Application Form ICAR sponsored winter school on 'Advances and Innovations in Organic and Natural Farming Systems for Sustainable Agriculture in Arid and Semi-arid Regions'

(24 February-16 March, 2026)

1. Full Name (in block letter):
2. Designation:
3. Present Employer and Address:
4. Address for correspondence:
5. E-mail :
6. Telephone Number (Mobile):
7. Date of Birth:
8. Gender (Male/Female):
9. Highest educational Qualifications:
10. Discipline:
11. Participation in Training programmes (Details) during past four years:

12. D.D/Indian postal order No. ……. Dated…….of Rs.50/- (fifty only) in favor of Director, ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur, Payable at Jodhpur, Rajasthan towards registration fee (Non-refundable) must be enclosed.

Signature of the Applicant with date

Recommendations of the forwarding Institute

Signature of the forwarding Authority with Seal and Date

CERTIFICATE

It is certified that information furnished above is correct. Traveling allowances will be paid /will not be paid by this office.

Signature of the sponsoring Authority with Seal and Date

NOMINATIONS

Interested personnel fulfilling the eligibility conditions may apply through proper channel (Filling the application in the given FORMAT). The participants will be paid for the journey, to and fro, restricted to AC-II train fare (Except Rajdhani and Shatabdi) or bus or any other means of transport in vogue, as the case may be. Tickets purchased through Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited (BLCL), M/s Ashok Travels & Tours, IRCTC will be restricted to AC-II tier train fare and flight tickets from others will not be entertained. Free boarding and lodging will be provided to the participants during the training programme.

Number of Participants: **25**

Last Date for Receipt of Applications: 20 Jan 2026

Information to Selected Candidates: 25 Jan 2026

Please send the Application form duly filled to Email: *nandagro09@gmail.com*

nand.jat@icar.org.in

COURSE DIRECTOR

Dr. N. K. Jat

Senior Scientist (Agronomy)

ICAR–Central Arid Zone Research Institute

Jodhpur – 342003, Rajasthan, India

Email: nandagro09@gmail.com

Contact number:8769246157

CO–COURSE DIRECTORS

Dr. Dheeraj Singh

Head & Principal Scientist (Horticulture)

Division of Integrated Farming Systems,

ICAR–Central Arid Zone Research Institute

Jodhpur – 342003, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Anandkumar Naorem

Scientist (Soil Science)

Division of Integrated Farming Systems,

ICAR–Central Arid Zone Research Institute

Jodhpur – 342003, Rajasthan, India

ICAR Sponsored

Winter school

on

"Advances and Innovations in Organic and Natural Farming Systems for Sustainable Agriculture in Arid and Semi-arid Regions"

24 February-16 March, 2026

Sponsoring Authority:

Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Course Director:

Dr. N.K. Jat

Co-course Directors:

Dr. Dheeraj Singh

Dr. Anandkumar Naorem

ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, CAZRI Road, Jodhpur - 342 003 (Rajasthan)

ABOUT THE WINTER SCHOOL

Organic and natural farming have gained tremendous momentum in recent years, but the challenges of arid and semi-arid regions demand specialised knowledge and context-specific strategies. This winter school brings together scientists and educators who want to strengthen their understanding of these ecological and nature positive approaches to farming in arid regions.

The programme blends classroom sessions, field demonstrations, farmer interactions, practical exercises, and field visits to offer a well-rounded learning experience. It aims to capacity building in universities and ICAR institutes working on sustainable agriculture.

THEME AND RATIONALE

Agriculture in arid and semi-arid regions faces pressure from water scarcity, low soil organic matter, climate variability, and input-intensive farming practices. Organic and natural farming systems offer pathways to revitalize soil life, recycle resources, and strengthen resilience while lowering costs.

This winter school focuses on innovations that help researchers and educators guide farmers toward ecologically sound production systems suited for arid landscapes.

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Strengthen understanding of organic and natural farming principles in arid agriculture
- ❖ Demonstrate practical methods for restoring soil health and nutrient cycling
- ❖ Build capacity in ecological pest and disease management
- ❖ Familiarise participants with certification, value chains, and market opportunities
- ❖ Provide hands-on training through practical sessions and farmer-led innovations
- ❖ Encourage interdisciplinary learning for climate-resilient agricultural systems

ELIGIBILITY

- Master Degree in Agronomy, Soil Science, Extension Education, Horticulture, Agri. Microbiology, Entomology, Plant Pathology and Agri. Economics
- Working in a position not below the rank of Scientist/Assistant Professor/Subject Matter Specialist in ICAR Institutes/SAUs.

FACILITIES FOR PARTICIPANTS

ICAR-CAZRI offers a well-equipped environment for hands-on and research-oriented training. The campus includes laboratories, research fields, a certified organic farm, conference halls, a well-stocked library, and comfortable guest house accommodation. These facilities allow participants to engage in practical demonstrations, discussions, and participotry learning.

ABOUT CAZRI

The Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur has been a leading center for arid agricultural research for decades. The institute runs long-term programmes on organic and natural farming and maintains dedicated experimental plots and certified organic fields. CAZRI's work includes developing organic practices for arid crops like sesame and mung bean, assessing sustainability metrics, and supporting natural farming initiatives across western Rajasthan.

KEY THEMES

- Transition Pathways: From Conventional to Natural Farming
- Systems Approach to Organic and Natural Farming in Arid Zones
- Soil as a Living System
- Circular Nutrient Cycles and Bio-Resource Management
- Farmers' Perceptions and Adoption Drivers
- Enhancing Soil Carbon Stocks
- Low-Input Strategies for Soil Fertility
- Marketing Channels and Value Chains
- Policy Framework and Global Trends in Organic Agriculture
- Ecological Engineering for Pest Management
- Nature-Positive Farming for Pollinators and Insects
- Climate Resilience through Organic and Natural Farming
- Natural Mineral Amendments for Soil Health
- Integrated Farming Systems for Resource Efficiency
- Disease Management in Organic Systems
- Seed and Soil-Borne Diseases: Risks and Solutions
- Livestock Integration in Organic Models
- Managing Saline and Sodic Soils
- Participatory Breeding and Seed Sovereignty
- Organic and Natural Farming in Horticultural Crops
- Agroforestry for Climate-Resilient Farms
- Nutrient Budgeting and Crop Planning
- Organic Certification Processes
- Farm Mechanization for Organic Systems
- Mycorrhizal Fungi for Nutrient Uptake and Drought Resilience
- Nature-Positive Farming Systems: Principles and Types
- Farmers' Cooperatives and FPOs in Organic Value Chains
- Value Addition and Branding of Organic Produce
- Beneficial Microbes in Soil Fertility and Disease Suppression
- Economics and Viability of Organic and Natural Enterprises
- Biochemical and Nutritional Quality of Organic Produce
- Participatory Approaches and Social Mobilization
- Innovations in Fodder Production under Organic Systems
- Organic Vegetable Production in Arid Regions
- PGPR Applications and Bioformulation Preparation
- Agroecology for Arid Horticultural Crops
- Protected Cultivation for High-Value Organic Crops
- Household-Level Processing and Preservation
- Economics of Organic and Natural Farming Systems
- Evaluation and Valedictory Sessions

Practical Sessions