



RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Dryland Systems

## Implementation report on “Innovation Platforms”

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## Effective convergence for out-scaling and larger impacts

In the Dryland Systems CRP, one of the strategies is to establish the innovation platform (IP) for scaling-up the systems research to ensure impact on larger scale by providing holistic solutions. In this regard, an innovation platform for Rajasthan has been evolved to create opportunities for convergence and to improve the reach to larger number of farmers for the rainfed areas of different regions. Besides institutionalizing the IP, a number of meetings were conducted with mid and higher level policy makers.

### **Proceedings of 3rd innovation platform meeting of CRP Dryland Systems held at CAZRI Jodhpur on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

Third innovation platform meeting has been conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at CAZRI Jodhpur and was attended by representatives of various government and non-government organizations, CGIAR Partners, NARS, PCs of KVKs, Scientists of CAZRI, AFRI and ARS Mandore (List of participants enclosed).

The inaugural sessions of the platform meeting was chaired by Shri Ratan Lahoti, Divisional Commissioner Jodhpur, and Dr. R.K. Bhatt, Director (Acting) CAZRI Jodhpur and were chief guests of this meeting. Dr. Anthony Whitbread, Director RDS -ICRISAT, Dr. Ross Mcleod, External Reviewer ICRISAT, Dr. Shalander Kumar, South Asia Coordinator CRP Dryland System ICRISAT and Dr. T.K. Bhati, Consultant ICRISAT were the special invitees of the function.

The meeting started with welcome address by Dr. J.C Tiwari Principle scientist (Agro forestry) CAZRI Jodhpur and PI of the project at the institute. He welcomed Shri Ratan Lahoti, Divisional Commissioner Jodhpur , Dr. Anthony Whitbread, RDS-Director ICRISAT , Dr. Ross Mcleod, External Reviewer ICRISAT funded project CRP 1.1, Dr. Shalander Kumar, South Asia Coordinator CRP Dryland System ICRISAT, Mrs. Shashi Tyagi Executive Secretary GRAVIS, Dr. T.K. Bhati, Consultant ICRISAT for sparing their valuable time to participate in this meeting. Further he welcomed all the participants representing various govt and non govt organizations for attending this important meeting of the project. While welcoming the participants he also apprised the house about the role of CAZRI as a partner in CRP 1.1. And also gave a brief of the research work done by the institute during 2014 under this project.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Anthony Whitbread, RDS-Director ICRISAT, has introduced about the CGIAR research program on Dryland systems. He shared his views about scenario of Rajasthan and expressed that in this region, farmers have lots of opportunity and also risks therefore needs institutional support by stakeholders. He said that he believes in more partnership among all private and government institutions. He also thanked all officials of implementing agencies, partners and stakeholders and government for their support in execution of project activities.

Mrs. Shashi Tyagi, Executive Secretary –GRAVIS, welcomed the members and underlined the importance of effective partnership amongst GRAVIS, CAZRI, ICRISAT and farmers of the study areas for achievements of the goals of CRP 1.1 in Rajasthan. She explained about the soil and water conservation activities successfully been taken by GRAVIS in this project and informed the house that Shankhpushpi have a lot of scope in this region. She also focused on importance of proper liaisoning with govt officials under this program.



Thereafter, Dr. Shalander Kumar, South Asia Coordinator CRP Dryland System ICRISAT, presented the progress report of CRP 1.1 project for the year 2014 and requested all stakeholders to develop convergence with the programme as per their domain. He presented summary of survey report of action villages of various aspect such as diverse agricultural system vis-a-vis livelihood opportunities, baseline characterization and prioritization on the basis of 32 different variables, Institutional development by making VDCs, Women sub-committees of CPRs, Women SHG, breed upgradation and fodder upscaling, issues related to khadin systems, CPRs and identified constraints, biomass assessment, climatic factors, Landscape, Agri Horti unit, cultivation of Shankhpushpi, integration of various govt schemes with the project in participatory mode etc.

Thereafter Dr. R.K. Bhatt, Director (Acting) CAZRI Jodhpur, in his remarks appreciated the work of ICRISAT and GRAVIS in past two years on farming systems improvement in context to livelihood and food security in targeted sites of Rajasthan.

In his chairman's remarks Shri Ratan Lahoti, Divisional Commissioner Jodhpur, emphasized that all stakeholders need to be provided complete package of activities which are planned under the program for implementation. Further he emphasized on importance of effective utilization of rainwater in Rajasthan. He mentioned that Aravalli ranges in Rajasthan are dividing the state into two parts; south eastern and north western. He also emphasized that culture of the area and traditional wisdom must be kept in mind while implementation of the programme because without that no active participation is expected. He appreciated the work of CRP program and also pointed out that Village development committees (VDCs) should be activated and work should be undertaken through their active participation. He also explained several government schemes for benefits of farmers such as *"Apna khet apna gaanv"*, 4 water concept, NREGA etc. He also elaborated about the importance of non-traditional plant product like ker sangari, shankhpushpi, Alovera etc in this region and stressed that adoption of suitable cropping pattern and crop rotations helps in balanced nutrition in farmer's field and soil sustainability. He informed the house that GOI is arranging direct transfer of fund at block level so that farmers directly get benefited from several government schemes.

