

Capacity Development: Field day report

Activity title: Promoting cactus (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) as drought resilient feed resource under different agro-ecological production systems across India. Project 3: sub project 2

Action site: Jhansi (India)

Sub activity: Introduction of Cactus (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) as a multi-purpose

Source of funding: ICAR – W3/Bilateral

Activity leader: Mounir Louhaichi

Key national partner: Indian Grassland & Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI)

Objective: Increase cactus awareness, dissemination and adoption for improved drought resilience, and to enhance capacity building of all partners.

Target audience: Smallholder farmers, livestock keepers and extension agents

Activity mapped to CRP: CGIAR Research Program on Livestock

Lead Center: International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Flagship: Feed and Forage



Field day agenda

Date : 2 April 2018

Location : Village Sakrar (MP), Jhansi India

10:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Welcome and Introduction

Dr. Sunil IGFRI
Dr Vikas Kumar
Dr. Sawsan ICARDA

11:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Field visit — Cactus plantation and use demonstration

Cactus plantation
Cactus use for feed

11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Discussion

Discussion about the importance of cactus, practices in cactus plantations, cactus use as a feed crop, cactus as a tool to generate income. Discussion with Farmers, ICARDA, and IGFRI staff

12:30 PM to 01:00 AM

Cactus pads distribution

Minutes

A Cactus Field Day was organized on 02.04.2018 at Sri Kamdhenu Gaushala , Sakrar, District Jhansi (UP) located in Bundelkhand part of central India. The region is characterized by semi-arid climate with erratic pattern of rainfall, long/intermittent dry spells, undulated topography and poor soil fertility. The livestock pressure is high and there is deficit of fodder and water as well for them. The practice of open grazing is common in non-cropped season (April- June) and uneconomic cattle roam as stray cattle in this area. For solving this typical socio-economic issue, technological options and efforts of governments/social organizations are providing meaningful solutions. In this endeavor, IGFRI has collaborated with local cattle shelter house (Gaushalas). The research findings of ICARDA- IGFRI cactus project has been very much useful to solve the fodder crisis in such rain scanty/partially drought prone areas having demonstration of thornless cactus for supplementation of alternate fodder resource during lean period (dry summers/drought period). This site/ farmers group is new for promotion and expansion of cactus a fodder.



The scientists namely Dr Sawsan Hassan from ICARDA, Jordan; Dr Sunil Kumar, Dr Shahid Ahmed, Dr D.R. Palsaniya and Dr Vikas Kumar from IGFRI, Jhansi participated in scientists – farmer’s interaction during this event. A total of 31 farmers have participated in field day. Scientist informed the farmers / livestock keepers about the importance of cactus as alternative fodder resource in dry areas and in the areas with scanty rains and having dry spells. In view of changing climate and more competition for water, species like cactus need to be promoted for solving the fodder crisis. Farmer’s queries related to its quality, palatability and utilization were answered. The participating farmers were also taken for exposure visit to thornless cactus plantation at Gaushala. Farmers were highly enthusiastic and Cactus cladodes were also distributed to farmers. In total 15 demonstrations have been executed in the vicinity of village Sakrar, Jhansi. More and

more farmers are willing to plant cactus and to be associated with this project activity. In Gaushala itself about one acre Cactus plantation is done and further it will be expanded. Rural women also participating in planting and maintaining the cactus for fodder. Local media persons (Hindi local dailys-Dainik Jagran & Amar Uljala) were also present during the interaction and gave good coverage of the event(News clipping attached). At the end of the field day, a number of claddoeed were disseminated for farmers to be planted in their fields.



Authors

Dr Sunil Kumar

Dr Shahid Ahmed

Dr D.R. Palsaniya

Dr Vikas Kumar from IGFRI

Dr Sawsan Hassan from ICARDA, Jordan

Appendix 1: List of Participants in the field day

The approval of posting the pictures and the participant signing sheets was obtained while signing

Promoting cactus (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) as drought resilient feed resource under different agro-ecological production systems across India

Sakarar Village- Jhansi April 2nd 2018

Participants list

#	NAME	SIGNATURE
1	Dhokam Vh. Lohargouar	[Signature]
2	पुष्पा पटेल	[Signature]
3	SATENDRA SINGH. SAKRAR	[Signature]
4	Ravi Sen. Sakrar	[Signature]
5	Deepak Singh Sakrar	[Signature]
6	Jay Singh "	[Signature] 991949532
7	Bhupendra Singh Gaur	[Signature]
8	Ragendra Kumar "	[Signature]
9	Laxmi Prasad Kumar Sakrar	[Signature]
10	महादेव सिंह राठौर	[Signature]
11	सु-उरोधरा चौधरी	[Signature]
12	मालविका सिंह	[Signature]
13	Dr. D.R. Palawya, IGFRI, Jhansi	[Signature]
14	Dr. Sunil Kumar IGFRI, Jhansi	[Signature]
15	प्रियंका जैन सक्कर गजाला	[Signature]
16	Dr. S. Ahmed	[Signature]
17	इंद्र कुमार शाह	[Signature]
18	विकास कुमार	[Signature]
19	दीपिका	[Signature]
20	पुष्पा	[Signature]

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Sakarar Village- Jhansi April 2nd 2018

Participants list

#	NAME	SIGNATURE
21	दोलात सिंह (अकरार)	दोलात सिंह
22	मनीष गुप्ता (अकरार)	मनीष गुप्ता
23	सुजान सिंह - अकरार	सुजान सिंह
24	उमा शंकर पांडे अकरार	उमा शंकर पांडे
25	अमृतानंद दास पांडे (अकरार)	अमृतानंद दास पांडे
26	लाल सिंह तामरकर	लाल सिंह तामरकर
27	Hauram	village Sakarar
28	Smt. Ramkuwar	"
29	Smt. Raj Kumari	"
30	Smt. Shashi	"
31	Smt. Bhagwati	"
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