

## International Training Programme for AARDO Member Countries

A two week international training programme on Use of Poor Quality Water in Agriculture is being organized from 23<sup>rd</sup> November to 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 at the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI), Karnal for Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) member countries was inaugurated by Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi. Dr. D.K.Sharma, Director welcomed the chief Guest and highlighted the achievements of the institute. Use of modern technologies for efficient and sustainable management of poor quality water in agriculture would be the main focus of this training programme. AARDO is an autonomous mutual inter governmental organisation comprising 30 countries (15 each from Asia and Africa). This organization was set up with a view to promote coordinated efforts, exchange of experiences and cooperative action for furthering the objective of development of the rural areas. Ten delegates from Malaysia, Egypt, Ghana, R.O.China, Nigeria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan and Bangladesh are participating in the training programme. During this training programme, extent of poor quality water in AARDO member countries, impact of long term usage of poor quality water comprising saline, amendments for sodic and waste water on crop yield and soil health and best management practices for mitigating the deleterious effects of poor quality water would be discussed. The knowledge gained during the programme would enhance the capacity of the AARDO member countries for safe and sustainable use of poor quality water, which would ultimately help in increasing the productivity of major crops in the member countries. A team of scientists comprising Dr. R.K.Yadav, Dr. Satyendra Kumar, Dr.R.L.Meena, R.K.Singh and Dr. H.S.Jat under the leadership of Dr. D.K.Sharma, Director, CSSRI was organizing the training programme and also conducting the visit of the delegates to the demonstrations of the research work undertaken by CSSRI in the fields and other research institutions of nearby areas working on poor quality waters. While inaugurating the programme, Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, ICAR, New Delhi focused on scarcity of fresh water and underlined the importance and need of use of poor quality water and waste water for irrigation. This would help in improving of the crops and cropping system in different agro-ecological regions and enable poor farmers to take advantages of the technologies developed for use of poor quality water for sustaining their livelihood, he added. He also told that the conjunctive use of poor quality water with good quality water in agriculture is also an important issue. He said that multi-enterprise agriculture, zero tillage and conservation agriculture are the need of the day to sustain the livelihood.