In the last, Mr. Rajendra Kumar, Sr. Program coordinator GRAVIS, has proposed vote of thanks to Divisional commissioner for chairing the session, ICRISAT Officials, CAZRI Director & his scientists, GRAVIS Staff and representatives of various government and non govt organizations who have spared time to attend the meeting. He also thanked staff members of CAZRI and GRAVIS who helped in proper organization of meeting and media persons for coverage of deliberations of this meeting.



The second session of the meeting was chaired by Dr. T.K. Bhati, Consultant ICRISAT, who introduced about the details of CRP 1.1 Program which is conducted in three sites of western Rajasthan namely Jodhpur, Barmer and Jaisalmer. He informed about activities being taken in all the targeted villages of three districts namely CPRs, Khadins, Agri horticulture systems, Rabi crop demonstrations, and soil and water conservation measures, RWHS, Gender empowerment, livestock based livelihood systems etc. Then he invited suggestions from the participants to further improve the quality of the programme.

- Dr. B.K. Mathur, Principal Scientist (Animal Nutrition) CAZRI Jodhpur – mentioned that Marvadi and Barmeri breed of goat are suitable for barmer region and he also

suggested that they have a good germ plasm of goat and sheep at CAZRI and that can be utilized for this purpose.

- Dr. Dandin, Bioversity international – has said that integrated farming system (IFS) with the inclusion of Ber and Karonda, Aonla and drum stick should be introduced in the project and also stressed that vegetables being good source of minerals and fibers also need to be introduced in such agri-horti units.
- Dr. Pradeep Pagariya, KVK Barmer- he has shared his experience about pomegranate grown in Barmer. He has grown pomegranate (Sinduri variety in 3x3 m distance) in 2500 hacatre with narrow spacing and farmers got satisfactory yield and market price but the issue of cracking of pomegranate, unavailability of planting material and problem of nematodes are also other issues which needs to be resolved.
- Mr. Dhuda Ram (A farmer from Govindpura), shared his experiences of CRP 1.1. He said that with support of ICRISAT and GRAVIS, VDC constructed three RWHS (Anicuts) in govindpura and the rainwater could be stored for more than four months which is very helpful to farmers to enhance availability of drinking water in this water scares area. These anicuts helped in checking the runoff water and in soil erosion and also increased the bio diversity. He spoke on his past experience of 2011 where flood came in govindpura which destroyed houses falling in the vicinity of the nala and displaced the farmers and their livestock, but now with the creation of these RWHS structures this damage could be prevented.
- Mr. Luna Ram (A farmer from Daomdara) – shared his views that ICRISAT has helped in construction of family khadins which is very fruitful in enhancement of productivities of these lands. He suggested such activities should be promoted in this area.
- Mr. Rawat Singh (A farmer from Dedha), narrated that with the help of this programme, awareness has been generated among the farmers of this disadvantage area particularly on improved varieties of kharif and rabi crops and improved production technology, suitable agri horti silvi pasture production systems etc.
- The chairman summed up the deliberations of this session and stressed on: 1. Marvadi breed are suited in all three sites Jodhpur, Barmer and Jaisalmer ; 2. Priority should be given to Ber and gounda fruit trees in action sites of Rajasthan; 3. Ker and Sangari need to be introduced in value chain through this project; 4. We need to train the local person for ber budding and establishment of fruits orchards. Also local

people should be trained as papa-vet and farm ladies as small scale entrepreneur especially on goatary, dairy, value addition of plants and animal products.

The Third session of the meeting was chaired by Dr. Shalander Kumar and in this session participants brainstormed on the following themes:

- What are the follow ups by the member organizations to strengthen the convergence and bridge gaps in the context of goals set for the programme
- Identify most promising areas of convergence for effective and speedy implementation and follow-up of technologies planned under CRP Dryland systems (As learning sites)
- How can we improve the role and contribution of stakeholders of this innovation platform to build resilience in DS and encourage convergence

Following were the main officials/ organizations who informed the house on convergence aspect in this project: Dr. Virendra Solanki (Deputy Director Horticulture) and Dr. Bhakhar has facilitate the groups and introduced to farmers about different government schemes being undertaken by state horticulture department can be converged with CRP 1.1.

