

## **ICAR-CSSRI organized an AARDO Sponsored International Training Programme during 15-26 November 2023.**

ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI), Karnal organized an African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) sponsored International Training on “Use of Poor-Quality Waters in Agriculture” during 15-26 November, 2023. Training is attended by nine delegates from seven AARDO member countries namely, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Kenya, Zambia, Jordan and Eswatini having the problems of poor-quality ground water and salt affected soils. The Valedictory Function of the training was organized on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023. His Excellency Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh, Honorable Secretary General, AARDO was the Chief Guest, and Honorable Dr. S. K. Chaudhari, Deputy Director General, Natural Resource Management, Indian Council of Agricultural Research was the Guest of Honour for the valedictory function. In his Valedictory addressed Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh appreciated the efforts done by Ministry of Rural development (MoRD), GOI, ICAR, and CSSRI for organizing such a high-level wonderful capacity building program. He briefed that AARDO is a group of 32 countries of Africa (18 nos.) and Asia (14 nos.). He emphasized that that AARDO is mainly working in the field of rural development for its member countries through various capacity building programme. He emphasized the need to expand its horizon beyond the capacity building programme and we require more programme beyond the training working on to implement the MSc PhD programme for AARDO members countries in high level institution in India such as IITs and IIMs. He emphasized the most of the AARDO countries are having the problems of salinity and poor-quality water therefore a group peoples were selected for the training in CSSRI. He said that there is need to mitigate the hunger and poverty and produce more basic and nutrient rich food to mitigate the hunger and poverty in AARDO countries. He emphasized that there is need to produce 60% more food grain by 2050 and for which underutilized salt-affected soils and poor-quality water resources need to be utilized. I also emphasized the concern for the economic inflation, climate change challenges, poverty, equality in the AARDO countries. Dr. S. K. Choudhary expressed his views on poor quality waters and its proper utilization for agricultural crop production. He said that beyond saline and sodic water, poor quality water includes the industrial and sewage waste waters, and specific ion toxicity leading to arsenic and boron. He said that good quality water is required for every economic activity and its availability for agriculture is reducing over the period due to over exploitation and competition with other sectors. He said that volume of poor-quality water is increasing due to geological as well as anthropogenic activities and its really difficult to manage the anthropogenic poor-quality waters which is beyond control. He appreciated the efforts of AARDO for management of poor-quality waters for agricultural production. He said that in India whenever we talked about management of poor-quality water in India, we considered not only water but also crop, soil and climate for its effective management.

Dr. R. K. Yadav Director, ICAR-CSSRI, Karnal, Welcomed the Chief guest, Guest of Honour and all the participants. He briefly presented the importance of exchange of sharing the scientific knowledge and socio-cultural exchange between the AARDO member countries through such type of training programmes. He has emphasized that CSSRI is working hard on the expanding the research programmes with AARDO members countries beyond the capacity building programmes. Dr. AK Rai, Course Co-Director & Head Soil Crop Management, ICAR-CSSRI Karnal, presented the training overview. He briefed that CSSRI Trying very hard to meet the expectation of the AARDO members countries to train the resource persons from various

countries for effective utilization of poor quality and use in agriculture and for the effective management of salt-affected soils. Dr. Gajender, Course Director & Senior Scientist, ICAR-CSSRI, Karnal, presented the detail summary report of the training programme. He briefed that the course curriculum was set to keeping the issues and challenges of aridity, salinity, sodicity and poor-quality waters in various Agro Ecological Regions of the AARDO members countries as CSSRI is having expertise in these areas and aims to capacity building of researchers and agricultural development officers of different countries. Overall 26 theory lectures on various topics including salinity and poor quality waters overview in AARDO countries, identification and classification of saline sodic waters and their utilization for crop production, identification and classification of salt effected soils, overview of various technologies such as gypsum, alternatives to gypsum, sub-surface drainange, coastal salinity, saline vertosols, use of modern tools for salinity mapping, Salinity management an Experience of JIRCAS, 6 hands on training for practical experience, and field visits to various experimental farm. We also visited the poor-quality water management, ravine land management site of IISWC, Regional Station Agra. Mr. Gordon Ochieng Nyakiti from Kenya, and Mr. Kamrul Hasan from Bangladesh gave the feedback and on the training programme and few suggestions for the improvement in future programmes. The programme was coordinated by DR. Avni, Scientist and Dr. Nirmalendu Basak, Scientist (SS) and Training Coordinator, Dr. RK Fagodiya, Scientist (SS) and Training coordinator were also attended the programme.



His Excellency Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh,  
Honorable Secretary General, AARDO



Honorable Dr. S. K. Chaudhari, DDG (NRM),  
ICAR, New Delhi.

