

Sh. G.S. Shekhawat, Honorable Minister of State released a book “Thar Desert in Retrospect and Prospect”

Honorable Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, Sh. G.S. Shekhawat, released a book “Thar Desert in Retrospect and Prospect” authored by Drs. R.P. Dhir, D.C. Joshi and S. Kathju at the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur. Sh. Shekhawat highlighted that the Thar Desert is the most investigated desert of the world, supports a much higher human and livestock populations per unit area and has much higher vegetation than other deserts across the world. In spite of very fragile resources (low and erratic rainfall, sandy and infertile soils, low organic carbon) and other constraints, a great progress has been made in this difficult ecosystem which serves as an example for other deserts of the world. Afforestation, sand dune stabilization and development of suitable agro-production techniques have made great contributions in bringing in resilience and enhancing livelihood of desert dwellers. Dr. R.P. Dhir shared his experience of working of more than four decades in the arid regions. Dr. A.S. Faroda, former Chairman, ASRB who was also present on this occasion appreciated the efforts of CAZRI and other stakeholders in taming the desert and efforts of authors to summarize this in form of book. Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director of CAZRI introduced the authors and highlighted their contribution to more than 125 participants in the programme.



Earlier, Dr. Praveen Kumar, President of Jodhpur chapter of Indian Society of Soil Science welcome the dignitaries and Dr. P Santra proposed a vote of thanks. The programme was organized by the Jodhpur chapter of the Indian Society of Soil Science.