

Highlights of DCCD National Conference themed 'Production to marketing', to commensurate 50th year of its establishment

The Directorate of Cashew nut and Cocoa Development, which is celebrating its golden jubilee (50th) year of its establishment had organized The National Conference on Cocoa and Cashew, themed "Production to Marketing" during November 7-8, 2016 in Panaji, Goa,

Inaugural session

Mr R K Srivatsava, Chief Secretary of Goa inaugurated the conference. Others present on the inaugural session were Mr P Sundaran, CEPCI Chairman, Dr Venkatesh Hubballi, Director, DCCD, Dr S K Malhotra, Agriculture and Horticulture Commissioner, Government of India, Dr Vasudev Prasad, VC, UAS-Shivamoga, Dr Gangadhara Nayak, Director, DCR-Puttur, and Mr Ulhas B Pai Kakode, Director of Agriculture, Goa.

In his inaugural speech, the Chief Secretary of Goa Mr RK Srivatsava said that there are a lot of challenges in the cultivation of cashew and cocoa as the particular field is not a technology driven field, where there are turnkey solutions. "The government support for such cultivators is important, and hence the Goa government has extended minimum support price for their crops," Srivatsava added, pointing out that if other states follow the same path, then it would provide a boost to their cultivators.

Farmers should make use of Pradhan Mantri Fasl Bima Yojana

Dr S K Malhotra highlighted about the PFBY (Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana), which covers the farmers from the risk of crop failure due to impact of climate change, diseases etc., Under this scheme so far 35,00,000 ha of area has been insured. But in horticulture only 3, 00,000 ha is insured under this scheme. We need to educate/make farmers aware of the scheme and its benefits. Dr Malhotra further said that pulses are also the priority area of the central government.

Mr P Sundaran, Chairman of CEPCI, spoke about the lack of availability of good quality materials by the Indian cashew industry. African supply may wane over a period of time as they too have started processing cashews on a large scale.

Dr Vasudevappa, VC of UAS-Shivamoga highlights that mango being replaced by cashew on a large scale. Arecanut plants are dying year after year, which requires more water, which could be replaced by cashew in Shivamoga district. Last year, we intended to promote one lakh hectare of land under cashews, but we couldn't achieve the same due to drought.

Mr Walter D'Souza, MD, Fernandes Brothers presided the first technical session with other panelists being Dr M Tamil Selvan, Additional Commissioner (Horticulture), Govt of India and Dr B Dhananjay of KVK, Bramhavar.

DCCD vision for Cashew and Cocoa

The director of DCCD Dr Venkatesh Hubballi, in his welcome address, said that in the year 1966, when the directorate was established, only 2.40 lakh hectares area in the country was brought under cashew cultivation, with the annual production of the crop being one lakh metric ton, at that time. Raw cashew

nut which fetched INR 30 per kg is currently quoted at INR 169 per kg, and he is of the view that cashew is the crop of the future.

The DCCD vision is to promote cashew and cocoa so as to improve socio and economic conditions of small and marginal farmers and to achieve self sustenance. Some of the future strategies for the next decade include massive replanting programme, expansion of area under traditional and non-traditional areas and to organize intensive thematic campaigns and to train farmers. Ensure private participation with government support to ensure proper implementation of technologies at the field level. Also to monitor and educate proper post harvest management and processing with value addition.

Usage of technology to enhance cashew production

Dr M Gangadhar Nayak spoke about the technology options for enhancing cashew production. Senile and low yield plantations are to be replanted with high yielding seedlings. Over 200 lakh cashew grafts are produced annually. He also highlights about some of the high yielding varieties which are under evaluation such as H-43, H-66, H-68, H-125 and H-126. Pruning of cashew results in improved yield performance. Drying of flowers and fruit drop in cashews under drought conditions are to be checked by adapting to proper soil and water conservation techniques.

Intercropping in cashews with pineapple, Tapoica, Turmeric, Ginger, Elephant foot yam, Chillies, Brinjal, will minimize the losses; conserve soil and moisture and higher net returns.

By adopting suggested technologies options in cashew cultivation, it is expected that the production of raw cashew nuts in the country can reach 2.5 million tonnes by 2030, owing to self-sufficiency in raw cashew-nut production and realizing doubling of farmer's income.



Photo 1 (LHS) Mr S K Malhotra, Mr P Sundaran, Dr Gangadhar Nayak, and Dr Venkatesh N Hubballi
Photo 2(RHS) Dr Venkatesh Hubballi, Dr M Tamil Selvan, Mr Walter D'Souza, and Dr B Dhananjay

Status of Cashew Cultivation in Goa

Mr Ulhas B Pai Kakode, Director of Agriculture of Goa, presented on the current status of cashew cultivation in Goa. Cashew is the main commercial crop of Goa with GDP of INR 256 crores. Cashew feni is distilled from fermented juice extracted from the cashew apple and is a popular alcoholic beverage in

Goa. Feni is also Goa's first Geographical Indication (GI) product and it is also the first liquor in the country to obtain the GI status.