- Ber and Pomegranate need to be introduced in mansagar village and links to farmers for drip and sprinkler irrigation.
- Drip irrigation is compulsory in pomegranate and ber and as per scheme 50% share by government and 50 % share by farmers.
- Gonda should be planted in field borders.
- In pomegranate and Ber, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year Farmers can be cover all he incurred on expenditure and net income of pomegranate is 2 – 2.5 lakh Rs/ha.
- Ber tree should be gorw in association with legume crops such as moong and moth bean, however intercropping of cereals crops should be avoided specially during establishment phase of trees.
- Dr. Rajendra singh, NSC Jodhpur and Dr. Ramdev Vashnav, RSSC Jodhpur has also shared views on seed production program of CRP 1.1 and explained the convergence can be achieve from their department also.
- Dr. Uma Ram Choudhary, from AFRI Jodhpur, informed the house that the institute has done lot of work on suitable fodder trees and grasses species for development of silvi pasture and agro forestry systems and institute can converge in this programme after completion of requisite formalities
- Dr. Pradeep pagariya PC from KVK Barmer, informed the house that the KVK have convergence with CRP 1.1 particularly with respect to shankpushpi cultivation and

capacity building. We are planning to get ourselves associated with this program on other medicinal plant like Jeevanti, Arna etc.

Dr.J.R. Bhakhar from Agriculture dept Jodhpur- Also elaborated the different govt schemes on contribution of WHSC (farm pond) for and the benefit farmers can get through such schemes. Some of the important points on subsidy are:

- For farm pond construction (Khet talai) – Rs.52, 500 required for hard soils i.e whereas in leakage of water the subsidy is Rs 75,000 to ensure prevention of seepage losses in the farm pond.
- 50% Subsidy for farm mechanization and 12500 Rs for MB Plough and Rotovator has 40,000 Rs. subsidy for individual farmers and farmers who have tubewells
- Subsidy of 60,000 Rs for Jal haud for drip and sprinkler system.

The Valedictory session of the meeting was chaired by Dr. Shalander Kumar, South Asia Coordinator CRP Dryland System ICRISAT and in this session, he summarized the outcome of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IP meeting. He enjoined stakeholders that they should jointly work together and shared complementary to make the programme success. He stresses on awareness generation, inputs from diversified sources, convergence from various dept. /schemes, corporation from farmers. The meeting ended with vote of thanks to chair.

***Innovation Platform Meeting for the CGIAR Research Program on Dry land Systems:  
(CRP1.1)- Integrated Agricultural Production Systems for the Poor and Vulnerable in Dry  
Area of South Asia  
(Rajasthan:Jodhpur, Barmer and Jaisalmer Districts)***

*International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics, Patancheru,India  
Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur,Rajasthan  
Gramin Vikas vigyan Samiti, Jodhpur*

***Venue: CAZRI, Jodhpur***

***May 18, 2015***

9.30 to 10.00	Registration & welcome Tea	
10.00	Welcome address	Dr J C Tewari
10.05	Introduction to the programme	Dr Anthony Whitbread Smt. Shashi Tyagi
10.15	CRP Dryland Systems -Highlights on Progress in 2014-15 and work plan for 2015-16	Dr Shalander Kumar
10.50	Remarks by the Director CAZRI	Dr RK Bhatt
11.00	Remarks by the Chief guest	Shri Ratan Lahoti Divisional Commissioner, Jodhpur
11.15	Vote of thanks	Shri Rajendra Kumar
11.15	Tea break	
11.30	Group work (2-3 groups) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the follow ups by the member organizations to strengthen the convergence and bridge gaps in the context of goals set for the programme</li> <li>Identify most promising areas of convergence for effective and speedy implementation and follow-up of technologies planned under CRP Dryland systems (As learning sites)</li> <li>How can we improve the role and contribution of stakeholders of this innovation platform to build resilience in DS and encourage convergence</li> </ul>	Every group select its facilitator
13.30	Lunch	
14.30	Presentation by groups & discussion in context to role and responsibility of each stakeholder/organization in promoting convergence	Facilitator of each group
14.30(concurrent)	Interaction by external reviewer with NARS/ stakeholders	Dr Ross McLeod
15.30-16.00	Rap up & plan for convergence	All



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The CGIAR Research Program on Dryland Systems aims to improve the lives of 1.6 billion people and mitigate land and resource degradation in 3 billion hectares covering the world's dry areas.

Dryland Systems engages in integrated agricultural systems research to address key socioeconomic and biophysical constraints that affect food security, equitable and sustainable land and natural resource management, and the livelihoods of poor and marginalized dryland communities. The program unifies eight CGIAR Centers and uses unique partnership platforms to bind together scientific research results with the skills and capacities of national agricultural research systems (NARS), advanced research institutes (ARIs), non-governmental and civil society organizations, the private sector, and other actors to test and develop practical innovative solutions for rural dryland communities.

The program is led by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), a member of the CGIAR Consortium. CGIAR is a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future.

For more information, please visit

**[drylandsystems.cgiar.org](http://drylandsystems.cgiar.org)**

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