

Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Kailash Choudhary visited CAZRI and launched pearl millet two new products

The Minister of State (MoS) for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Shri Kailash Choudhary visited the ICAR- Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur on August 12, 2019 and assessed ongoing research activities in the Institute. He stressed upon doubling the farmers income by 2022 for which he advised the scientific community to develop low water requiring and early maturing crops. Shri Choudhary advised to grow high-value crops using harvested rainwater with solar pumps. Shri Choudhary took keen interest in institute's ongoing research and appreciated institutes efforts in developing sustainable and economic models for crop-livestock farming for adverse and diverse conditions. Shri Choudhary also launched institute's recently developed value-added pearl millet products of cookies and chocolates. More than 500 plants of Rohida (*Tecomella undulata*) were also planted during his visit.



Shri Choudhary also interacted with the Directors of ICAR institutes based in Rajasthan: Dr. PL Saroj of CIAH, Bikaner; Dr. Gopal Lal of NRCSS, Ajmer; Dr. RK Sawal of NRCC, Bikaner, Dr. PK Rai of DRMR, Bharatpur and Dr. A Sahoo of CSWRI, Avikanagar who apprised Honable minister about the work being undertaken by different institutes.

Earlier Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director, CAZRI, welcomed the Minister. Dr. Yadav in his welcome address said that the farmers of arid region grow under challenging conditions of uncertain and very low rain, high temperature, low soil fertility and other limited resources. The use of modern technology along with traditional farming can increase the income of farmers. For this, it is necessary that the farmer should diversify and adopt modern agricultural practices.