



भाकअनुप—केन्द्रीय शुष्क बागवानी संस्थान

श्री गंगानगर मागग बीछवाल औधोगगक क्षेत्र डाकघर बीकानेर-334006

ICAR-Central Institute for Arid Horticulture

Sri Ganganagar Highway, Beechwal Industrial Area P.O., Bikaner-334006

International Women's Day Celebrated at ICAR–CIAH, Bikaner (8 March 2026)

International Women's Day was celebrated at ICAR–Central Institute for Arid Horticulture (CIAH), Bikaner on 8 March 2026 under the theme “**Give To Gain: Empowering Women in Agriculture and Science.**” The programme commenced with the rendition of the Vande Mataram and the ICAR song, creating a respectful and inspiring atmosphere for the event. The programme aimed to recognize and promote the vital role of women in agriculture, science, and rural development. At the outset, Dr. Anita Meena, organizer of the programme, warmly welcomed the dignitaries, invited speakers, scientists, women farmers, students, and participants attending both physically and Dr. Jagadish Rane, Director, ICAR-CIAH, Bikaner joined the programme virtually and conveyed his greetings and best wishes to all participants on the occasion of International Women's Day.

The programme featured expert lectures by eminent scientists and resource persons. Dr. (Ms.) Jyotsana Sharma, Consultant at JISL, Jalgaon and Retired Principal Scientist (Plant Pathology) from ICAR–NRC on Pomegranate, Solapur, Maharashtra, delivered an invited lecture on “**Role of Women in Agriculture and Research.**” She highlighted the significant contribution of women in agriculture and science and mentioned that nearly 400 million women worldwide are engaged in farming activities. She also shared inspiring examples of eminent women personalities and their remarkable contributions to science and research. Another invited lecture was delivered by Dr. (Ms.) Kanak Lata, Head, KVK Panchmahal, Gujarat, on “**Empowering Women through Horticultural Entrepreneurship in Semi-Arid and Arid Regions.**” She explained how horticultural technologies can help women develop entrepreneurship opportunities and improve their livelihoods. She also presented several successful examples of women entrepreneurs who have established agricultural businesses and motivated the women participants to adopt such initiatives. Dr. Anita Meena delivered a lecture on “**Give to Gain: Dissemination of Institute Technologies for Empowering TSP Women Farmers.**” She discussed the efforts of the institute in disseminating improved agricultural technologies among women farmers in Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) areas. She emphasized the need for greater awareness and capacity building among women farmers in TSP regions and presented village-wise activities undertaken for training, technology dissemination, and awareness generation. During the technical session, Dr. Ramkesh Meena, Principal Scientist, delivered a lecture on post-harvest technologies of date palm. Dr. D. Singh, in charge head and Principal scientist, ICAR-CIAH, Bikaner highlighted the scope of vegetable cultivation under polyhouse conditions in arid regions and discussed several women-friendly agricultural technologies suitable for small and marginal farmers. Further, Dr. K. L. Kumawat, Senior Scientist, emphasized nursery raising and nursery management as a potential income-generating activity for rural women and encouraged them to develop entrepreneurial skills. Mr. R.C. Balai, Scientist, discussed the importance of underutilized fruit crops and their nutritional benefits in arid region. The programme provided both theoretical knowledge and awareness about women's vital contribution to agriculture. Participants were encouraged to recognize the important role of women in agricultural production and adopt institute-developed technologies for sustainable farming. The year 2026 has been declared the “UN Year for Women Farmers,” the programme also emphasized acknowledging women's contributions across various sectors, including agricultural research and scientific development.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Anita Meena. A total of 48 participants, including women farmers, students, young professionals, and institute scientists, attended the programme through both virtual and physical modes.



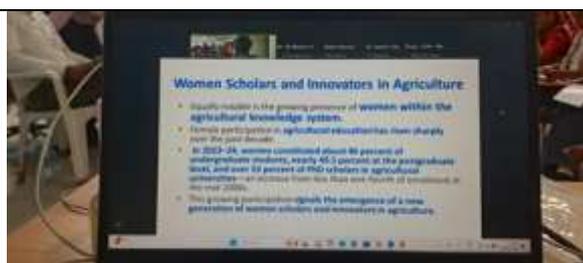
Farmer women participants during “International Women’s Day Celebrated at ICAR–CIAH, Bikaner



Lecture by Dr. (Ms.) Anita Meena, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIAH, Bikaner



Invited virtual lecture by Dr. (Ms.) Kanak Lata Head, KVK, Panchmahal, Gujrat



Invited virtual lecture by (Ms.) Jyotsana Sharma, Consultant at JISL, Jalgaon and Retired Principal Scientist (Plant Pathology), ICAR–NRC on Pomegranate, Solapur, Maharashtra

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Dr. Anita Meena.

Dr. Anita Meena, (Senior Scientist)
Chairperson, Women cell
ICAR-CIAH, Bikaner