

## Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare interacts with Vice-Chancellors and Directors from Rajasthan and Gujarat

Sh. G.S. Shekhawat, Honourable Union Minister of State (MoS) for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare had a meeting with Vice-Chancellors and Directors from Rajasthan and Gujarat on September 23, 2017 at the ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur. In his address, he highlighted new and greater challenges in Indian agriculture arising out of climate change and mentioned that onus to meet such challenge lies on national agricultural research system. The scale and speed of research needs to be increased in order to meet the growing expectations of farmers from agriculture sector. Minister desired that a detailed roadmap should be prepared to make agriculture sustainable on long-term basis, though the immediate goal remains to double the income of farmers by 2022 through suitable interventions in technology upscaling, reduction of cost in crop production and market reforms.



Those present in the meeting included Dr. Balraj Singh, Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University, Jodhpur; Dr. G.L. Keshwa, Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University, Kota; Dr. P.S. Rathore, Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University, Jobner; Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director, CAZRI, Dr. NV Patil, Director, NRC on Camel; Dr. Gopal Lal, Director, NRC on Seed Spices; Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, ATARI, Jodhpur; Dr. Arun Tomar, Director, CSWRI, Avikanagar; Dr. A.K. Rai, Director, DRMR, Bharatpur; Dr. T Satyavathi, Project Coordinator; and head of regional stations of ICAR institutes located in the states of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Earlier, Dr. O.P. Yadav briefed the uniqueness of agriculture production environments in the states of Rajasthan and Gujarat and various challenges and need of science-based solutions of problems in agriculture.