Road map of Cashew Production –India-2025

Dr R K Bhooles, Vice- Chairman of CEPCL, presented on the road map on cashew production in India - 2025. By 2025 Indian cashew production is forecasted around 900,000 tons, considering at a CAGR of 3.4 percent per annum. At the same India cashew processing demand is forecasted at around 22, 00,000 tons by 2025, at CAGR of 5.3 percent per annum. The gap between production and processing is about 300,000 tons.

Dr Bhooles suggested measures to overcome the shortfall, by the way of increasing the area by 25 percent in the next three years. Also replace 80% of the existing old and senile trees, starting with 20% from 2020 onwards (i.e., 200,000 ha). Moreover increase the pre-harvest yield up to 80% by 2019 by promoting drip-irrigation, adequate manuring, and control of pest and disease management, technical know how from the field officers and effective implementation through cashew producers society/SHG.

Indian Cashew Industry and Government policies

Mr Prakash Kalbhavi, Ex-President of KCMA spoke about Indian Cashew Industry and Government policies. Mr Kalbhavi projected India's cashew requirement at 3 million tons by 2020, of which domestic production is estimated at 0.9 million tons and India is likely to import around one million tons. Thus the projected shortfall is of 1.1 million tons.

On the government policies the focus should be on to improve the productivity level. He also wants of abolition of APMC on RCN to improve farmer's realization, roll back of customs duty of 5% on RCN imports, to develop a model for cashew apple utilization and to establish a cashew board to monitor production.

Mr Giridhar Prabhu of Achal Industries is of the view that India needs to scale up its RCN production to two million tons by 2025. He wants minimum support price for farmers to be announced at INR 125 kg for 2017-2025 for fully dried RCN ex farm gate. Minimum yield potential has to be doubled to 1400 kg per ha.

Mr Rajendra Sabat emphasizes the need for financing the cashew value chain by banks and NGO's at an affordable rate. Govt. should establish R & D Centres for new technology for automation in cashew processing and by-product utilization.

Industrial application of cashew apple

Ms A. Shobana, Professor at Kerala Agricultural university presented on cashew apple utilisation. India produces about 70-80 lakh tonnes of cashew apple per annum, but most of them are wasted without commercial exploitation.

KAU is commercially producing cashew candy, cashew apple – mango mixed with fruit jam named "Cashew man" mixed Jam. It is also producing cashew apple pickle.

Alcohol from cashew apple can be used as bio-fuel. Apple residue, after preparation of FENI, is being used as fuel for liquor making in Goa.

Ripened fruits can be used as a raw material for biogas plant and Cashew peel can be used in tannin extraction, which is useful in leather industry.

Cashew Development in Maharashtra

Dr Pradeep C Haldavanekar, Associate Director of Research, RFRS, Vengurla, highlighted about cashew research and development in Maharashtra.

In Maharashtra, area under cashew was only in about 8000 ha in 1970, has now grown considerably to 64000 ha in 2000 and in 2016 the area under stood at 186000 ha. In India the state of Maharashtra is having the highest productivity of 1182 kg per hectare as against the Indian average productivity of 700 kg per ha.

Yield is on the higher side due to assured rainfall, well drained soil in Konkan region, improved varieties, standardisation of vegetative propagation scheme and employment guarantee scheme by govt of Maharashtra.

Ways to Enhance Cashew Production in East India

Dr P C Lenka, (Retd Prof. & Head), Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar, presented about the strategies to enhance cashew production in eastern India.

The area under cashew in East India (which consists of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal (WB) and Odisha) is 226,000 ha with production of 133,000 tonnes.

The yield is below the national average at 668 kg per ha, except West Bengal where the yield was well above 1000 kg per ha. The yield can be increased by providing irrigation (by providing 80 litres per day once in four days) during flowering and fruiting season (Jan to April).

There is a lot of scope for area expansion with more than two lakh ha can be brought under cashew cultivation.

Moreover promotion of intercropping in the inter-space of cashew can increase the net return per ha. It reduces weed population during rainy season and conserves soil moisture.

The first clonal plantation of cashew was taken up in the district of Dhenkanal by Government of India and Odisha State cashew Development Corporation.

Dr V Ambethgar of Horticulture College, Tiruchi (Tamil Nadu) spoke about how to control pests and diseases occurring in cashews.

Dr Gajbhiye, Horticulturist (Cashew), RFRS, Vengurla, highlighted the importance of planting quality planting material so as to increase the yield of cashews. He also recommended usage of cashew varieties for different parts of the country. At present, more than 60 lakh cashew grafts are produced annually, through out over 80 regional nurseries approved by DCCD, Kochi.