

Kharif Kisan Mela Celebrated at CSSRI, Karnal

Nationally and internationally acclaimed Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI), Karnal organized *Kharif Kisan Mela* on 20th October, 2009. The *Kisan Mela* was inaugurated by Dr. G.S. Kalkat, Chairman, Punjab State Farmers' Commission while Dr. S.S. Singh, Director, Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal was the Guest of Honour. A number of dignitaries including consultants, Institute Management Committee Members, experts from Karnal based ICAR institutes and development Departments actively participated in the deliberations of the *Kisan Mela*.



All ICAR institutes located at Karnal, Departments of Agriculture, CCS HAU, Regional Station, Karnal, Kaul and other government/private agencies displayed their exhibitions. In addition some NGOs also displayed their exhibition on seed, pesticides and agricultural implements. On the occasion of *Kisan Mela*, a *Kisan Goshthi* and field visit was organized in which scientists and SMS interacted with the farmers, discussed and solved their emerging agricultural related problems. About 1000 farmers and school students were benefited from this important function.



In the *Kisan mela*, the farmers were informed about the technologies developed at CSSRI for reclamation of salt affected soils, use of poor quality irrigation water, crop diversification, medicinal & aromatic plants and salt tolerant varieties etc. Seeds of wheat PBW 550, PBW 502, DBW 17, HD 2894, HD 2851, HD 2733, KRL 19 and mustard cv. CS 52, CS 54 and CS 56 were sold during the *mela*. The soil and water samples brought by farmers were tested free of cost in this *Mela*. Large number of farmers availed these benefits from *Kisan Mela*.



Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Director of this Institute welcomed the Chief Guest, dignitaries, farmers and students and highlighted the major achievements of the Institute. He said that about 1.7 million ha land has been reclaimed by this institute in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. About 10 million tonnes food grain is being produced annually from these reclaimed soils. He also elaborated upon the recent initiatives taken by the institute particularly in the field of multiple use of water for multi-enterprise agriculture, resource conservation technologies like zero tillage, bed planting, groundwater recharge, energy plantations for biosaline agriculture like *Jatropha* and *Pongamia* and medicinal plants in salt-affected soils.



In his inaugural address, the Chief Guest Dr. Kalkat said that this institute has made remarkable contribution to safeguard the interest of the farmers and advised the farmers to adopt integrated farming model which is viable technology keeping in view the declining water table and small land holdings of the farmers. He urged upon the scientists to work for breaking yield barrier to feed increasing population and securing national food basket.



He also emphasized for adoption of laser-leveler, happy seeder, artificial insemination of buffaloes, vegetable cultivation and commercial dairy farming for increasing return especially in the hand of small farmers. He further stressed about development of varieties for water stress situation.



Fifteen progressive farmers belonging to Haryana were felicitated during the *Kisan Mela* besides prizes were awarded to three best exhibition stalls. Special discussion/ visits in the area of biotechnology, meteorology, groundwater recharge and aromatic and medicinal plants were organized particularly for the students.



In his address, Guest of Honour Dr. Singh told that varietal replacement is very important for increasing yield. He commended CSSRI for organizing *kisan mela* which according him the best medium of dissemination of latest technologies amongst the farmers.

