

Farmers' Fair and Farm Innovation Day organized at CAZRI, Jodhpur

Farmers' fair and farm innovation day was organized at the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur on September 16, 2019 in which more than 2500 farmers including farm women participated. Sh. Kailash Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, GOI was the Chief Guest of this function. Speaking on this occasion, Hon'ble Minister emphasized on enhancing farmer's income through value-addition of agriculture produce and linking of farmers to market. He stressed upon farmers to be self-reliant by making their own Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) citing examples from Maharashtra. He said the government is making efforts to provide seeds and storage facilities to farmers for helping them in doubling their income. He further said that besides the routine crops, farmers should diversify and grow medicinal plants, fruit crops etc. which fetch good prices to get higher income. Shri Choudhary laid the foundation stone for indoor stadium in the sports complex and visited the research and demonstration plots at the institute. Dr. S.P. Kimothi, ADG who was also present at the occasion encouraged farmers to take full benefit of the latest technologies developed by research institutes, SAUs and KVKs.



Welcoming the guests and farmers, Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director, CAZRI highlighted the activities undertaken by the Institute and briefed about various technologies at Institute farm including new varieties of crops; water harvesting and its recycling for fodder production; models of several farming systems; solar gadgets for agricultural operations, improved management of livestock etc. for the benefit of farming community.

Dr. B.R. Choudhary, Vice-Chancellor, Agriculture University, Jodhpur expressing his views as guest of honour said that farmers should adopt new technologies developed by CAZRI and elsewhere to improve agricultural productivity. Sh. Suresh Chand, Chief General Manager, NABARD also expressed their views on this occasion and apprised about NABARD'S schemes for the benefit of farmers. Prof. M.S. Rathore, Ex-Chairman, JDA applauded the contribution of the Institute in development of arid zone.

Eight farmers were honoured as *CAZRI Kisan Mitras* in recognition of their significant contribution in adoption and dissemination of agricultural technologies developed by CAZRI. Padmashri Shri Jagdish Prasad Pareek a farmer from Sikar was felicitated for his immense contribution to agriculture in this region and he shared his experience with fellow farmers. A CD on the success stories of earlier Kisan Mitras of CAZRI was also released during the program. A Kisan Goshthi was organized in which many queries raised by farmers were answered by the scientists.

Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, ATARI, Jodhpur; Dr. Ishwar Singh, DE; Dr. S.R. Kumar, DR; Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Project Coordinator, AICRP on Pearl Millet, Jodhpur; Dr. Ravindra Kaur, Principal Scientist, IARI, New Delhi, Dr. V.K., Joint Director and large number of other invited dignitaries and employees from State line departments, SAUs along with people from farmers' community graced this occasion. Posters, products, live plants, farm equipments and other material showcasing agricultural technologies were displayed by Govt. and private agencies.

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