

## CSSRI Scientist gets the prestigious *Rafi Ahmed Kidwai* Award

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has bestowed its most prestigious Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award on Dr. Sushil Kumar Kamra, Head, Division of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering, Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal. Dr. Kamra got this award from Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, in a glittering ICAR Award ceremony held in New Delhi on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2009. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award is awarded biennially to 9 scientists in 7 disciplines belonging to about 100 ICAR institutes and 45 agricultural universities to recognize their outstanding research work; this year it was awarded to only 5 scientists. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 3 *lakh*, a citation and a medal. Dr. Kamra got the award in the field of Engineering and Technology.



Dr. S.K. Kamra has made significant contributions in the area of subsurface drainage technology for the management of waterlogged saline irrigated lands in India. Mechanically- installed subsurface drainage has been implemented in 7500 ha area in farmers' fields in Haryana where estimated annual loss due to waterlogging and soil salinity is Rs. 200 *crore*. He is now coordinating a comprehensive project on groundwater recharge in farmers' fields at 100 sites in falling water table areas of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. Dr. Kamra is an Alexander von Humboldt (Germany) research fellow as well as a Fellow of Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) and National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS). During 2006, he was selected as one of the 10 Asian experts for International Program on Groundwater Governance at Kansas University in USA. During 2008, he visited McGill University, Canada as a visiting scientist in the area of mathematical modeling of water and salt transport in soil and groundwater.

