

ONE DAY BRAIN STORMING SEMINAR

KHEJARI MORTALITY IN RAJASTHAN

Dr. S.I. Ahmed presented the proposal of the coordinated project entitled “A Coordinated Project on Integrated Management of Khejri Mortality for Socio-Economic Upliftment in North-East Rajasthan”. The Chair Dr. Amar Singh Faroda told that the Director AFRI will be Chief Investigator and the others will be co-PIs. Director AFRI however suggested that Director AFRI will be Coordinator and the others will be PIs. 55 scientists of various disciplines of different organizations participated in the seminar. Chairman suggested that AFRI, CAZRI, RAU, ZSI, SFDs, Sardar Kursi Nagar Agricultural University, Dantiwara, NGOs should be involved in the project so that a multi-institutional, multi-divisional, multi-disciplinary, multi-objective approach should be undertaken.

Recommendations of seminar:

Four Groups should be identified to work on :

- a. Genetic improvement and biotechnology (Germplasm collection, characterization, mass propagation)
- b. Management (Agroforestry, Silviculture and Ecology)
- c. Plant protection (Pathology, Entomology and Nematology)
- d. Socio-economic study (Economics, Sociology)

As recommended by the committee, a proposed multidisciplinary co-ordinated research project on "*Integrated management of Khejri (P. cineraria) mortality for socio-economic upliftment in Rajasthan*" has been submitted and approved by ICFRE with a total outlay of Rs. 102.90 lakhs involving various scientists of ICFRE having different disciplines. The project will be starting from July 2010 with the following objectives.

- Studies on biotic and abiotic factors affecting for large-scale Khejri mortality
- Bio-ecological studies on the causative species involved in mortality of Khejri
- Isolation and identification of pathogens, their pathogenicity test and Induction of systemic acquired resistance (SAR).
- Assessment of socio-economic impact of Khejri mortality
- Selection and evaluation of CPT, establishment of germplasm bank and development of clonal propagation techniques.
- Screening of selected material for the disease and insect pest tolerance / resistance.
- Molecular marker based characterization of CPTs and disease escape / tolerant / resistant phenotypes.
- Development of integrated pest and disease management and its dissemination to stakeholders.