

Sixtieth Foundation Day of CAZRI Celebrated on 1 October 2018

ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur celebrated its 60th Foundation Day on 1 October 2018. Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India was the Chief Guest. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary DARE and DG ICAR was the Guest of Honour on this occasion. Shri Shekhawat delivered foundation day lecture on 'Future of Indian Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities' in which he briefly highlighted the developments in the field of Indian agriculture from pre-independence era and the role of technologies, policies and farmers' active role in transforming the country from food-deficit situation to food self-sufficiency. He emphasized that it is a great achievement to provide food security to the large population of our country. Nutritional security for all the people would get much higher emphasis in future, simultaneously taking care of the natural resources like land and water. He cautioned that the Indian agriculture is likely to face many challenges like as climate change, over-exploitation of groundwater in several regions, land degradation, declining size of land holdings, imbalanced nutrient use, indiscriminate pesticide use etc. He was optimistic that despite many challenges, the progress will continue with accelerated pace as the government is giving high priority not only to increasing production but also to increase the income of the farmers. Bridging yield gaps, increasing water productivity (per drop more crop), wide coverage of Soil Health Card Scheme for need-based nutrient use and promotion of integrated pest management practices will play a greater role in further accelerating the productivity. Other emerging opportunities that he deliberated upon were organic farming and value addition. He emphasized that value addition to agricultural produce has tremendous potential in India for increasing employment in the rural areas, reducing post-harvest losses and increasing income of the farmers and agri-entrepreneurs.



On this occasion, the Minister inaugurated Seed Processing Unit, Animal Experimental House Unit, Diamond Jubilee Circle, Solar Roof Top System and laid the foundation stone of auditorium. The Minister also gave Dr. K.A. Shankarnarayan award to Dr. A.K. Roy, PC, AICRP on Forage crops and Utilization, IGFRI, Jhansi. Best research paper authors, and Best Worker Awards in different categories were given to Mr. Khet Singh, TO; Mr. Badri Narayan Sharma, TO; Mr. Vasudev Godiyal, Assistant; Mr. Chhittar Singh, SSS; Mrs. Sreedevi Mohanan, Private Secretary; Mr. Virendra Harsh, TO; Mr. Jagdish, T-2; Mr. Bhanwar Singh Jodha, STO; Mr. Anda Ram, SSS; and Mr. Sheruddin Khan. The Minister also released Special Issue of Indian Farming on Arid Agriculture, Coffee Table Book on Journey of CAZRI, Institute Diamond Jubilee Logo; Institute Movie on Enhancing Resilience of Arid Lands.

Dr. Mohapatra, in his address expressed his profound satisfaction on achievements of CAZRI in dealing with one of the most challenging eco-system. He said the institute has done commendable work during last 60 years. He cautioned that great achievements of the past should not bring any complacency; rather institute should clearly set its future priorities to move ahead with a focused approach recognizing the changes that have taken place in arid regions.

Earlier, Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director welcomed the guests and shared the achievements of institute in research, technology generation and human resources development. On this occasion, Dr. Balraj Singh, Vice Chancellor; Dr. N.V. Patil, Director, NRC on Camel; Dr. P.L. Saroj, Director CIAH, Bikaner; Dr. Pratap Narain and Dr. K.P.R. Vittal former Directors of CAZRI; Dr. Manjit Singh, former Director of Directorate of Mushroom Research; Dr. A.K. Bawa, Executive Director, NAAS; SK Singh, Dr. T. Sathyavathi, Project Coordinator; and large number of retired employees of institute along with other invited dignitaries graced this occasion.