



**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**  
**Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**  
**(MIDH Division)**

**INSPECTION REPORT**

**“Centre of Excellence for Date Palm at Sagra-Bhojka, Jaisalmer,  
Rajasthan”**



**Submitted By:**

**Mr. Chirag Bhatia, Consultant, MIDH**

## **Report of the Inspection Visit to CoE, Jaisalmer on 21 March, 2023 to review the progress of Centre of Excellence for Date Palm at Sagra-Bhojka, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.**

An Inspection Visit of Shri. Chirag Bhatia, Consultant (MIDH) was organized to Jaisalmer on 21 March, 2023 to review the progress of Centre of Excellence for Date Palm at Sagra-Bhojka, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan sanctioned under Indo-Israel action plan.

### **Objective of the visit:**

It may be mentioned that Centre of Excellence for Date Palm at Date Palm farm, Sagra-Bhojka, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan was sanctioned under Indo-Israel action plan during 2012-13 with a cost outlay of Rs.552.81 lakhs. During the review meeting held in Krishi Bhawan on 11.01.2023 to review the progress of Indo-Israel CoEs it was informed by MASHAV representatives that the CoE for Date Palm, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan has not been following the technical inputs of MASHAV. Therefore, during the CoE review meeting, JS (Horticulture) directed that a team from GoI should visit the CoE Jaisalmer to physically verify the ongoing activities of the said CoE and point out the issues if any with their possible solutions.

Accordingly, Shri. Chirag Bhatia, Consultant (MIDH) visited CoE Jaisalmer on 21 March, 2023 to review the progress of the said CoE.

### **Summary of Visit Programme:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Timing</b>
21.03.2023	Meeting with MASHAV representative and State Horticulture Mission, Rajasthan officials	10:00 AM to 01:00 PM
21.03.2023	Onsite visit to CoE Jaisalmer along with State Officials and MASHAV representative	02:00 PM to 05:00 PM

### **Observations:**

A meeting was held between GoI official, MASHAV representative and SHM, Rajasthan officials at premises of CoE Jaisalmer to review the ongoing activities of the CoE and to understand the issues with their possible solutions. Field visit was organized to civil infrastructure, Post-harvest facility, Date Palm Nursery and Date Palm farm (approximately 90 ha). The concluding remarks and observations of the field visit and meeting with SHM officials has been listed below.

- It was mentioned that there is a good demand for Quality Planting material of Date Palm in Rajasthan and Gujarat states as more farmers are engaging in Date Palm cultivation however the Date Palm nursery in the said CoE has been established in open field conditions i.e. the said nursery doesn't meet technical standards as recommended by MASHAV and quality of planting material produced is not uniform.
- The Date Palm farm has been established in 90 Ha of area however the said farm does not have a separate demonstration block wherein technologies of Israeli counterpart can be demonstrated.
- It was observed that the said CoE has been imparting training on package and practices of Date Palm to farmers in major Date Palm producing states of the country. On an average the CoE is providing training to only 400-500 farmers on yearly basis.
- The said CoE, since inception has provided training to almost 3,000 farmers however database with complete details of the farmers has not been developed so far.
- It was mentioned that SHM, Rajasthan officials are facing difficulties in proper implementation of Village of Excellence programme due to non-availability of programme-specific funds under MIDH.

**Recommendations:**

The recommendations of the inspection visit are as under:

- A demonstration block well equipped with the latest Israeli technology is required to be established in an area of nearly 5 ha of land in the CoE. The provision for the same may be made under the component of Front Line Demonstration (FLD) of Annual Action Plan (AAP) 2023-24 as it is not an approved component of approved CoE.
- A well-equipped nursery under shade-net house with proper insect-pest, weed and disease management needs to be established in an area of 1 ha of land in the CoE as per MASHAV recommendations. The provision for the same may be made under the component of Nursery Production of Annual Action Plan (AAP) 2023-24 as it is not an approved component of approved CoE.
- It is recommended that CoE officials should focus on developing digital database of the farmers associated with the CoE for record purpose consisting of farmers' details, acreage of crops, production, productivity etc.
- Transfer of technology to farmers is the key objective of CoEs established under Indo-Israel Action Plan (IIAP), hence CoE Jaisalmer should focus on imparting training on cultivation and post-harvest management of Date Palm to atleast 2,500 farmers on yearly basis.



- For better implementation of Village of Excellence programme, SHM officials can make provision in Annual Action Plan for separate funding for the VoE programme under MIDH.

### Onsite inspection of the Infrastructures at CoE, Jaisalmer:



*Date Palm Plantation at CoE (Approx. 90 ha)*



*Administrative Building and Farmers Hostel*



*Nursery Production in Open Conditions at CoE*



*Inspection of CoE by GoI officials and MASHAV*



*Post-Harvest Facility at CoE, Jaisalmer*



*Cold Stores (3) at CoE, Jaisalmer*





*Sorting and grading unit at PHM facility*



*Manual Pollination of female plants at CoE*



*Site proposed for establishment of Demonstration Block (5 ha) wherein already established plantations show growth variations*