

**“Inauguration cum Awareness Workshop” for partner farmers at  
Popavas Panchayat on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

ICAR-CAZRI organized an “Inauguration cum Awareness Workshop” at Popavas on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017, in which more than 270 partner farmers participated from four villages viz., Popavas, Gantiyala, Sirodi & Rajwa under Popavas Panchayat, Mandor block of Jodhpur district. Dr. O.P.Yadav, Director, CAZRI inaugurated the workshop and addressed the partners farmers to grow short duration & early maturing varieties like HSB – 67, GM- 4, IPM 2-3 & CAZRI Moth – 2 for avoidance of known terminal drought periods during the cropping season. He also emphasized the farmers the importance of diversification and to integrate agriculture, horticulture with animal husbandry to minimize risk in arid lands. Dr. P. Rohilla, Acting Director & Member Secretary of the FFP from ATARI explained the formulation, implementation and monitoring aspects of the project.

Dr. A.K. Mishra stressed the importance of balanced feed blocks in livestock management. Dr. C.B. Pandey explained the ways and means to do the soil testing. Dr. Praveen kumar highlighted the significance of orchard establishment in arid farming systems for sustainable agriculture. Dr. Dilip Jain underlined the need of using solar energy to keep the environment clean and green. Dr. R.S.Tripathi focused on the ways and means to control rodents. Dr. K.S.Jadon emphasized the farmers to grow registered and improved HYV varieties. Dr. Vijay Avinashilingam, N.A. coordinated the programme and illustrated about the Farmers FIRST project and urged the farmers to join the project in more numbers to reap the benefits. The farmers also shown keen interest and their participation were commendable by providing useful tips for execution of project ensures us that the project will become a success.

An exhibition was also arranged during this occasion to display arid technologies in the form of posters were well appreciated by the participants. Dr. Nand Kishore Jat, who anchored the programme conducted a quiz for the farmers active participation. Prizes were given to winning participants by the chief guest. The meeting was ended with the vote of thanks to chair by Dr. Pratiba Tewari. This programme was organized under Farmers FIRST Project (FFP).

