

## CAZRI RRS, Leh organizes Need Assessment meeting with Hemis farmers

A meeting was held with the farming community of Hemis village lying within the Martselang Panchayat halka of Leh, under TSP scheme on 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2022. A team from CAZRI Regional Research Station-Leh led by Dr. R.K. Goyal, Principal Scientist & Head included Dr. Mahesh K. Gaur, Principal Scientist, Er. Changchuk Lamo Scientist, Ms. Stanzin Landol, STA, and Mr. Mohd. Raza, STO. Mr. Stanzin Chospel, Executive Councillor (Agriculture) and Nambardar Mr. Stanzin Wangldan, other Panchayat members with around 20 farmers attended the interaction meeting. The team conducted a need assessment based interaction with the farmers.



The main objective of the interaction was to know and identify the various issues related to the agricultural practices and better utilization of available water resources. Dr R.K. Goyal. gave details of the scheme and he sought cooperation from the farmers in making this intervention a successful one. The EC (Agriculture) Mr. Stanzin Chospel put forward his expectation from the team and urged the villagers to express their opinion and problems faced by them in agriculture practices and the kind of scientific interventions needed from the CAZRI team. Ms. Changchuk Lamo explained about the TSP scheme being operated by the CAZRI RRS, Leh and discussed about agri-pastoral scenario, land use pattern, crop rotation, water utilization, etc. in the village. Thereafter, Dr. Gaur initiated an open house discussion in the participatory mode to understand the issues and their possible resolution at the village level or upscaling of their skills through training or such programs. Dr. Noor Mohamed discussed on the need of agroforestry and nurseery plantation. Ms. Landol and Mohd. Raza moderated the entire program. The farmers of the village also briefed about the CAZRI RRS team about the existing agricultural and livestock practices. The farmers also shared their problems related to the agricultural practices like decline in crop productivity, soil salinity, issues related to the existing seed varieties, fruit-drop, etc. It was informed by the farmers that existing production is mainly for sustenance only so improved varieties of seeds and horticultural saplings need to be introduced for better production. They were keen about the introducing new short-duration crop varieties and other fodder crops. The farmer were very happy and assured to work together with the CAZRI RRS for overall agricultural development of the village. It was further noted that the farmers are willing to adopt new practices of agriculture to bring prosperity in a comprehensive manner.