

Organization of 25th Biennial Workshop of AICRP on Management of Salt Affected Soils and Use of Saline Water at SKRAU, Bikaner held during 19-20 January, 2017



The **Biennial Workshop** of All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on “Management of Soils and Use of Saline Water in Agriculture (SAS &USW)” was organized during 19-20 Jan. 2017 at Sawami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agricultural University (SKRAU), Bikaner. Dr VN Sharda, Member, ASRB, New Delhi and Chief Guest of function inaugurated Biennial Workshop on 19th Jan. 2017. Inaugural was presided by Dr BR Chippa Vice Chancellor, SKRAU, Bikaner. Dr PC Sharma, Director, ICAR-CSSRI, Karnal and Dr Govind Singh, Director of Research, SKRAU, Bikaner were guests of honour. Dr IJ Gulati, Dean of College of Agriculture and OIC, AICRP, Bikaner welcomed all guests. Scientists/researchers from AICRP centres, ICAR-CSSRI, other ICAR institutes and SKRAU, Bikaner were also present. The chief guest emphasized that issue of management these salt affected soils and poor quality waters is very much important for country like India. He felt need of revision of inventories/ maps of these resources to understand temporal status of degradation due to natural and manmade factors. The changes in soil properties may be reflected in soil health card and this information can be part of national database. Chemical as well as biological properties of such soils may be monitored. There is need to know effects of one type of degradation on other type degradation. To illustrate, how salinity/sodicity affects soil erosion or soil fertility status of soils. Further, knowledge base may be developed by working out productivity losses of individual crop for per unit increase in salinity/ sodicity under different agro-climatic conditions with different management strategies. The information generated through such type of investigations may be quite useful to generate

national scenarios about these issues as well as to develop comprehensive management strategies suiting to present needs. Dr BR Chippa, Vice Chancellor, SKRAU, Bikaner said that soils and ground waters have been exploited in semi-arid and arid regions to get more production and there is need to develop and adopt sustainable approaches for crop production on such soils. The blend of improved technologies and farmers' practices can prove more effective. He also suggested that transfer of technologies should take place in farmers' languages. Dr. PC Sharma, Director, ICAR-CSSRI, Karnal gave a glimpses of ICAR-CSSRI technologies such as gypsum reclamation of sodic soil, sub surface drainage for water logged saline soil, salt tolerant varieties and agro forestry systems. He advised that multi-disciplinary research with emphasis on integrated farming system approach is giving to pay rich dividends. He also emphasized on need of research on the alternate source of gypsum in view of limited availability of gypsum. Dr MJ Kaledhonkar, Project Coordinator, AICRP (SAS&USW), ICAR-CSSRI, Karnal presented the summary of achievements of 12 centres for 2014-16 and highlighted the future research priorities for different centres. During two days deliberations, OICs/ Nodal officers presented progress reports and proposed new research projects which were discussed thoroughly and comprehensively. Dr SK Chaudhari, ADG (Soil & Water Management), ICAR, New Delhi who was chief guest for concluding session appreciated the progress of the scheme but gave cautious advice to address new challenge of ensuring sustainability under climate change with such soils and waters. Dr. MJ Kaledhonkar, PC thanked ICAR, ICAR-CSSRI, concerned Universities, ICAR institutes, competent authorities, staff of AICRP centres, PC Unit and all others who contributed for making event successful.

(Project Coordinator)
AICRP on Salt Affected Soils & Use of Saline Water in Agriculture
ICAR-CSSRI, Karnal