

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

A Farmers' Field Day was organized at ICAR - Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur under UN Environment Protection-GEF project on 17th Sept, 2021. Farmers from partner villages in Jodhpur (Govindpura and Begriya villages in Osian block), Barmer (Dheerasar, Sujan nagar, Juna and Dhonia villages) and Jaisalmer (Damodara, Dedha and Didhu villages) and districts of Rajasthan participated in the event. The project supervisors of GRAVIS, the NGO partner in the project arranged the visit of the 55 farmers. 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 current low rainfall season at length and suggested the solutions.

The farmers visited the mother trial blocks of mung bean, moth bean, sesame and pearl millet, and the multiplication blocks of mung bean raised under the UNEP-GEF Project. They also discussed about the desirable characters of the above crops. The farmers showed keen interest in the germplasm evaluation trial raised under DBT funded project wherein 400 mung bean and 498 moth bean germplasm lines are being evaluated. Mr. Rajendra Kumar, GRAVIS told about the pathetic situation of crops in rainfed fields of the project due to very meager rains this year.



The farmers also visited the Kharif Crop Cafeteria and saw the pearl millet, guar and mung bean varieties. Dr. H.R. Mahla, PS and Incharge Crop Cafeteria deliberated about the advanced germplasm and variety material being grown in the Cafeteria. The farmers were also very interested in the manual plough and scrappers being used at CAZRI. They told that this plough will be of great help to them for gap filling in tractor sown fields while the scrapper can be used for effective weed management between lines of crops.

The farmers finally visited the cattle and sheep pans at KVK, and the Central nursery for grafted plants of Khejri and ber. Dr. Reena, Co-PI presented the vote of thanks.