

## CAZRI Jodhpur celebrates its 63<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Day on October 1, 2021

The 63rd Foundation day of the Central Arid Zone Research Institute was celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2021. Sh. Kailash Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi was the Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. Abhimanu Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. Sarvpalli Radhakrishnan Rajasthan Ayurved University was the Guest of Honour on this occasion. Sh. Kailash Choudhary in his address congratulated all the staff of the Institute for effectively transferring agricultural technologies not only in Rajasthan but also in Gujarat and difficult areas of Leh Ladakh. He appreciated the significant impact of CAZRI in delivering improved technologies related to natural source conservation and management; in providing seeds of improved varieties of guar, moong and moth and seedlings of Ber, Khejri, Kumbat, Anar, Gunda, Aonla etc and also for introducing high-value new fruit crops to the desert ecosystem. He appealed to the scientists to further strengthen R&D activities to promote income-based agriculture to make farmer self-supporting. Selected scientists and other staff of the institute were given cash awards and appreciation certificates by the Hon'ble minister for their outstanding performance.



The Guest of Honour Prof. Dr. Abhimanu Kumar highlighted the medicinal properties of plants from arid areas. He appreciated the achievements of the Institute and highlighted that the work done by CAZRI on medicinal plants validates relationships of agriculture and Ayurved. Recently superannuated Dr. R.S. Tripathi shared his remembrances and highlighted the achievements of CAZRI. Publications, desertification map of Rajasthan and pearl millet chocolates were formally released by the Chief Guest.

Earlier before formal beginning of the Foundation Day Celebrations all employees paid homage to the departed souls of CAZRI during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. T. Mohapatra, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR and Dr. S.K. Chaudhari, DDG (NRM) also conveyed their best wishes to the institute from headquarter.

Earlier, on the eve of 63<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Day, the foundation lecture was delivered by Dr. Ashok Dalwai, Chief Executive Officer of the National Rainfed Area Authority, New Delhi on “Pastoralism - A Resilient Livelihood System under Desert Ecosystem”. He highlighted that the importance of grasslands in arid zone not only for productivity of livestock but also for providing livelihood and social security to herders.

Earlier, Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director, ICAR-CAZRI welcomed the Chief Guest and other dignitaries. He presented major research achievements of the institute and new initiatives taken in delivery of the improved technologies to farming communities and other stakeholders. He emphasized that CAZRI has added new dimensions to arid areas and this can serve as a model for combating desertification in other countries. He apprised that this year a record seed production of crops ensured timely distribution of quality seeds and quality planting material of horticultural and agro-forestry species to the farmers. Dr. S.K. Singh, Head and the Convener of the Foundation Day Celebration conducted the programme and thanked the guests, dignitaries and all participants.