

CAZRI bags Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution Award – 2017 for Large Institution Category

ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur has been conferred upon the prestigious “Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution Award” for the year 2017 for the Large Institute Category. The award having Plaque, citation and certificate was given by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & DG (ICAR) in a function organized at the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Pusa, New Delhi. Dr. Praveen Kumar, Head of the Division received the Prestigious Award on the behalf of the Institute. Dr. Mohapatra said that ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur is a unique and premier Institute of the world, conducting multi-disciplinary research to seek solutions to the problems of arid region occupying about 12% geographical area of the country. The institute has dedicatedly worked on enhancing sustainability and livelihood security of farming community by undertaking a wide spectrum of research and development activities in an integrated manner under fragile conditions of natural resources.



The Institute has designed and developed first model of agri-photo-voltaic system (AVS) in the country in which electricity generation, crop production and rainwater harvesting are undertaken from a single land unit in order to enhance the land productivity. New varieties of grasses and horticultural crops with higher productivity potential have been developed to provide a greater choice to farmers and to achieve higher income and greater resilience to climatic stresses. Many halophytes have been examined to understand the mechanism of salt tolerance and to serve as additional sources of fodder under saline conditions. Thematic maps, based on 7500 geo-referenced soil samples have been prepared. Institute has also obtained patents and developed new package of practices that are being up-scaled by various State governments for the benefits of farmers. Additional avenues of income like gum induction from existing trees at farmers’ fields, utilization of pods of invasive *Prosopis juliflora* in development of animal feed blocks have been improved the livelihood of large number of farmers in arid regions.



The institute has won this recognition in the Diamond Jubilee Year of its establishment that makes this award very special to the institute. The contributions of CAZRI in the sand-dune stabilization, shelterbelt plantation, development of integrated farming systems, novel techniques in water harvesting, conservation of genetic resources of the region, livestock management, arid horticulture, development of new crops cultivars for drought-prone areas are globally recognized.



Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director addressed the staff of institute to thank and acknowledge them for their dedicated contribution to bring the laurels to the institute. He further admitted that such recognition is an outcome of efforts of all past and present employees of institute.