



Dr Jagdish Chander Dagar, Head of Division, Soil & Crop Management in CSSRI, Karnal (along with Dr PS Minhas and Dr OS Tomar) has been bestowed with the prestigious “**UGC National Swami Pranavananda Saraswati Award**” for his outstanding and extraordinary achievements in the fields of **Environmental Sciences and Ecology**. This Award was conferred on them by Smt. D. Purandeswari, Hon’ble Minister of State for Human Resource Development Government of India on February 22, 2010 in Award Ceremony held at Maulana Azad Midical College, New Delhi. Dr. Dagar is also a recipient of Hari Om Trust Award of ICAR for his outstanding contribution to Indian Agriculture. He is Fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) and several other scientific Societies such as National Institute of Ecology, Rangeland Management Society of India, Indian Botanical Society, and International Society of Tropical Ecology. He has published more than two hundred research papers in international and national Journals of repute, Proceedings of Conferences/Symposia and Chapters of reputed books. He has published several books on various aspects of management of natural resources. His recent work related to Dryland Biosaline Agriculture and Biodrainage on farmers’ field has been appreciated. He has visited several countries in various capacities including FAO/UN Consultant. The Citation for this Award is as follows:

CITATION

For meeting the ever-growing demands for food and other agricultural products, effective utilization of alternate resources like degraded salty soils and waters is becoming increasingly important. Keeping this in view, an inter-disciplinary team of scientists (**JC Dagar, PS Minhas and OS Tomar**) addressed the specific issue of "Restoration of Ecological Balance and Sustainable Productivity under Saline Soil Environment". Planting methods like sub-surface planting and furrow irrigation system (SPFIM) and pit-auger-hole technique (PAHT) were developed which have found favour with foresters towards greening of calcareous, water-logged saline and alkali lands. Several salt-tolerant tree species, fruits, forage, medicinal and aromatic plants were advocated for rehabilitation purposes. These technologies not only resulted in restoring the productivity of saline lands but also contributed significantly towards carbon sequestration and also their reclamation. This has also lead to a better understanding of ecology and biodiversity of fragile mangrove and rain forest ecosystems/habitats including ethno-biology of endemic tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

