

Ber Day and Fruits Show Organized at CAZRI

Ber day and Arid Fruit Show was organized at ICAR-CAZRI Jodhpur on 23 January 2018 to create awareness among farmers and to promote cultivation of ber and other arid fruits in western Rajasthan. Mr. Ghanshyam Ojha, Mayor of the Municipal Corporation was the chief guest of the function. Dr. P.L. Saroj (Director, ICAR-CIAH, Bikaner) and Dr. O.P. Pareek (former Director-CIAH) were present as guests of honour. Dignitaries visited agri-voltaic system, experiments on root beet, mustard and cumin. They visited orchards and had a close look in the range of variation of different fruit species in terms of maturity; type, taste and aroma of fruit, the yielding potential etc. Mayor took keen interest in the activities of institute and suggested to use treated water for production of fodder crops.



Dr. P.R. Meghwal welcomed the guests and presented the outline of the programme. Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director in his opening remarks emphasized the role of arid fruits in enhancing the farmers' income. He also stressed upon the need to have growers association for better marketing of the produce. Dr. Saroj in his address, emphasized that farmers should go for selective varieties according to the climatic regions. Dr. Pareek gave an account of historical background of ber in arid region and expressed the satisfaction over the spread of ber in across the country and even in the abroad. At the end, a farmer-Scientist interaction was also held. More than 100 farmers participated in the programme in which about 40 different varieties of ber were displayed in the fruit show. Besides, fruits of pomegranate, aonla, guava, gonda, karonda and their processed products were also displayed. A total of 115 entries of different varieties of different fruits were received from the farmers. The farmers represented Jodhpur, Bikaner, Barmer, Ajmer, Pali and other areas of western Rajasthan. All the entries of farmers were displayed and judged by a panel experts and the best produce was awarded. Farmers were also taken around to the experimental and demonstration areas.