

World Soil Day celebrated at ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur

World Soil Day was celebrated on 5th December, 2024 at ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur. The celebration was organized in the Institute with the theme of "Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage," Scientists and staffs from the Institute and about 47 students from Apex Sr. Secondary School participated in the programme. The programme was organized in collaboration with Jodhpur chapter of Indian Society of Soil Science. A visit to 'Know Your Soil' section located in Agri-Eco-Tourism Park of the institute was organized in which Dr. Manoj Parihar, Scientist explained about the profile characteristics of major soil types of arid western India. The processes, functions and sustainable use of soil were also demonstrated through several poster display. Thereafter, a field visit to Agri-Eco-Tourism Park of the institute was arranged for the students in which Dr. Saurabh Swami has provided an overview of various arid vegetation, shrubs and grasses and explained their economical, medicinal and ornamental value to the students. After the field visit, Dr. R S Yadav, welcomed all the participants and briefed about the celebration of 'World Soil Day'. Dr. O P Yadav, Director, ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur graced the occasion as chief guest of the function and highlighted the importance of soil as a source of life, described challenges in arid ecosystem and urged for collective efforts for sustainable management of soil health. Dr. Priyabrata Santra, Head, Division of Natural Resources delivered a lecture on digital approaches of soil care and briefed the technology based solutions in managing resources in earth-atmosphere system and their future scope. After the lecture programme, a field visit was arranged for all the Institute scientists in the experimental block of Division of Natural Resources to understand the soil profile of typical arid zone. At the end of programme, winners of quiz and extempore competition were facilitated by the Director, CAZRI and vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. M. Saritha.

