

Sh. Gajender Singh Shekhawat, Minister of State for Agriculture appreciates date palm work of CAZRI

Sh. Gajender Singh Shekhawat, Minister of State for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare visited the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur on 18.6.2018. He addressed media personnel on the ensuing live-interaction of Prime Minister with farmers of country on 20 June, 2018. He mentioned that Prime Minister of country would be directly interacting with farmers across India which is a unique and exceptional opportunity to our farmers to share their experience in farming and on the accomplishments and effectiveness of various schemes of government and technologies of research institutes resulting in higher income and progressive change in their lives.



Minister also visited date palm orchard at the Institute and appreciated the efforts of CAZRI in diversification of horticulture in one of the most challenging production system. He was overwhelmed to see the date palm trees full of dates. He. The Minister was impressed by the quality, colour, sweetness and aroma of dates that are currently in 'Doka' stage.



Earlier, Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director of CAZRI briefed the Minister on the scope of date palm cultivation in western Rajasthan. He said variety ADP-1 of date palm developed by the Anand Agricultural University, Anand was introduced in Rajasthan in September, 2014. The tissue-cultured plants that were planted in Jodhpur, Bikaner and Anand have been yielding fruits since last two years and their growth is excellent in Jodhpur. The institute has been working on evaluation of various cultivars of date palm (Halwai, Khadrawy, Medjool, Muscut and three cultivars from ICARDA, Lenban). However, most of the cultivars are late maturing and fruits can't be eaten at 'Doka' stage due to astringency but introduction of ADP-1 has been seen as a landmark in the region. The Minister was also accompanied by staff of institute and persons from Press and Media in his field visit.