

ENVIS- CAZRI Celebrates World Day To Combat Desertification on 17th June, 2015

World Day to Combat Desertification was celebrated on 17th June, 2015 under the aegis of ENVIS at CAZRI, Jodhpur. The function was chaired by Dr. R.K. Bhatt, Director (Acting), CAZRI, Jodhpur. Dr. Praveen Kumar, Head of Division -II welcomed the guests. Dr. Suresh Kumar, ENVIS Coordinator discussed about Desertification from UNCCD highlighting that“.....99.7% of our food calories comes from the land. With the competition for productive land growing even as the global population rises, land for food production will get scarcer. We need to recover degraded land to remain food.....” He exhorted that “desertification can be effectively tackled, solutions are possible, and key tools to this aim lay in strengthened community participation and co-operation at all levels.”

Dr. Ritu Purohit, Programme Officer introduced the invited speaker to the house. The programme was attended by around 65 people including scientists and staff of CAZRI, Jodhpur.

On this occasion, ‘Role of microorganisms in maintaining soil health’ was discussed in great detail by Dr. J. C. Tarafdar with excellent slides. Dr. Tarafdar explained that there is a poor fertility of soil of arid regions resulting in low production. To increase the production from degraded soil of arid zones, the fertility level should be increased so that the moisture holding capacity can be raised by addition of biofertilizers such as rhizobia, azotobacter and biosynthesised nano particles . Plants grow at a faster rate in healthy soil. He explained in detail about crop cycle, compost, vermicomposting, biopesticides etc. for maintaining the soil fertility and this was followed by an interactive session.

Dr. R.K. Bhatt, Director (Acting) also emphasized that there is a need to increase agricultural productivity especially from sensitive arid geographical regions according to climate change. There is a need to increase plant cover in minimum land, increase in productivity and water conservation for peace, safety, stability environment and food security in the world. CAZRI has done a lot of research work for controlling desertification, plant cover and to increase production from desert land and has also developed new agricultural techniques by which success has been gained. There should be a check on unsustainable use of natural resources, land degradation and ground water level should be increased by using rain water.

ENVIS Coordinator Dr Suresh Kumar explained that pressure of human population is increasing in world and so to increase the production as per demand to ensure food security is a worldwide challenge for which there is a need of continuous united efforts.

At the end, vote of thanks was presented by Dr Shweta Mathur, Information Officer ENVIS. The programme was compered by Dr. Ritu Purohit, Programme Officer ENVIS.

