

Director Generals of CGIAR Institutes visit CAZRI, Jodhpur

Director Generals of CGIAR Institutes visited CAZRI. Dr. S Bhaskar, Assistant Director General (ICAR), Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director of Institute and Heads of Divisions of the institute accompanied the visitors. Scientists shared with them the areas of research being addressed at the institute.

Dr Aly Abousabaa, Director General of the International Center for Agriculture Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Dr Martin Kropff, Director General of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Dr Claudia Sadoff, Director General of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) visited CAZRI on 12-13 February, 2019. They were in Jodhpur to participate in the 13th International Conference on Development of Drylands that was hosted by institute with the theme of 'Converting Dryland areas from Grey into Green'.



The dignitaries visited experiments, laboratories and interacted with the scientists of institute on choice of new crops for food, fodder and fruits; scope of protected agriculture and solar farming and

appreciated institute efforts in management of livestock; upscaling of technologies; and ways and means to contain and reduce land degradation and desertification in drylands. They also appreciated the work undertaken by institute using system-based approach taking care of fragile status of natural resources of arid regions and further underlined that work and experience of CAZRI has a great relevance for other parts of world where degradation of land and water resources are key issues.

Dignitaries were impressed to see the live performance of different varieties of cumin, isabgol, safflower, mustard and fenugreek. They appreciated the work being done in solar farming where electricity generation, crop production and water harvesting is being done from a single land unit. The visitors enjoyed the fruits of different varieties of ber.

Mr Aly Abousabaa, DG ICARDA expressed his concern for adverse effects of climate change on drylands leading to vulnerable and unsustainable farming. However, application of combination of traditional knowledge and new technology in dryland farming can have great contributions for enhancing resilience in the context of climate change and other socio-economic considerations.

During discussion Dr Claudia Sadoff, DG, IWMI highlighted the challenges of depleting groundwater, competition among different users of water resources and emphasized the need of technological as well as policy measures to address the issue. She said that with 4°C increase in temperature, drylands of the world will increase by 7% and possibility of drought will be 50% more. Dr Martin Kropff, DG, CIMMYT said that appropriate mechanization can support the sustainable intensification of agri-food system, helping to improve resource (soil, labor, water) use and providing social benefits like increased income, employment, food security, and less drudgery.

Dr Peter Carberry, DG, ICRISAT said that food insecurity is a serious challenge in many parts of Africa and Asia and agricultural research for development is the ultimate solution.

Earlier all DGs had a meeting with Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare had discussed technological and policy interventions to manage the drylands in a sustainable way. In this meeting with Minister Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman of Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) and Dr. Panjab Singh, President, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences also participated.