineless Cactus Cultivation and its Economic Usages



A five-day training program on “Spineless Cactus Cultivation and its Economic Usages” was successfully organized from 17–21 November 2025 at the ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur, in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad and the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, with sponsorship support from NIRDPR. The program included expert lectures on CAZRI’s experience with *Opuntia ficus-indica*, cultivation techniques, nutrient management, value addition approaches, and potential economic opportunities, along with field visits and hands-on demonstrations. Technical sessions were led by resource persons from ICAR-CAZRI, ICARDA, and BAIF Research Foundation. The training witnessed enthusiastic participation from representatives of government and private organizations, NGOs, and progressive farmers. A variety of value-added products prepared from spineless cactus were displayed during the program, and the beverages made from spineless cactus were also served to participants and dignitaries. The



Participants at Spineless Cactus (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) CAZRI farm



Display of products made from Spineless Cactus (*Opuntia ficus-indica*)

training was successfully coordinated by Dr. R. N. Kumawat and Dr. Dipika Hajong.