

Farmer–Scientist Interaction on Balanced Fertilizer Use and Soil Health Management under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan on 8th June, 2026 at ICAR-CIAH, Bikaner

A training programme under the "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" was successfully organized on 8th June, 2026 at ICAR-Central Institute for Arid Horticulture (CIAH), Bikaner. A total of 36 farmers participated enthusiastically in the programme. The programme was graced by Dr. Jagadish Rane, Director, ICAR-CIAH, Bikaner, who addressed the participants and highlighted the significance of the *Khet Bachao Abhiyan*. He emphasized the importance of conserving soil health, adopting sustainable agricultural practices, and promoting resource-efficient farming systems for ensuring long-term agricultural productivity in arid regions. During the programme, Dr. Anita Meena delivered an informative lecture on Natural Farming and its Role in Sustainable Agriculture. She explained the importance of natural farming in maintaining soil health, improving nutrient-use efficiency, reducing dependence on chemical inputs, and enhancing the sustainability of crop production systems. She encouraged farmers to adopt eco-friendly farming practices for improving soil fertility and reducing cultivation costs. Dr. M. K. Jatav delivered a lecture on the judicious use of fertilizers and balanced nutrient management. He explained the importance of soil testing and the efficient use of chemical fertilizers based on crop requirements. He also highlighted the benefits of integrating organic inputs such as farmyard manure, compost, and bio fertilizers with chemical fertilizers to improve soil fertility and crop productivity. Dr. R. K. Meena shared valuable knowledge on the cultivation and management of date palm and other arid fruit crops. He discussed improved production technologies, crop management practices, and the potential of arid horticulture for enhancing farmers' income under the challenging climatic conditions of the region. Dr. Sushil Khariya, Assistant Professor, SKRAU, Bikaner, delivered an expert lecture on the judicious use of fertilizers and nutrient management practices. He emphasized the importance of balanced fertilization for achieving higher crop productivity while maintaining soil health and environmental sustainability. The programme was highly interactive, with farmers actively participating in discussions and raising queries related to natural farming, nutrient management, soil health, fertilizer use, and arid fruit cultivation. The experts addressed the farmers' concerns and provided practical recommendations for improving agricultural productivity and sustainability. Overall, the training programme proved highly beneficial in enhancing farmers' awareness regarding sustainable agricultural practices, balanced fertilizer use, natural farming, soil health management, and improved production technologies for arid fruit crops. The programme successfully contributed to the objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan by promoting environmentally sound and economically viable farming practices among the farming community.

