

## Face to Face at World Cashew Convention 2017

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**Mr. Tukaram Prabhu, Secretary KCMA**

*An Exclusive Interview with Mr. Tukaram Prabhu, Secretary KCMA -India  
at the World Cashew Convention, 09-11 Feb, 2017, Singapore*



**What are the promotional activities organised/planned by KCMA in 2017?**

In 2017, we are actually expanding our sapling plan, we have tied up with the udupi mutt under their kotiraksha programme and we are likely to distribute around 5 lakh saplings. Also in association with the Dharmasthala Gramabhivridhi Yojana and Vijaylakshmi Foundation all of us in Karnataka are joining together and trying to implement this programme. The saplings from Navneeth Nursery in Puttur, are going to be distributed to various farmers from the month of July.

**Cashews are being planted in the non Traditional area, in places like Mandya, kolar, shimogga of Karnataka etc, your comments on that.**

It is a programme of DCCD under the stewardship of Director Mr. Venkatesh Hubballi. A group of farmers who have been regularly growing sugarcane are being well trained on the production aspects and management of cashews and they have taken up cashews in Mandya. Moreover, a large area of cultivation has come under cashew in Dharwad and it's a wonderful initiative to expand area under cashews in non-traditional areas.

**How was the climate in the key growing regions of Cashews in Karnataka been, what are your predictions on cashew season this year?**

This year the weather has been very favourable so far for cashews, the monsoons showers were very good. Overall, we foresee a good crop for the 2017 season.

**Do you think processing in India still viable considering the fact that wages are high, RCN prices are too high, how are they able to cope up with the addition prices that they are incurring?**

We in Karnataka are definitely are able to cope up as a result of which we are progressing, we are mechanizing the process, hence we foresee a very bright future for cashews in Karnataka.

**What are the challenges faced by importers in Tanzania?**

The main advantage in Tanzania is its Good Quality of nuts and the disadvantage is their logistics. The port facilities in Tanzania is very poor, so whatever is being procured by buyers are unable to ship it in Time and even the ware housing facilities in Tanzania is not up to the mark . These are few facing problems faced by the importers which need to be rectified.

**What are views on WCC, in what it is helping cashew sector and what are expectations for next year?**

We have been participating since the beginning of first year. We see it's been continuously growing and the sessions being conducted here are very informative. For us, it's a place, where we can meet all our concerned people in the whole cashew value chain, it's been helpful in that way and over the period it's been very helpful for the whole industry. I feel, the timing has been right, as the new season is about to begin. We have this WCC, which in turn provides us the feedback and trends about the season. We hope the same thing continues in the future