

DG, ICAR Inaugurated Plant Hardening Facilities at Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur

Dr. T. Mohapatra, Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR inaugurated Plant Hardening Facilities at the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur on 13 September, 2016. This facility will be utilized for hardening the plants raised through tissue culture and growing of plants during offseason. With the establishment of this facility, current annual capacity of supplying 60,000 plants by the Central Nursery of institute would be further strengthened and delivery of quality planting material to farmers would be enhanced.

Dr. Mohapatra also visited field experiments and laboratories of the institute. He was accompanied by S.K. Singh (Addl Secretary, DARE and Financial Advisor, ICAR), Dr. K. Alagusundaram DDG (Agril Engineering and NRM), Dr. J.S. Sandhu, DDG (Crop Sciences), Dr. A.K. Singh, DDG (Agri. Ext. & Horticulture Sciences), Dr. J.K. Jena, DDG (fisheries), ADG's at ICAR HQ and Directors of ICAR Institutes. Three members of ICAR Governing Body viz., Sh. S.K. Bhargava, Sh. R.P. Singh and Sh. Suresh Chandel were also present.



The team's visit started from ATIC where they were briefed about different technologies of institute that are directly being transferred to farmers. DG and other dignitaries took keen interest in the improved germplasm of arid grasses being maintained at the institute. The model of integrated farming system, organic farming, round-the-year fodder cultivation using water harvested from roof top, solar gadgets, dairy unit of Tharparkar breed of cattle, desert botanical garden and arid horticulture block generated keen interest of all members of team. DG and others were extremely appreciative of the efforts on seed production of mungbean and mothbean under 'Seed-Hub Project of Pulses' and of induction of gum from various trees. Dr. Mohapatra showed satisfaction on the performance of recently developed variety of Karonda and tissue-cultured date palm orchard. Director General also visited NanoTechnology and GIS laboratories and released 'Tagline of Institute'.

Dr. Mohapatra addressed institute staff and emphasized to enhance the efforts to intensify on-going research on various issues related to arid zone ecosystem and to supplement the efforts to deliver the technology to farmers.