# Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team from ICAR-ATARI, Jodhpur visited the Farmer FIRST project site at Kathura Village

On 6th September, 2023, the M&E team from ICAR-ATRAI, Jodhpur evaluated the status and performance of the ongoing activities under the *Farmer FIRST Project* at Kathura Village of Sonipat district of Haryana State. Dr. P. P. Rohilla, Principal Scientist from ICAR-ATARI (Zone II), Jodhpur visited the project implementation sites along with project team from the ICAR-CSSRI, Karnal.

Dr. Satyendra Kumar, Head, DIDE apprised the M&E team about the effectiveness of the SSD (Sub Surface Drainage) in reclamation of waterlogged-saline soils, this is being operationalized with the help of solar-operated movable trolleys (5)- an substitute to the traditional diesel- operated pumping system. Till date, due to the adoption of SSD, about 1200 acres of land unproductive lands have been reclaimed and brought under cultivation. Dr. Sohanvir Singh, Principal Scientist (Animal Science) from ICAR-NDRI highlighted the fact that due to incessant mono-cropping in the area, the deficiency of the nutrients has been reported, adversely affecting the productivity of animals. In the summer season, a drastic reduction in the milk production was observed due to less-intake of food by the milching animals. To overcome these issues, the milk enhancing supplements (Bergafat; Prilled fat; Anionic mineral mixture) and medicines were given to the farmers. Additionally, the milking equipments were also provided to farmers to reduce the drudgery. Dr. Rajkumar, Sr. Sci. (Horticulture) emphasized the importance of crop diversification in salt-affected ecosystems, and explained about the newly planned intervention (Guava Fruit plants intercropping with vegetable crops) at the farmers' field. Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Sr. Sci. (Plant physiology) sensitized the M&E team about the trials on the 'use of Nano fertilizers (Nano urea, Nano DAP and Liquid Sagarika)' in paddy using drones. Further, he highlighted the benefits of Nano fertilizers over conventional fertilizers. M&E team was also apprised about the on-going varietal trails (PB 1847, PB 1885, PB 1886, PB 1121, PB 1718, PB 1509, PB 1692, CSR 30 and CSR 56), for which quality seeds and technical know-how was provided to 150 farmers by the project team. Dr. Suresh Kumar, Sr. Sci. (Agricultural Economics) shared the plan for collecting the data for economic impact assessment of the planned interventions.

At the end of programme, a farmer-scientist interaction meeting was held to assess the needs of farmers and elicit their feedback to strengthen the on-going activities and/or taking-up new initiatives in the project for better outcomes. Dr. P. P. Rohilla, Principal Scientist from ICAR-ATARI (Zone II), Jodhpur appreciated the activities of the project, and suggested the team to conduct capacity building and training programmes on mushroom production and milk processing and value addition. The meeting ended with vote of thank by the Dr Rajkumar, PI (FFP).


Sub Surface Drainage


Crop diversification


Animals Health Overview


Nano fertilizers


Farmer-scientist interaction


Fruit trees intercropped with vegetables