

Road map for increasing pearl millet productivity in drought/prone arid north-west plains

A brain-storming session was held on research priorities, partnerships and policies for increasing productivity of pearl millet in A₁ zone on 18th June, 2016 at Jodhpur and it was jointly organized by AICRP on Pearl Millet and CAZRI, Jodhpur. More than 80 stakeholders from the state department of agriculture, state agriculture universities, ICAR institutes and ICRISAT with experience and expertise in research, seed production and policies participated in the deliberations. Dr. J.S. Sandhu, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), ICAR emphasized that pearl millet is a very important crop in north-western parts including states of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana where this crop is playing important role in providing food and fodder security and there is need to put this zone as a high priority zone for carrying out further research and development.



Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director, CAZRI emphasized greater and rigorous testing of material in the target environment and also highlighted the importance of the strengthening of breeding programme for developing drought-tolerant varieties. Dr. Balraj Singh, Vice Chancellor, Agriculture University, Jodhpur mentioned that there is need to establish more AICRP research centres of pearl millet in Rajasthan and also shared the experience of multiplying seed of pearl millet hybrid MPMH17 at Jodhpur during summer season. Dr. K.N. Rai, Former Director of Harvest Plus at ICRISAT commented that success of pearl millet has been greater in northern and peninsular parts of country than north-western part, primarily due to adverse climatic conditions and limited choice of cultivars for this region. Dr. V. Tonapi, Director, IIMR, Hyderabad also shared his experience on the value-addition of work done in pearl millet and other crops. The road map should including mapping of A₁ zone according to availability of the resources, upscaling and out scaling of existing agro-techniques and enhancing seed production and marketing through various public and private sector agencies for enhancing pearl millet productivity and stability in the zone. Dr. Omvir Singh, Project Coordinator (Acting) presented current scenario of pearl millet cultivation and also proposed vote of thanks.