

## Hon'ble Vice-President of India visits ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur

Hon'ble Vice-President Sh. M. Venkaiah Naidu visited ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur on 29 September, 2021. He was accompanied by Sh. Kalraj Mishra, Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan; Dr. B.D. Kalla, Minister for Energy, Government of Rajasthan; and Sh. Rajendra Gehlot Member, Rajya Sabha.

While reviewing various research activities of the institute, the Hon'ble Vice President applauded the efforts of CAZRI for having developed the working models of smart agriculture, cheaper polyhouses, systems of integrated farming, agri-voltaic, silvi-pasture, round-the-year fodder production through water harvesting, and use of solar energy for agricultural operations. He expressed satisfaction for efforts of CAZRI in developing and deploying improved and high yielding, drought tolerant and disease resistant varieties of pearl millet, green gram, moth bean, clusterbean, grasses, pomegranate, ber, gonad and karonda using conventional and molecular breeding tools. This has impacted farmers' income, livelihood and nutritional security during the recurrent drought periods in arid regions. He commended innovative work done in the institute not only in the areas of water and soil conservation, but also in developing the technologies of production of edible gum, production of nutrient rich feed blocks for livestock, preparation of value added nutritious products like cookies, chocolates and Kurkure of pearl millet. He said that alternate feed resources developed by the institute are helping in economizing cost of livestock production.



During an interaction meeting held with the scientists, the Hon'ble Vice President asserted that there is need to test the technologies developed in laboratories on the farmer's field and demonstrate their benefits to community. He suggested that further efforts are needed to integrate the traditional wisdom available with farmers with the modern technologies developed by scientists to ensure sustainability of farming. He emphasized need to practice integrated farming with diversification of agriculture and allied activities like dairying, backyard poultry and horticulture to ensure economic cushioning in the event of failure of one or the other components of farming during drought years which is a common phenomenon in arid and semi-arid areas. While enquiring about extension efforts of institute towards dissemination of technologies, he emphasized that the farmers need support, not only in terms of access to scientific

technologies but also having timely access to credit facilities and other quality inputs like seed and fertilizers. There is an urgent need to strengthen the farming community, rather than making them dependent. While congratulating the scientists for developing the most efficient agri-voltaic system model integrating crop production, electricity generation and water harvesting, he emphasized that such system also be popularized in other parts of country to incorporate production of food and green energy simultaneously. The technologies developed by the institute have a great relevance in other areas as well and need to be propagated in vast dry areas across country.

The Director of institute Dr. O.P. Yadav briefed about the history, mandate and significant achievements of institute and informed that for scientific and technical collaborations with different international and national organizations are in place through existing memorandums of understanding for sharing the scientific knowledge, achievements and information.