

### **Kisan Mela and Agriculture Innovations Day organized at CAZRI, Jodhpur**

ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur organized Kisan Mela and Agriculture Innovation Day on September 21, 2016 in which more than 2000 farmers including 700 women farmers from Jodhpur, Pali, Sirohi, Barmer, Jalore, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Nagaur districts of Rajasthan participated. On this occasion, Chief Guest Sh. G.S. Shekhawat, Member of Parliament who was the Chief Guest, stressed upon adoption of new technologies developed by CAZRI and elsewhere to improve agricultural productivity, enhance income and to bring resilience in agriculture in the backdrop of climate change so that effects of adverse weather, so common in western Rajasthan, can be minimized. He highlighted that ICAR has done a commendable job of providing food security to a billionPlus people and has transformed India from a net importer to exporter of food grains. CAZRI Krishi App was launched on the occasion by the Chief Guest.



Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director, CAZRI highlighted the activities undertaken by the Institute and briefed about demonstration of various technologies at Institute farm including new varieties of mungbean, mothbean, clusterbean, til and pearl millet; water harvesting and its recycling for fodder production; models of several farming systems, solar gadgets for agricultural operations, improved management of livestock etc. for the benefit of farming community. He categorically mentioned that promotion of water efficient crops and modern methods irrigation are must to sustain the agricultural growth in the region. Dr. Balraj Singh, Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University, Jodhpur appreciated the remarkable efforts of the institute in the seed production of pulses.

Sh. Kailash Bhansali, MLA, Jodhpur; Dr. S.M.K. Naqvi, Director, CSWRI, Avikanagar; Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, ATARI, Jodhpur; and Sh. J.P.S. Bindra, Chief General Manager, NABARD also expressed their views on this occasion.

Ten farmers (Vimla Siyag, Lalit Deora, Sattaram, Mohan Ram Saran, Jairam, Om Giri, Goverdhan Ram, Jetha Ram, Jethu Singh and Deda Ram) were adjudged as CAZRI *Kisan Mitra* in recognition of their significant contribution in adoption and upscaling of agricultural technologies to different farmers in the region. Farmers producing best crops of pearl millet, mungbean, mothbean, clusterbean, til, bottlegourd and roundgourd were also awarded. A *Kisan Goshthi* was organized in which more than 100 farmers' queries were answered by scientists. Registration of 1000 farmers was also done at M-Kisan portal. Fifty exhibitions showcasing agricultural technologies suitable for drier regions were also arranged.

Earlier, Dr. Pratibha Tiwari, Convener of the Farmer's Fair, briefed about the activities of the event and Dr. Dheeraj Singh, Coordinator of KVK, Pali proposed the vote of thanks.