

## ICAR-CAZRI RRS, Bikaner organised 21-days Winter School

21-days ICAR sponsored Winter School on “Approaches for enhancing the farmer income through integrated farming and crop diversification in arid and semi-arid ecosystem” was organized at the ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Regional Research Station, Bikaner during 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025. In this winter school, 25 scientists/Assistant professors/Subject matter specialist from ICAR institutes and 12 state agricultural universities covering 7 states were participated. The inaugural program was chaired by Dr. Bimlesh Mann, ADG (Education planning and home science), ICAR, New Delhi. She highlighted the various initiatives taken by education division of ICAR for different courses and programmes to update the scientific knowledge of researchers of ICAR institutes, SAUs and extension workers.

During the training programme, 74 lectures including exposure visits of research activities at various ICAR institutes/SAUs/progressive farmers/successful entrepreneurs etc. were conducted. Apart from the host Institute, resource persons from different ICAR institutes located in Bikaner (ICAR-CIAH; ICAR-CSWRI ARC; ICAR-IIPR RRC; ICAR-IIGR RS), SKRAU Bikaner, RAJUVAS Bikaner, PAU Abohar centre, ICAR-NCIPM New Delhi, ICAR-CIRB Hissar, ICAR-NRCSS Ajmer, ICAR-IGFRI Dharwad centre, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institutes, New Delhi delivered the lectures on the advanced topics of Integrated farming systems (IFS), crop diversification strategies, water resource management, alternate land use systems, evaluation & impact assessment techniques etc.

The valedictory programme of the winter school was held on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 with the gracious presence of Dr. K.S. Khokhar, Ex Vice Chancellor, CCSHAU, Hisar as chief guest and Dr. Jagdish Rane, Director ICAR-CIAH, Bikaner as special guest. Dr. K.S. Khokhar highlighted the importance of such training programs in updating the scientific knowledge of researchers at a single platform. He appreciated the contribution of the scientists of Regional Research Station, Bikaner in technology development of this zone and urged the participants to expand the applicable technologies and knowledge gained during winter school in their areas. The special guest Dr. Jagdish Rane, Director CIAH, Bikaner appreciated the work done by CAZRI on water management, soil conservation and stress management through various farming system models and management practices. Dr. N.R. Panwar, Head and Principal Scientist of Regional Research Station, Bikaner briefed on research activities and technologies developed by CAZRI on IFS, crop diversification, soil and water management etc.

The winter school was conducted by Dr. Birbal, Principal Scientist as the course director and Dr. N.R. Panwar, Principal Scientist and Head, Dr. M.L. Soni, Principal Scientist and Dr. R.S. Shekhawat, Scientist as course co-ordinators.

