

## *ICAR-AICRP (STCR) organized Farmer-Scientist Interaction Meet cum Field day for arid region*

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To popularize the importance of targeted yield approach of integrated plant nutrient management for improving crop productivity in arid region of western Rajasthan, a Farmer-Scientist Interaction Meet and field day was organized at Agricultural Research Station, SKRAU, Bikaner on January 23, 2017. The programme was jointly organised by STCR centre and KVK-Bikaner of SKRAU. The objective of the programme was to imbibe scientific knowledge among the farmers and building confidence from on-farm demonstrations on STCR. More than fifty farmers from Bikaner, Jhunjhunu, Sri Ganga Nagar, and Hanumangarh districts participated in the event. Besides, different facets of soil testing and soil health, the farmers were provided with solutions to their queries on plant protection aspects also. Dr. Pradip Dey, Project Coordinator (STCR) explained the soil health card scheme of Government of India and targeted yield approach for improving crop productivity and maintaining soil health. He also stressed upon the need for soil test based nutrient application and adoption of STCR-IPNS based integrated nutrient management. Dr. S.L. Godara, Zonal Director of Research, SKRAU stressed on the importance of soil testing and STCR-IPNS based nutrient management. Dr. U.S. Nanda, former Professor (Entomology) provided the solution to queries of farmers related to plant protection. Dr. P.S. Sekhawat, Professor (Aronomy) narrated the crop management practices for arid region. Dr. S.R. Yadav, STCR Centre-in-Charge of SKRAU explained the nutrient management aspects. A field visit was also organised in which farmers were very happy to see the crop growth under STCR experiments being conducted on very poor quality sandy soils of arid region. They also highly appreciated the difference in crop growth under STCR-IPNS based application of plant nutrient vis-à-vis other treatments. During feedback session the farmers expressed their satisfaction and felt that such programmers are beneficial to the farming community and should continue in the future too.

