

Foundation Day of CAZRI Celebrated: Dr. Gurbachan Singh calls for development of contingency plans integrated farming systems to cope with weather-related aberrations

ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) celebrated its 58th Foundation day on 1st October, 2016. On this occasion, Foundation Day lecture on “Climate resilient agriculture: A way forward” was delivered by Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi and Chief Guest of the event. He emphasized the need for development of contingency plans to cope with weather-related aberrations and development of integrated farming system models for integrating crops, farming, livestock, fisheries, horticulture, vermi-composting, etc. to reduce the risk and assure sustainable livelihood and higher income in arid regions. He also praised the farming community of arid western Rajasthan for developing climate resilient agricultural and livestock management practices at local level. He congratulated all scientists and staff of CAZRI and appreciated the research and extension efforts of the institute for addressing issues related to environment, agriculture, forestry, horticulture, solar energy etc. Dr. Gurbachan Singh and other dignitaries visited ‘Crop Cafeteria’ having 90 improved cultivars of major crops of region and other ongoing field experiments of institute.



Dr K.P.R. Vittal, Ex-Director, CAZRI, Jodhpur and NIASM, Baramati was the Guest of Honour. He appreciated the role of CAZRI in service of farm community in one of most difficult ecosystems of across world.

Earlier, Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director, CAZRI welcomed the guests and the participants, and presented summary of highlights and new initiatives taken by institute during last one year. He placed on record recent notable contributions of institute in commercialization of nano-fertilizers, improvement in cluster bean and pearl millet, seed production of pulses, development of wind tunnel facility for simulation studies of wind erosion process over sanddune surfaces and devise its control strategies. The efforts of CAZRI KVK, Pali in facilitating Kharchi Gram Panchayat for conservation of *Kharchiya* wheat variety which was recently awarded Plant Genome Saviour Community Award of Rs. 10 lakhs by PPV& FRA, New Delhi, were also appreciated. On this occasion, ten staff members (Roop Singh, Dharmendra Bohra, Amit Kumar Singh, Girdhari Ram, Fateh Singh, Manohar Singh, Puna Ram, Jasraj, Basanti) were facilitated for their outstanding contribution. Two bulletins viz. ‘Wind erosion and its control in western Rajasthan’ and ‘Guar production, utilization and marketing: Current scenario and future prospects’; and two CDs on endangered medicinal plants of western Rajasthan – ‘*Peepli Thor*’, and ‘*Lupta praai Ceropegia kaa sarankshan avam samvardhan*’

The event was also graced by Dr. Balraj Singh, Vice Chancellor, Agriculture University, Jodhpur; Dr. R.P. Dhir, Former Director, CAZRI; several retired scientists and other staff of the institute. Dr. R.K. Bhatt, Organizing Secretary of the event proposed the vote of thanks.