

Sh. Kailash Choudhary, MoS, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Govt of India) addresses farmers at ICAR-CAZRI in Farmer-Scientist-Interaction

Sh. Kailsah Choudhary, MoS, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare addressed farmers participating in the Farmer-Scientist Sangoshthi held at Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur on 15.02.2020. The Minister called upon farmers to fully utilize technological intervention and various Govt. schemes to maximize their production. He said that due to rising cost of cultivation and limited access to markets, agriculture is challenging especially for small and marginal farmers. That is why Govt. of India is giving top priority to agriculture with aim of doubling the income of farmers by 2022. The Govt has targets of creating over 10,000 Farmers Producing Organizations (FPOs) to make agriculture more remunerative and income generating. He appealed the farmers of arid regions to form FPOs to market their produce or promote value addition or create commodity based agri-value chain that can greatly help in making agriculture a profitable proposition. He felt the need for making agriculture more economically viable for attracting youth to take agriculture as a profession.

The Sangoshthi was addressed by Dr. J.S. Sandhu, Vice Chancellor, SKN University, Jobner and Dr. B.R. Choudhary, Vice Chancellor, Agricultural University, Jodhpur. In the beginning Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director, ICAR–CAZRI welcomed the guests and highlighted significant accomplishments of the Institute.



Earlier the Minister interacted with scientists during his visit of various field trials, especially on protected cultivation, fodder beet production, row sowing of cumin, Dairy unit and horticulture. He expressed great satisfaction for the efforts of CAZRI in developing and popularizing number of fruit varieties. The Minister appreciated the innovative idea of establishing 'crop cafeteria' meant to demonstrate to farmer's the comparative performance of different varieties of rabi crops and hoped that farmers would be benefitted immensely by seeing the crop husbandry practices. Sh. Choudhary also initiated Mother Block of budded *Prosopis cineraria* (Khejri) saplings in Institute Central Nursery. Minister along with other dignitary also planted date palm in the horticulture block. Around 1000 farmers from western Rajasthan visiting the Institute were exposed to various field depicting various uniformed cultivation methods of crops and management practices of livestock. During the Goshthi, their problems related to agriculture and animal husbandry were also addressed by the scientists.