

Dr. A.S. Rawat Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education visited CAZRI

Dr. A.S. Rawat, Director General, Indian Council of Forest Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun visited ICAR-CAZRI on 18th June, 2022. He was accompanied by Mr. M.R. Baloch, Director, Arid Forest Research Institute and a team of scientists

Dr. Rawat took keen interest in the research and development activities of the institute. He visited the Centre on Combating Desertification where he was apprised of about various aspects of Institute's studies on desertification and its status database for the country and Rajasthan. He was apprised of institute's work on natural resources, sand dune stabilization, sand control measures, vegetative wind break models etc. that have resulted in the visible impact of reduced severity of wind erosion and also a reduced area under desertification in this state.



The Director General was highly appreciative of success of tissue culture-based datepalm and other horticulture crops introduced and researched by ICAR-CAZRI. *Melia dubia* plantations alongwith crops could also attract his attention. Dr. Rawat interacted with scientists on the issues of water harvesting and alternate sources of fodder production from *Cactus*, *Moringa* and *Napier* hybrid. At the solar and engineering unit, the team had a close look at the solar gadgets, AVS and the wind tunnel system.

Director General, ICFRE applauded the work done by CAZRI and reiterated the importance of agriculture in achieving LDN goals and hoped to have more convergence with forestry for achieving this goal. He mentioned that both CAZRI and AFRI have played a great role in the development of arid zone. Being a part of ICAR, CAZRI has a focused objective to work for better resilience of arid agro-ecosystem through agriculture driven research efforts. Besides, CAZRI's research on agroforestry, silvopastoral systems, livestock and soil and water resources conservation have been showing good impact on the issues related to land degradation neutrality and land restoration.

Earlier, the delegates were accorded warm welcome by Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director, ICAR-CAZRI on their arrival at CAZRI campus.