

Smt. Rajashree Mankame, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Jaipur visited the institute in 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Visit in Rainwater Harvesting and Solar Energy Project

In NABARD-sponsored project on 'Developing a Model for Harvesting Rainwater and Solar Energy to Sustain Arid Agriculture', 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Visit (2024-25) was held on September 27, 2024 under the guidance of Director, Dr. O.P. Yadav, who emphasized on the highly intense rainfall storms received during the monsoon season of the year that had a significant impact on the project activities. In the first part of the program, Smt. Rajashree Mankame, Assistant General Manager (AGM), NABARD, Jaipur visited the project site accompanied with Sh. Manish Manda, District Development Manager (DDM), NABARD, Jodhpur. In the second part, a meeting was held where progress of the project was discussed.

During the field visit, Dr. Priyabrata Santra, Principal Scientist and Head, Division of Natural Resources & Co-PI welcomed AGM and DDM to the research farm of the institute and demonstrated the field activities undertaken in the project. Dr. Deepesh Machiwal, Principal Scientist and PI explained about the important findings and physical achievements of the project. Dr. Hari Mohan Meena, Senior Scientist and Co-PI discussed about the few issues and their probable solutions related to project activities.

Following the field visit, a meeting was held in Meeting Room of Division of Natural Resources, where Dr. Deepesh Machiwal made a presentation on progress of the project. The prepared contour map of the institute's campus was illustrated along with delineated drainage pathways on the map. Details of construction of drainage channels and culverts were also presented. During the presentation, it was emphasized that there exists a 15 m fall in land elevation between the highest and lowest elevation points in the institute's campus. It was further elaborated that an exercise was undertaken at the divisional level where all scientists of the division contributed in conducting an auto level survey that successfully verified the findings of differential GPS survey. Furthermore, details of total allocated budget, release of first grant and updated expenditure were provided. The AGM, NABARD appreciated the work done so far in the project and expressed her pleasure by looking at recorded video clips and pictures showing the constructed drains transmitting large quantities of runoff water from the upper catchment to low elevated lands where recharge pits exist. The DDM, NABARD admired the enthusiasm of the scientists, involved in the project, in the project activities undertaken during rainy season. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to AGM, DDM and project investigators and technical staff.

