

Network meeting of hot and cold arid zones organized

(June 12, 2014)

The annual meeting of networks on hot and cold arid zone was organized at Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur during 12-13 June, 2014. The partners in cold arid network included CSKHPKVV-Palampur, HMAARI-Leh and GBPIHED-Almora; partners in hot arid network included TNAU-Coimbatore, MPKV-Rahuri, ANGRAU-Anantpur, MAFSU-Nagpur and UAS-Raichur.

The opening session and technical sessions of meeting were chaired by Dr MM Roy, Director, CAZRI. He emphasised the need for dissemination of technologies of the institute in other arid zones of the country. The potential areas of collaboration in cactus cultivation and solar appliances for agricultural use were highlighted.

Dr Suresh Kumar, Head of Division, CAZRI outlined the purpose of this meeting and the programme structure.



Activities under TSP: 1=Cold arid network; 2&3=Hot arid network

The work under Tribal Support Plan (TSP) has led to seed production of lucerne as new income enhancing activity in Himachal Pradesh. Similarly, better *Pashmina* spinning and weaving intervention led to enhanced livelihood security in Leh region. The introduction of *rabi* cultivation of wheat, french bean and gram with back-up support of irrigation, seeds and fertilizers provided additional employment and enhanced income in Koyna dam back water area of district Satara. Supply of improved fishing nets in this area enhanced size and quantity of fish catch, adding to family income. Training and supply of inputs increased the crop and vegetable production by > 20% in tribal areas of Erode district in Tamil Nadu.

Dr RK Bhatt, Head of Division (III) at CAZRI chaired a Open Forum session for discussions among the participants.

The collaborative work under network programme and TSP in the districts of Leh (Jammu & Kashmir), Lahul & Sipti (Himachal Pradesh); Almora (Uttarakhand) and Satara (Maharashtra) districts were discussed and finalized for 2014.

Earlier, Dr JC Tewari, Coordinator, cold arid network welcomed the participants.

In the end, Dr Praveen Kumar, Coordinator, hot arid network proposed a vote of thanks.

(Source: CAZRI, Jodhpur)