

Advisory committee meeting of the NASF project on hyperspectral based rapid assessment of soil health

Advisory committee meeting of the project “**Hyperspectral reflectance and multi-nutrient extractant- based rapid assessment of soil properties for sustainable soil health in India**” funded by National Agricultural Science Fund (NASF) was held on 25th January, 2023 through hybrid mode at ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur. The project is being implemented at six participating Institutes with ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur as lead centre and ICAR-IISS, Bhopal, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, ICAR-NBSS&LUP, Nagpur, BCKV, West Bengal and TNAU, Tamil Nadu as cooperating centres. The meeting was attended by the committee members and chaired by Dr. Tapas Bhattacharya, Ex-Vice Chancellor, DBSKVV, Dapoli. At the beginning, Dr. O.P. Yadav, Member and Director, ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur welcomed the committee members, CCPIs and other associates of the project and shared his views about the necessities of the project to address soil nutrition to maintain its quality for crop production. He categorically mentioned that this project although is being led by ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur, it caters to the need of different soil types across different agroecosystems of the country. A brief presentation on project activities was made by Dr Priyabrata Santra, project investigator (PI) of the project followed by progress report presentations by PI from cooperating centres (CCPIs). The meeting was also addressed by Dr. Ashok Kumar, Member, Ex-Director CCSHAU, Hissar and Dr. Ashok Kumar, Principal Scientist, NASF, ICAR and they highlighted the need of project for generating useful information for stakeholders/farmers. The Chairman, Dr. Tapas Bhattacharya, appreciated the efforts made by ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur to take up the initiative and to lead the project on this important topic to link soil nutrients with reflectance pattern. The committee also suggested few recommendations, which will be implemented while executing the project activities.



Before this, the committee also visited few experimental plots of the Institutes e.g. horticultural orchard, protected cultivation, crop cafeteria, cumin seed production block etc. The meeting was ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. P.C. Moharana, Head, Division of Natural Resources, ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur.