

## ICAR institutes organize Technology Exhibition at Krishi and Pasu Mela in Barmer, Rajasthan

ICAR Institutes organized, in the historic Mallinath Krishi and Pasu Mela at Tilwara village of Barmer District, Technology Exhibition during 1-3 April, 2022. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Sh. Narendra Singh Tomar in the presence of Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat; Minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairy Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan and Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Kailash Choudhary. The programme was combined with the 'Meri Policy Mere Haath' of Government of India by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The exhibition having more than 100 stalls erected by the ICAR Institutes, State Agricultural Universities, KVKs, government departments, start-ups, developmental agencies, seed corporations, input suppliers etc. depicted technological display. This included technologies related to field crops, horticultural crops, livestock rearing, vertical farming, hydroponics, aeroponics, drone applications, dairy products and value added items of local crops, fodder-beet, napier grass, agro-voltaic systems, solar power equipments, poly house agriculture, animal feed, azola, seeds of rabi and kharif crops, seeds of grasses attracting the attention of several thousand farmers visiting the Mela and thronging the exhibition.



For the first time, in the historic annual Mallinath cattle fair which is more than 600 years old, agriculture was linked in a three-day exhibition organized for the farmers. Directors and scientists of ICAR research institutions (CAZRI, Jodhpur; CIAH, Bikaner; CSWRI, Avikanagar; NRCC, Bikaner, Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research, Bharatpur; IIMR, Hyderabad; NRC, Equines, Hisar; ATARI, Jodhpur) participated to exhibit their products and technologies.

Addressing the farmers, the Chief Guest, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Agriculture Minister, highlighted Central Government plans to put a greater emphasis on agricultural research and to increase income of farmers. He described the benefit of farmer insurance scheme. Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat elaborated about the interlinking of rivers for the benefits of the farmers. Union Minister of State for Animal Husbandry Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan expressed his concern over the declining camel population and highlighted the role of goat and sheep in drought years of Rajasthan. Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Kailash Chaudhary highlighted the effort of research institutions and farmers of this region which has brought revolutions in agriculture and horticulture in the driest part of the region. He especially mentioned increased cultivation of pomegranate, date palm and fig which are now being marketed in the international markets.

On this occasion, progressive farmers were also recognized for their contribution in up-scaling the institutes' technologies. Earlier, Directors of ICAR institutes welcomed the ministers in the exhibition and briefed them about development and deployment of improved technologies for the dry areas.