

ICAR-CAZRI Celebrated “World Day to Combat Desertification”

The event was organized by ENVIS Centre on Desertification, ICAR-CAZRI and was presided by Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director of the Institute. The World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) is observed every year on 17 June to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. On this occasion Dr. P.C. Moharana, Principal Scientist was the guest speaker and delivered lecture on “Understanding SDS (Sand and Dust Storms) through satellite images for desertification Studies”. SDS is one of the major areas of assessment and activity recognized and identified even by COP (Conference of Parties) under UNCCD. As per UNCCD fact sheets, some 151 UNCCD country Parties (or 77 per cent) are affected directly by SDS and 45 country Parties (or 23 per cent) are classified as SDS source areas. Unsustainable use of agricultural land, deforestation, overgrazing, high latitudes, depletion of water sources and industrial activities are factors that increase vulnerability to SDS. Dr. Moharana said that evaluation of sand as constituent of soil in arid

part of Rajasthan depends upon proper assessment of landforms which are polygenic as evidenced by geomorphic processes of Aeolian, fluvial, lacustrine and tectonic types. Soils formed under that process depict varied physic-chemical properties and impact of long years of



weathering, followed by impact of temperature, rainfall. Dusts and dust storms are frequently occurring meteorological events in western Rajasthan. Institute’s technological interventions, improvement in annual rainfall conditions and people’s innovative and alternate farming systems have resulted in de-desertification of about 10% area of Rajasthan over a period from 2003-05 to 2015-16. Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director of the institute said that Thar desert is one of most populous deserts of the world. ICAR-CAZRI maintains its identity at the international level for the prevention of desertification. He said that according to the ISRO data, desertification has been controlled in Rajasthan and the desert area is also been reduced. Earlier Dr. J.P. Singh, Co-ordinator of ENVIS on his welcome address elaborated the importance of 17 June as World Day to Combat Desertification.