

Workshop on “Pomegranate for Diversified Farming” organized

Pomegranate is gaining momentum as commercial fruit crop in Barmer and other districts of western Rajasthan. Its spread so far, has largely been market driven. However, now, there is a growing need to address some specific issues like site specific input management, strategic approaches for production of export quality fruit, effective management of nematode & rodent, value addition of poor quality fruits to make production and spread of pomegranate sustainable. In view of that ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur organized a workshop on “Pomegranate for Diversified Farming” at village Budiwara (Balotra) Barmer on 27 December 2016. The workshop was partly funded by ICAR-ICARDA project. The workshop was organized into two technical sessions, a field visit and farmer- scientist interactions. Different aspects related to current status & future roadmap of pomegranate in the region, Government schemes for promoting its cultivation besides other production and management related issues were discussed.



The workshop was attended by more than 200 participants including scientists, farmers, officials from line departments, KVKs, NGOs, SHGs, input suppliers etc. and was inaugurated by Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director. During his inaugural address he advised the farmers to reduce the cost of production of



pomegranate by judicious use of water and other inputs. He also emphasized for diversification in orchards by planting two or more varieties and urged growers to form a co-operative for better pricing of their produce. Soil health card was also distributed to 12 pomegranate farmers. An exhibition showcasing live samples of different varieties of pomegranate to increase farmers’ awareness was very well appreciated by participants. They were also exposed

to various production practices followed by growers during farm visit.