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Khet Bachao Abhiyan-A National Campaign

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A campaign under the “Khet Bachao Abhiyan” was organized on 22 June 2026 at Himtasar village, Bikaner district, by a team of scientists from the ICAR–Central Institute for Arid Horticulture (CIAH), Bikaner. The team included Dr. Jagadish Rane, Director, ICAR-CIAH, Bikaner; Dr. D. K. Samadia, Head, Crop Improvement Division; and Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Senior Scientist. At the outset, Dr. Jagadish Rane briefed the participants about the *Khet Bachao Abhiyan*, which is being organized by ICAR institutes, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across different parts of the country. He emphasized the importance of organic inputs in the production of arid horticultural crops and their role in improving soil health. He also highlighted that ICAR-CIAH, Bikaner, has developed 52 varieties of 30 arid horticultural crops characterized by high yield, improved quality, and adaptability to arid and semi-arid regions of the country.

Dr. D. K. Samadia highlighted the need to promote organic and natural farming practices, particularly for horticultural crops such as Khejri, Kachri, Ber, Lasoda, and other arid-region crops. He discussed improved production technologies for arid vegetables, with special emphasis on the Khejri varieties ‘Thar Shobha’ and ‘Thar Amruta’, which can be successfully cultivated under organic and rainfed farming systems without the use of chemical inputs. He also emphasized the importance of scientific pruning management for enhancing productivity and ensuring long-term sustainability. Dr. Ramesh Kumar stressed the use of organic inputs in the cultivation of arid fruit crops and advocated reducing the dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides through balanced nutrient management and the application of bio-pesticides. He highlighted the benefits of drip irrigation and fertigation techniques in improving nutrient-use efficiency and reducing input costs. The scientific team also conducted a door-to-door awareness campaign in the village to educate farmers about the objectives and benefits of the *Khet Bachao Abhiyan*. During the visit, the team interacted with farmers, gathered their feedback, and addressed their queries related to sustainable and climate-resilient horticultural farming practices.



Khet Bachao Abhiyan organized at Himtasar village



Interaction with farmers for nutrient management at Himtasar village



Discussion with farmers about KBA and its importance at Himtasar village



Scientists explaining about BUF to the farmers at Himtasar village