

## Visit of German Minister to CSSRI, Karnal

A nine member scientific delegation led by H.E. Dr. Gerd Mueller, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Government of Germany visited Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2010. Other members of the delegation were Mrs. Gertie Hoorens-Müller, Ms. Carola Stauche (Member of Parliament), Prof. Dr. Martin Qaim, University of Göttingen, Dr. Carl-Stephan Schäfer, Secretary General German Plant Breeder's Association, Burkhard Schmied (Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection) and three representatives of the German Embassy in New Delhi. Dr. S. K. Gupta, Director, CSSRI, Dr. S. K. Sharma, Chairman of the Visit Organization Committee and other Head of Divisions welcomed the delegation and apprised them of the various research achievements and the technologies developed for the reclamation of saline, alkali soils and utilization of poor quality waters. The visitors were shown various experiments being carried out at the farms. The minister was particularly impressed with the successful programs on the development of 14 salt tolerant varieties in rice, wheat and mustard crops developed for cultivation in salt-affected areas. Significant role played by these varieties and the popularity and spread of CSR 30- a salt-tolerant *Basmati* type of rice by the small and marginal farmers and their role in improving their livelihood interested all the members of the delegation. Multi-enterprise experiments involving cropping, horticulture, vegetables, fisheries and other components for adoption by small farmers impressed the delegates. Dr. Mueller appreciated the research successes and the important role played by CSSRI in improving productivity of these problem soils and livelihood of the farmers. He expressed keen interest of the German government in developing future collaborations in these areas involving CSSRI and other suitable partners in India and Germany which is the main purpose of the current visit.

