

3-Day Skill Development Programme (SDP) on Bajra Nutri-Cookies organized by ICAR - CAZRI Jodhpur

The Skill Development Programme (SDP) on BAJRA NUTRI-COOKIES was organized by ABI, ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur from 25 April to 27 April, 2023 in the context of International year of Millets 2023. In this training programme eight trainees participated from different districts of Rajasthan and Delhi. 3-Day training programme included theory and practical sessions on nutritionally rich *Bajra* based products like *Bajra* cookies. The training programme will provide complete package of information for starting an entrepreneur. Dr. A. K Patel In-Charge, ABIC welcomed the trainees and briefed them about the importance of this training programme.

During the inaugural programme held on 25/4/2023, Dr. A. K Patel, In-Charge, ABI Centre emphasized that the *Bajra* being local crop of Western Rajasthan, the efforts to prepare value added products from bajra is a welcome initiative on CAZRI's part so that its beneficial nutritional effects are made known the general public and which will also empower the farmers of the region economically through proper marketing. During the valedictory programme held on 27/04/2023 the chief guest, Sh. B. C. Sharma, DIGP, RTC – CRPF, Jodhpur, lauded the efforts of CAZRI scientists to provide such trainings in view of entrepreneurship development and relevance in context of IYOM-2023. He said that such an initiative will help Indian millet farmers get decent revenues by capitalizing on their crop getting international recognition but the proactive role must be played by agricultural research institutes by taking measures to help our farmers reap the benefits.

The SDP was conducted by ABI under the expert supervision of Dr. A. K. Patel and Course Coordinator, Dr. (Mrs.) Soma Srivastava. As a feedback of training programme, the trainees expressed confidence in the production and marketing of Bajra products as the positive response of consumers in their products have assured them of reaping good profits.

