

Dr. V.N. Sharda



Dr. V.N. Sharda is presently Member, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. Prior to his joining, he served as Director of the Central Soil & Water Conservation Research and Training Institute (CSWCRTI), Dehradun. With a brilliant academic record, he joined the Agricultural Research Service of ICAR in 1978 after completing his M. Tech. (Soil and Water Engineering) from Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. He has a vast and varied experience of research, training and extension in the field of soil conservation and watershed management. He also served at Forest Research Institute and College, Dehradun as Senior Research Officer during 1983-84. Dr Sharda critically evaluated the impact of planting Eucalyptus in natural grasslands, evolved the concept of Conservation Bench Terrace System and studied hydrological behavior of mountainous and ravenous watersheds under different land uses and management practices in the semi-arid and sub-humid climates. Recently, he estimated the production and monetary losses due to water erosion for major rainfed crops in the country. He is recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Senior Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship of United States Information Agency in the area of Environmental Studies.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions in the field of watershed management, soil conservation and erosion modeling, he has been bestowed with several prestigious awards and honours; which include the Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award, Dr Rajendra Prasad Puruskar, Jawahar Lal Nehru Award for the best Ph.D. Thesis and Vasant Rao Naik Award of ICAR, Shankar Memorial Award, 2008-09 of ISAE, Intellectual's Honour-2003, "Uttaranchal Ratan", Bharat Singh Award of Ministry of Water Resources, Eminent Agricultural Engineering Award, 2011 of the Institution of Engineers (India), a citation by USDA-ARS, Fellowship and Recognition Award of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi; and Fellowship of Institution of Engineers (India), Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers and Indian National Academy of Engineering. He is member of several national and state scientific and management committees and has more than 250 publications to his credit which include research papers in journals of national and international repute, books, book chapters, reports etc.

The **Central Arid Zone Research Institute**, or CAZRI, as it is popularly known, was first established as Desert Afforestation Station in 1952 and was later expanded into Desert Afforestation and Soil Conservation Station in 1957, and finally upgraded to a multidisciplinary research institute in 1959 under Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. There are four Regional Research Stations of the Institute located in different agro-climatic zones to work on location-specific problems. The Institute has the mandate to undertake basic and applied research that will contribute to the development of sustainable farming systems in the arid ecosystem; to act as repository of information on the state of natural resources and desertification process and its control, in the form of digital database; to develop livestock-based farming systems and range management practices for the chronically drought-affected areas depending on livestock species; also aquaculture in water; to utilize high and precision technologies in production systems; to provide scientific leadership and to develop collaboration with State Agricultural Universities, State line departments and other national and international agencies for generating location-specific technologies and transfer of the technologies; to act as a center of learning for arid land management technologies; and to provide consultancy and other services for utilizing the available expertise.

Website: www.cazri.res.in

Phone: +91 291 2786584, Fax: +91 291 2788706



केन्द्रीय शुष्क क्षेत्र अनुसंधान संस्थान
(भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद)
CENTRAL ARID ZONE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
JODHPUR 342 003 INDIA



CAZRI FOUNDATION DAY LECTURE

OCTOBER 1, 2012

