

Minister of State of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Advocates Composting for Recycling of Farm Waste under Swachh Bharat Mission

Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of State of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare took part in the "Swachhta Hi Sewa" under Campaign of the Swachh Bharat Mission at the ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur on 17 September 2017. In his address to the institute staff, he urged all to fulfil the dream of Prime Minister by keeping nation clean. At this occasion, a Unit to Recycle Biomass was set into motion by the Honable Minister at CAZRI campus. He emphasized recycling of agricultural waste for use at the farm itself since the agricultural activities generate large amounts of biomass as crop residues and tree leaves. While most crop residues are used as animal fodder, some of the crop residues, weeds and tree leaves are often left in the field which are then blown away by wind. This biomass contains about 50% C and 0.5 to 1% N which, after composting, can be a very good sources of plant nutrients. Technically, composting is the biological decomposition of plant residues and farm animal manures under controlled conditions. Once these materials are completely decayed to a dark, and crumbly form, the material which is called compost. The composting pit has been dug under a semi-shaded area of nursery. To prepare the compost, a 6 inches thick layer of brown material (dried leaves, straws, stalks and other dried plant residues) that are rich in carbon is spread on the bottom of the pit followed by a layer of green materials that are rich in nitrogen (freshly cut grasses, twigs, branches and barks that are cut into small pieces). A mixture of animal manure, soil, and ash of 6 inch thickness is then spread over it. This, process is repeated till the pile reaches the height of 3 feet. Water is added as and when required to keep the contents moist. The materials in the pit are turned after two months and the compost gets ready to use in about six months. The final chemical composition of compost depends on the raw materials used but it normally contains about 0.4 to 0.7% nitrogen and 0.01 to 0.02% phosphorous.



Earlier, Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director of the institute welcomed the MOS. All the employees of CAZRI took part in the Campaign very enthusiastically and all the places nearby the office buildings were cleaned.