







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: Dr. Mounir Louhaichi

IGFRI focal Point: Dr. Sunil Kumar

Key national partner: ICAR-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: 1 Novembre, 2018

Location: IGFRI, Jhansi India

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Arrival of the Farmers at Cactus plots at CR Farm

Registration of Farmers

Interaction of farmers with IGFRI Cactus team

Exposure to cactus plots and feeding

9.30 AM Arrival of Chief Guest and IGFRI senior officials to cactus plots

Interaction of chief guest and director with farmers

11:00 AM to1:30PM Participation of farmers in IGFRI foundation day programme

1.30 PM to 2.30 PM Lunch

2.30 PM to 4.30 PM Visit of farmers to cactus plots and other IGFRI fodder

demonstrations, interaction with scientists and distribution of

cactus cladodes to willing farmers and wrap up









Minutes

A Cactus Field Day was organized on 01.11.2018 at IGFRI Jhansi (UP) during its foundation day. Nearly seventy five, farm women and Gaushala (cow-shelter) persons participated (60 males and 15 females) in field day. Dr. US Gautam, Vice Chancellor of Banda Agriculture University (UP) was the chief guest during the event. Dr. Gautam appreciated the cactus research and extension work being done by the IGFRI-ICARDA collaborative programme. He showed keen interest in the spineless fodder cactus and promised to send extension/animal scientists from all the KVKs of Banda University (Uttar Pradesh) to IGFRI for exposure on spineless fodder cactus and expressed his willingness to promote it as being done by the Jawahar Lal Nehru Krishi Visva Vidyalaya, Jabalapur in collaboration with IGFRI.

The scientists namely Dr Sunil Kumar, Dr. AK Misra, Dr Shahid Ahmed, Dr D.R. Palsaniya and Dr Vikas Kumar and Dr. Khem Chand from IGFRI, Jhansi participated in scientists – farmer's interaction during this event. Scientist informed the farmers/livestock keepers about the importance of cactus as alternative fodder resource in rainfed dry areas. In view of changing climate and more competition for water, species like cactus need to be promoted for solving the fodder crisis. Farmer's quarries related to its plantation, management, quality, palatability and utilization were answered. Farmers were highly enthusiastic and cactus cladodes were also distributed to willing farmers. Farmers made exposure visits to cactus plots at IGFRI research farm. They were educated how to grow, harvest, chaff and fed spineless cactus to animals.



Dr. US Gautam, Vice Chancellor, Banda Agriculture University, Banda (Uttar Pradesh) discussing spineless cactus with team and farmers

















Glimpses of Cactus Field Day









Authors

The following resource persons participated in the event:

Dr Sunil Kumar (Agronomist, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi)

Dr A K Misra (Livestock nutritionist, ICAR-IGFRI)

Dr Shahid Ahmad (Plant Breeder, ICAR-IGFRI)

Dr D R Palsaniya (Agronomist, ICAR-IGFRI)

Dr Vikas Kumar (Agricultural Economics, ICAR- IGFRI)

Dr Khem Chand (Director, ICAR-IGFRI)

Collaborator Scientists:

Dr. Mounir Louhaichi (ICARDA)

Dr. Sawsan Hassan (ICARDA)









Appendix 1: List of Participants in the field day

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









Place – Jhansi- Date – 01 11 20 8
Participants list

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Resource Persons Place - Ihansi - Date Participants list *Permission **NAME SIGNATURE** # Somil kumas, Pl

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