

CHAPTER - 7

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The following conclusions have been emerged under the study and some recommendations to grab a prominent position in market.

(1) More than 67 % of the land under the horticulture, is occupied by cashewnut plantation, out of which 42 % of the plantation is yet to be matured. Further out of the total 1,34,073 hectares of land, about 14,684 hectares of land is under the forest (i.e. 10.95 %) and about 16,900 hectares of land is yet uncultivated in this Tahasil, which could be used for further plantation. Thus there is a very wide scope to increase the plantation in the existing land available for cashew plantation. While considering the existing land under cashew plantation in tahasil i.e. 9,293, can be increased by 16900 hectares i.e. 182 % of existing cashewnut plantation.

(2) Existing output per tree, per year is very low i.e. 3.75 k.g. per tree per year. The old trees grown from seeds or seedlings, hence have low yield and poor quality because of old age and absence of upkeep, treating them a wild crop.

Production of raw nuts can be increased by improving the yield of existing plantation; by enlarging the planted area and by improving the collection procedure.

The new technology should be encouraged. The propagation of cashew through seeds and seedlings should be discouraged. The programme should be set up for transfer of scientific technology to farming community by way of farmers' training.

(3) Cultivators looking at this crop as a supplementary to their agriculture. Shortly it may turn in to a primary occupational activity.

Cashewnut should be given importance in view of its potential as a productive and cash crop.

(4) More than 80 % of the cultivators favouring the existance of cooperative societies for fair dealings. But still they prefer the Local Tredars because of the home services rendered by them. Cultivators need home services for the lack of transport facilities.

About 62 % of the cultivators under the study depend upon the Local Traders for selling their produce, due to inadequate transport facilities and other similar facilitating functions.

The efforts should be made to improve the communication and transport systems.

(5) About 68 % of the cultivators selling 13 % of their produce, as soon as it became available due to the pressing need of money.

The facility of advance payment against the crop may be made available through cooperative society to the cultivators, to protect their interest.

(6) More than 80 % of the produce is sold out at peak of the season, when the rates are lowered by Rs.2 to Rs.3 per k.g., than the rates at the beginning or at the end of season.

The cashewnuts should be harvested after full maturity of the cashew apple and nuts should be dried immediately for three days after harvest on the hard ground and stored in jute bags and should be marketed within six months of collection and during packing, must not be exposed to excessive moisture. Thus preserved cashewnuts can be sold at off season to fetch higher rates.

(7) The cultivators are satisfied with whatever they get, and not aware of the efforts to be made for increasing the productivity of plants, improve the market relations.

In order to increase their earnings training at farm level is necessary.

(8) In absence of regulated market Local Traders taking undue advantage of ignorance of the cultivators, and lack of transport facilities or store facilities. Sometimes the cashewnuts are purchased even at Rs.24 or Rs.25 per k.g. though the rate offered in market by cooperative society is Rs.30 per k.g., this is due to lack of communication

and transport facilities. Thus some times more than 15% margin is also charged by the Local Traders, whereas the cooperative society charging only 50 paisa per k.g. as a commission. However cooperative societies are not interested in marketing the cashewnut produce due to least response by cultivators. The reason behind the least response by cultivators to local cooperative society is due to lack of home service and advancing facilities.

However, local cooperative society should take an active part in cashew market, providing advance facilities to cultivators against their produce and convincing the importance of cooperatives to cultivators.

With the help of cooperative society reduction in cost of market and margin is possible as the societies charging about 0.15% commission whereas Local Traders charging about 3.5% commission on sale. With linking cooperative society with credit cooperatives and thus delinking middlemen is possible.

Further centralised purchasing system should be executed by the Government as in case of "Cotton purchase" for stabilising the rates as well as to ensure the sale of cooperative society.

(9) All transaction are in terms of cash hence the functionaries involved, has to face the finance problem.

Government should help for easy financial assistance.

(10) Most of the Traders in taluka sell their purchases to the factories outside the taluka, because of their previous contracts and high rates offered than the factories in tahasil. The factories in taluka use to purchase their required raw nuts from outside tahasil.

Efforts should be made to provide the required cashewnuts by factories in taluka, from the produce in taluka itself, to reduce the cost of transport.

(11) The factories have to seek for assistance of the Traders for purchase of raw nuts, because direct purchasing from cultivators is time consuming and further, the adjustment of rates with each of the cultivator according to the grade of produce is a tedious work.

If the purchases are made through cooperative society, the dealings will be more fair.

(12) The Government should encourage the processing units by providing infrastructure facilities, easy financial assistance, and tax concessions being a labour intensive industry. By developing this industry, the backwardness of this region can be removed and foreign currency earnings can be enhanced.