

## Dr. H. S Gupta, Former Director ICAR-IARI visited ICAR-CAZRI

Dr. H.S. Gupta, Former Director ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and Chairman, Mid-term Review Committee for UN Environment-GEF project visited ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur along with Dr. J.C. Rana, Country Representative, India Office and National Coordinator, UN Environment-GEF project, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, India during 18-21 Feb, 2021. Dr. Gupta reviewed the progress made during last three years under the Hot arid region component of UN Environment-GEF project operational at Jodhpur, Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan. At the onset, Dr. O.P Yadav, Director CAZRI welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of landraces and native germplasm in agriculture. Dr. Rana presented an overview of the project objectives and the importance of the project in present day scenario of climate change. Dr. R. K. Kakani, Co-PI, CAZRI component presented the progress report on behalf of all participating Institutions namely ICAR-CAZRI, Agriculture University, Mandor, AICRP on Pearl millet, Mandor, ICAR-NBPGR, RRS-Jodhpur and NGO partner Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS), Jodhpur. Scientists associated with the project from all the organizations were present in the review meeting. Dr. Rajwant K. Kalia, CC-PI hot arid region and PI, CAZRI component of the project anchored the meeting while Dr. Reena, Co-PI presented the vote of thanks.

Dr. Gupta and Dr. Rana also visited the ongoing mother trials and crowdsourcing trials of mustard, cumin and barley at Govindpura and Begriya villages in Osian block of Jodhpur district. Visit was also undertaken to the chickpea trials at Masudia Khadin of Damodara village, Jaisalmer. The major crops included in the project are Mung bean, Moth bean, Pearl millet and Sesame during Kharif season and Mustard, Cumin, Barley and Chick pea during the Rabi season.



During his three-day visit, Dr. Gupta also visited the experimental areas at CAZRI, Jodhpur with Director of the institute, Dr. O.P.Yadav and all the Head of Divisions. He visited the experimental units at CAZRI Farm; Central Nursery, ATIC, Seed house, Crop cafeteria, Sewage Treatment Plant, Precision Farming block, Budded khejri block/Arboretum, Agroforestry units, IFS, Technology park, Solar yards and agri-voltaic units, Post-harvest laboratory, Organic farming, Dairy unit and Cumin experiments. He was very impressed with the crop cafeteria demonstrating all important varieties of isabgol, cumin, fenugreek, Amaranthus and mustard at one place.