

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: Bhuj, Gujarat (India)

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

Source of funding: ICAR – W3/Bilateral

Activity leader: Dr. Mounir Louhaichi

CAZRI focal Point: Dr. Devi Dayal

Key national partner: Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Regional Research Station Kukma, , Bhuj, Gujarat

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

Target audience: Smallholder farmers,livestock keepersand extension agents

Activity mapped to CRP: CGIAR Research Program on Livestock

Lead Center: The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

Flagship: Feed and Forage

Date : 05 April 2018

Location : Village Kotda chakar, Bhuj,India

10:30AMto11:00AM	Welcomeand Introduction Mr.Hargovind Kunpara
11:00AMto11:30AM	Field visit—Cactus plantation and use demonstration Cactus plantation Cactus use for feed
11:30 AM to12:30PM	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 CAZRI staff Dr. Devi Dayal Dr. Sawsan Hassan Dr. Ramnivas Mr. M Suresh Kumar
12:30PM to01:00AM	Lunch
01:00PMto1:15PM	WrapUp

Promoting cactus (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) as drought resilient feed resource

Minutes

On 05th April, a Cactus Field Day was organized on the farmers field of Mr Girraj Singh BalwantSingh Jadeja Farm, Jambudi where about 60 farmers including large numbers of farm women, who either have grown this cactus on their farm or are interested to grow on their farm as fodder crop, participated in the meeting. Mr Hargovind Kunpara, CAZRI welcomed the farmers and elaborated the importance of Cactus as fodder crop. He also told that besides fodder crop, this cactus has many uses as fruit crop, medicinal crop and as vegetable crop. Dr Devi Dayal, Head, CAZRI discussed about the importance of Cactus as fodder crop for Kachchh region. This cactus can be planted through cladodes on even highly degraded soil with very less amount of water. Cactus can be harvested as fodder very easily by braking its cladode from stem. After chopping the cladod, it can be fed directly to cow, buffalo, sheep, goat and camel. This fodder has very high amount of carbohydrate, mineral and water, but are deficient in protein. Therefore, protein supplement is required with cactus feeding. As the growth of cactus is very high during Feb. to June, its green fodder is available when there is acute shortage of the green fodder during summer season. A film showing cactus cultivation, its harvesting/chopping and how to feed animal was shown to the farmers. Dr Sawsan Hassan, ICARDA also discussed about cactus. She informed that this cactus is being evaluated at Jhansi, Bhopal and Kachhh, but its performance is very good at Kachchh. This cactus is very popular in South American countries both as fodder crop and as fruit crop. She was confident of adopting this cactus by Kachchh farmers. Dr Ram Niwas, CAZRI thanked all the farmers and Dr Sawsan, ICARDA for participating the meeting. Dr Traloki Singh, Shri Mohar Singh, Vipin Raj, Dr Sitaram, Bharat Virpuria and Mahendra Kumar assisted in arranging the programme.



Resources persons who participate in the event with the affiliation

Dr Devi Dayal(Head, CAZRI RRS Bhuj)

Dr Sawasan Hasan (ICARDA)

Mr M Sureshkumar (Scientist, CAZRI RRS Bhuj)

Dr Triloki Singh (SMS, KVK – CAZRI Bhuj)

Dr Ramnivas(SMS, KVK – CAZRI Bhuj)

Mr.Hargovind Kulpara (T-5, CAZRI RRS Bhuj)

Dr.Sitaram Jat (T4, KVK – CAZRI Bhuj)

Mr.Vipin Raj (T3, KVK – CAZRI Bhuj)

Mr.Bharat virpuriya (T1, KVK – CAZRI Bhuj)

Mr.Mahendar Kumar (T1, KVK – CAZRI Bhuj)

Mr.Moharsigh (T-9, CAZRI RRS Bhuj)

Personal information including Name, Business Title, Email, Phones, Images and GPS points included in this report have been authorized in writing or verbally by the data subject.

Appendix 1: List of Participants in the field day



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

Bhuj April 5th 2018

Participants list

#	NAME	SIGNATURE
41	Hargovind Kanpuria	
42	M. Suresh Kumar	
43	Traloki Singh	
44	Bharat virpuria	
45	Ramesh Ahir	
46	સુભાષી રાજ રાણી	
47	રમેશ જીવણ રાણી	
48	મીનાક્ષી સુભાષી રાણી	
49	સુધા સુધા મંડલ	
50	સુભાષી સુભાષી રાણી	
51	દેવેશ પુલકામી મોદી	
52	ગરુડ સુભાષી રાણી	
53	સુભાષી સુભાષી રાણી	
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