

Name of the Centre : **ENVIS Centre on “Desertification”**

Host Organisation : **Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur, Rajasthan**

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Year of Establishment : **1991**

About Host Organisation

Desert Afforestation Station, established in 1952 at Jodhpur was later expanded into Desert Afforestation and Soil Conservation Station in 1957, and finally upgraded to Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) in 1959 under Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi to undertake basic and applied researches which will contribute to the development of sustainable farming systems in the arid ecosystem. CAZRI operates through 8 Divisions at headquarter and four Regional Research Stations located in different agroclimatic zones to work on location-specific problems. It act as a repository of information on the state of natural resources and desertification processes and its control. It also act as a centre for training in research methodologies in relevant scientific areas. The centre provides scientific leadership and collaboration with State Agricultural Universities for generating location-specific technologies



Activities of the Centre

The activities of the centre include collection of books, reports, journals, monographs and research papers on Desertification. Establishment of a 'Desert Data Bank' for the quick dissemination of information and providing linkages to all information agencies concerning to desertification within and outside the

country. Entertaining users' queries specially from the policy makers and planners, scientists and researchers. Co-ordinating with the focal-point i.e. Ministry and other ENVIS centres established in the country. Helping the ministry in building up a inventory of information material available at this centre for onward transmission to INFOTERA. Identifying the data-gaps on Desertification and to initiate necessary steps to fillup these gaps.

ENVIS Publications

◉ ENVIS Newsletter

- ◆ **DEN NEWS:** A quarterly publication 'Desert Environment News' is being published by the centre since 1997.



◉ Publications

- ◆ A select list of Soil Science Publications from CAZRI, Jodhpur
- ◆ Catalogue of Periodicals - Desertification
- ◆ Bibliography on Desertification and Soil Conservation
- ◆ Desertification : An overview (Monograph)
- ◆ Current Awareness Bulletin (Monthly)

Services

◉ Abstracting Services

- ◆ Den Abstracts are published on a quarterly basis by the Centre which features different aspects of desertification.

◉ Query Response Service

- ◆ Under the document delivery system the centre is providing original research articles/ bulletins/ reports/ monographs to researchers, scientists, NGO's on demand. Free photocopy and search through AGRIS and CAB database is provided to researchers/ scientists visiting the centre. The Centre makes regular responses to various national and international queries on the subject area. About 500 queries on an average are handled per year by the Centre.

CAZRI Website (<http://cazri.raj.nic.in>)

- The ENVIS Centre site on Desertification features the introduction and objective of the Centre. The site also provides data on crop production. The site highlights the ENVIS related activities along with the databases on desertification. A list of the ENVIS related publications have also been put up and the DEN Abstracts have been made online. The list of all the ENVIS Centres is also available online.



Future Plan

- Continue with the publication of DEN Newsletter & Plans to publish DEN Abstract as special issue and to bring out a small publication on “Desertification”.
- Updation of Bibliographical data-base on a regular basis.
- Updation of the ENVIS Website.