

Farmers' Field Day organized at ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur under UN Environment Protection-GEF project

A Farmers' Field Day was organized at ICAR - Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur under UN Environment Protection-GEF project on 11th March, 2022 for demonstration of Rabi fields in which 43 farmers including 23 farm women from four villages in Chohtan block of Barmer district, Rajasthan participated. The project supervisors of GRAVIS, the NGO partner in the project arranged the visit. At the onset, Dr. Rajwant K. Kalia, PI and Co-ordinator of Hot Arid Region component of the project welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of landraces and native germplasm in agriculture. Dr. R.K. Kakani, Co-PI of the project discussed the problems being faced by farmers in their respective fields during the rabi season and suggested the solutions. Cumin selection CZC-94 (100 days maturity) was appreciated by farmers.

The farmers visited the multiplication blocks of cumin and mustard raised under the UNEP-GEF Project. They also discussed about the desirable characters of the above crops. The farmers showed keen interest in the Rabi Crop Cafeteria and saw the performance of Isabgol, Cumin, Amaranth, Chia, Quinoa and Mustard varieties. Dr. H.R. Mahla, PS and Incharge Crop Cafeteria deliberated about the advanced germplasm and variety material being grown in the Cafeteria. They were very keen to adopt line sowing due to its multiple advantages in crop management and economics.



The farmers visited the poly house where Dr. Pradeep Kumar, Senior Scientist explained about the crops being grown and the cost of installing protected cultivation structures. They were amazed with the performance of tomatoes, capsicum and other crops in the poly house. They also visited the technology park where Dr. Akath Singh, PS elaborated about the precautions to be taken in budded ber, and pomegranate field management. Dr. Dilip Jain, HD-V explained the benefits of solar devices and photo-agrivoltaic system while Dr. S.P.S Tanwar, PS elaborated about the components of Integrated Farming system which can enable a farmer to sustain his livelihood year round by having multiple crop and horticulture components at one place. Farmers appreciated the concept of growing multiple crops like napier grass, fodder beet, chamomile, ber, pomegranate, ashvagandha, aloe vera, etc at one place. The budded Khejri block having four year old plants at flowering stage gained attention and interest of the farmers. Preparation, method of use and benefits of Marusena (Trichoderma) were explained by Dr. Ritu Mawar, PS. The farmers also visited the cattle and sheep pans of the Institute, Azolla unit and also visited the nutrient feed block preparation unit. Dr. Reena, Co-PI presented the vote of thanks.