

## International Day for Biological Diversity (2016) Celebrated at CAZRI

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016, Jodhpur

ENVIS Centre on Combating Desertification at the ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur celebrated the **UN International Day for Biological Diversity-2016 on 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, 2016 at ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur in the line of “Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Desert Ecosystem Resilience and Livelihoods Sustenance”**.



On this occasion, **Prof. Balraj Singh, Vice Chancellor of Agricultural University, Jodhpur** delivered a Key Note Speech on **“Desert Biodiversity in Sustainable Livelihoods”** He stressed the importance of the conservation of arid zone biodiversity (local vegetation, crops, livestock, fodder, grasses etc.) and systems like agro-forestry and animal husbandry in a holistic way by linking the

conservation with commercialization. He further emphasized that plant biodiversity need to be looked through a utilitarian angle to make the system sustainable.

**Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director** briefed about the importance of the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity in context of arid regions of the country. He stressed upon developing biodiversity communications as a cockpit of mass awareness campaign ensuring more conservation-oriented thinking, establishing community biodiversity sanctuary, exploring the potential of lower plant diversity and microbial diversity of Indian arid zones.

Dr. Suresh Kumar, Principal Scientist, CAZRI and Co-ordinator-ENVIS and Dr. Dipankar Saha, Senior Scientist, CAZRI and member, ENVIS coordinated this event.

**Dr. Suresh Kumar** briefed about the activities related to ENVIS Centre operating since 1984 at CAZRI. **Dr. Dipankar Saha** highlighted the importance of better linking of IPR aspects with biological diversity along side the necessity of carrying out researches on biodiversity economics to develop an understanding about value associated with biodiversity. This function was attended by scientists, technical other officials of CAZRI.

Dr. Dipankar Saha proposed vote of thanks.