

Dr. P.V. Vara Prasad, Kansas State University, Kansas, USA visits ICAR-CAZRI

Dr. P.V. Vara Prasad, University Distinguished Professor and Director of Feed the Future Climate Resilient Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab at Kansas State University, USA visited ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur on 15 October, 2024. Dr. Vara Prasad was welcomed by Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director of the institute. He visited the experimental field area of the institute that included Integrated Farming Cafeteria, Low-cost Polyhouses having cultivation of cucumber, tomato and high-value vegetables in hydroponic and aeroponic units with fully automated input-delivery system. He also appreciated the work done on systems of integrated farming and new innovations in arid horticulture (having orchards of fig and dragon fruit, etc), alternate fodder resources like spineless cactus, moringa, and napier grass and crops breeding. Dr. Prasad planted a sapling also.



On this occasion, Dr. P.V. Vara Prasad delivered an insightful lecture on "Millets for Food Nutrition, Health, and Climate Security, and the Need for Climate-Resilient Sustainable Intensification". Dr. Prasad highlighted the critical role millets in addressing global challenges of food security and climate change. He emphasized that millets, being highly resilient to harsh climatic conditions, are well-suited for arid and semi-arid regions. In addition to their climate resilience, millets are nutrient-dense and can play a key role in combating malnutrition. Dr. Prasad advocated for integrating millets into mainstream agriculture and global food systems to promote food security while mitigating impending climate risks. He also underlined the concept of Boarder One Health, Sustainable Agricultural Intensification, and Circular Bio-economy which aim to increase agricultural productivity without compromising environmental sustainability.



Dr. Archana Verma, Senior Scientist & Member of HRD welcomed the participants in the interactive session and Dr. Surendra Poonia, Principal Scientist & Chairman, HRD introduced the coveted speaker. Dr. N.K. Jat, Member, HRD proposed a vote of thanks