

## Sh. Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, inaugurates the Research facility at CAZRI-RRS, Leh

The Regional Research Station of ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute (RRS-CAZRI), Leh (UT of Ladakh) was inaugurated by Sh. Narendra Singh Tomar, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on 21.12.2020. The RRS, Leh is the fifth regional station of CAZRI fully dedicated to R&D activities on region specific issues for sustainable development of agriculture and animal husbandry in the region that is regarded as 'Cold Desert' covering an area of 7 million ha.

Mr Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister presented the Inaugural address where he appreciated the ICAR for addressing various R&D issues related to Cold Desert and felt happiness that Council has developed very good infrastructure in Leh-Ladakh which is completely dedicated to the area-specific research. He opined that the station at Leh would help developing Ladakhi agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry as remunerative profession.



Mr Parshottam Rupala, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare expressed satisfaction that ICAR has developed an excellent state of art R&D facility in Leh in form of Regional Station of CAZRI. He opined that the new facility being inaugurated today would help in developing technologies for sustainable development of agriculture and animal husbandry in one of the climatically most challenged region.

Mr J.T. Namgyal, Member of Parliament from Ladakh thanked Government of India and ICAR for providing research facility in Cold Desert areas which has a very fragile ecosystem and vulnerable to climate change issue. He appreciated the Director of the Institute and Scientists and other staff of RRS Leh for their untiring efforts and making their presence felt in remote villages of the region through various outreach programs launched by ICAR.

Dr T. Mohapatra, Secretary DARE and DG ICAR mentioned the genesis for establishing a research facility in form of an RRS of CAZRI, Jodhpur, which has enormous accomplishments in the development of desert. He underlined the role of CAZRI in initiating focused R&D activities for cold arid regions. He felt satisfaction that the Station has been successful in reaching a large number of Ladakhi farmers.

Mr Sanjay Singh, Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary, ICAR welcomed the dignitaries and guests and briefed about the inaugural program of the building of RRS Leh. Dr. S.K. Chaudhari, DDG (NRM) ICAR outlined about the facilities created at Leh and mentioned that issues of cold arid regions would be addressed in comprehensive manner in a sustainable way.

The Inaugural ceremony, organized virtually, was also attended by Vice-Chancellors of Universities, DDGs, ADGs, Directors and scientists of ICAR. A short video depicting the building and other facilities of RRS Leh was also shown on this occasion. Dr R.C. Agarwal, DDG (Education) conducted the programme and also proposed vote of thanks.