

Sh. Kailash Choudhary, Hon'ble MoS, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India visited ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur

Shri Kailash Choudhary, Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India and delegates of Progressive farmers visited ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur on 7th March 2021. He took keen interest in the Protected Cultivation of tomato and Capsicum in different economic designs of polyhouse, net houses and green shade nets using drip irrigation and solar green energy. In the crop cafeteria, he appreciated various varieties of isabgol, cumin, fenugreek, methi, quinoa, Amaranthus, safflower crops. A newly developed cumin variety of CZC-94, maturing in less than 100 days attracted his attention. He underlines its more vigorous evaluation at farmers filed and mentioned that the variety has a great role to play to make cumin cultivation more profitable and risk-free. This variety is important as it matures 25-30 days earlier than other commercial varieties and is most suitable for arid region as it requires less input in terms of pesticides, water and care.



In the protected cultivation unit, the Minister was pleased to see the record tomato production under low-cost net structures. He appreciated the experiment where about 15 to 18 kg fruits/plant (35 to 40 kg/m²) are being harvested from over 20-feet vine, maintained through stem lowering in concomitant with aerial and root zone micro-climate management. In another polyhouse, 30 different cultivars of capsicum having 5 different colors (green, red, yellow, orange, and chocolate) with an average yield of 5/6 kg/plant are being tested under a fan-pad greenhouse with conservative use of water and fertilization drew his appreciation. He also saw the a recently set up of state-of-the-art facility of fully automatic sensor based drip and fertigation system envisaged for delivering precise unit of water and fertilizer based on soil-moisture sensor feedback or time/ volume along with desired pH and EC of high precision application with greater efficiency.

The Minister while appreciating the institute's ongoing research efforts emphasized that such innovative ways of crop cultivation should reach the farmers of region. Exposing farmers to such innovation would help them to believe the role of scientific management of resources. He expected that results of such research is definitely helping the Government of India's vision of doubling the farmer's income.

Earlier, he was accorded warm welcome by Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director of the institute and Heads of Divisions.