

## ICAR-CAZRI Jodhpur celebrates its 65<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day

ICAR-Central arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur celebrated its 65<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on October 1, 2023. Dr. S.K. Chaudhari, Deputy Director General, NRM, ICAR graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, in the presence of former Directors of institutes, Dr. Pratap Narain and Dr K.P.R. Vittal as Guest of Honours. Dr. Praveen Kumar, Director, ICAR-CCARI Goa was Special Guest.

Speaking on this occasion, Dr. Chaudhari DD (NRM) appreciated the phenomenal progress made by CAZRI over the years which was the outcome of consistent efforts by the present and past staff members of the institute. He urged younger generation to carry forward the excellent work accomplished at the activities. Dr Chaudhari underlined the need of integration of livestock in farming systems, use of hybrid energy models encompassing wind and solar and sustainable use of water, soil and biodiversity of the region. On this occasion, Agri-Eco-Tourism Park was opened in the presence of all the guests and staff of institute. The park has more than 30 individual blocks including Know Your Soils, Cacti Garden, Ornamental Block, Sand Dune Stabilization Model, Agroforestry, Herbal/Medicinal Blocks etc.



Dr. Pratap Narain expressed his happiness about the progress of the institute and felt that water conservation and its best utilization still remains the priority research activities of CAZRI. Dr. Vittal was overjoyed with the amazing changes noticeable in the institute in the past few years with the same resources as in the past. He stated that with the inclusion of African countries in the G20, CAZRI's role will be vital considering its expertise in dealing with challenges of arid ecosystems. He emphasized use of biophysical data with modern day technologies in view of rapidly changing environment in arid ecosystem.



Dr. Praveen Kumar appreciated the contribution of CAZRI in dealing with complex issues of arid farming in a comprehensive way that made arid regions more resilient and productive.

Earlier Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director welcomed the guests and presented an overview of achievements in research, developmental and extension activities of the institute that have brought tremendous changes in the lives of farmers.



Dr. R.N. Kumawat, Dr. Archana Verma, Dr. P.C. Moharana, Dr. D.V. Singh, Dr. H.R. Mahla, Sh. Mukesh Gehlot, Dr. Rakesh Pathak, Sh. Virendra Harsh, Dr. Ram Niwas, Sh. Hema Ram, Smt. Jamna Devi were recognized for their contribution. In addition, certificates of 11 technologies developed by the institute were awarded to developer of technologies.

More than 500 retired and presently serving CAZRI employees were present in the function organized at the new Auditorium of the institute. Dr. A.K. Patel, the Convenor of programme proposed vote of thanks.