

Dr. S.K. Chaudhari DDG (NRM) visited ICAR-CAZRI RRS and KVK, Bhuj

Dr. S.K. Chaudhari, Deputy Director General (Natural Resource Management) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) visited ICAR-CAZRI Regional Research Station and Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Bhuj during 14-16 January, 2023. During this visit Dr. Chaudhari reviewed the research and development activities of Regional Research Station and Krishi Vigyan Kendra; visited sites of NICRA village, banni grasslands, and farmers' field. He also participated in the Kisan Mela organized at Bhuj by CAZRI RRS and KVK, Bhuj.

Dr. Chaudhari applauded the efforts taken in this harsh environment and stressed on taking up new projects in collaboration with other agencies. He further highlighted that the interventions showcasing the greater productivity leading to higher income of farmers should be demonstrated using cluster approach. While fully appreciating the good growth of agriculture especially horticulture in the Kutch region, he shared that the scientific water management of Kutch farmers is a successful example to emulate in other regions of country. More than 300 farmers participated in the Kisan Mela. Several FPOs, representatives from Department of Horticulture and Handicrafts also participated in the mela. Sh. Manoj Bhai Solanki, ICAR Governing Body Member and President Akshay Kirshi Parivar also graced the occasion.



A team of scientists accompanied Dr. Chaudhari in this visit to Banni grasslands to understand more about the current situation and discussed the efforts being taken up by various agencies like the Forest Department to address the twin problems of invasion of *Prosopis juliflora* and fodder shortage to the livestock owned by 'Maldharis'- the major community of people residing in the Banni area.

Dr. Chaudhari also visited village undertaken under NICRA and interacted with large number of farmers that have been benefited with technological interventions in water harvesting, water management, arid horticulture, post-harvest etc.