

CHAPTER FOUR
METHODOLOGY AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

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4.1 Methodology:

Research methodology has an important role in the fields of all types of investigations for the proper, scientific and valid conclusions and analysis. It requires suitable research methodology. The present study relating to growth and prospects of cashewnut processing units of Vengurla taluka of Sindhudurg District is based on certain objectives which are explained below. In the present study efforts have been made to analyse the growth and prospects of cashewnut processing units which are mainly dependent on local resources. The study is mainly based on primary data collected through pre-designed schedule (See Appendix No. I).

4.2 Objectives of the Present Study:

- (1) To study the growth of cashew processing units in Vengurla taluka
- (2) To see the prospects of cashew processing units in Vengurla Taluka
- (3) To examine the potentialities especially for women in cashew processing units in Vengurla Taluka.

• 4.3 Units Covered:

A systematic record of cashew processing units of Vengurla taluka does not exist. Many cashew processing units are found to be operating without registration and hence difficult to locate. The present study has obtained information about those units only which are registered with DIC.

The following table shows break-up of cashew processing units in Vengurla Taluka.

TABLE 4.1

Name of the Unit	Location
Messrs Shirodkar Cashew Factory	Vengurla
Messrs Narayan Mahadev Varskar	ditto
Atul Cashew Factory	ditto
Messrs Bowlekar Cashew Factory	Math
Messrs Narmada Cashew Industries	Bhutwadi
Khade Cashewnut Factory	Khanoli
Messrs Achyut Cashew Factory	Talas
Messrs Zantye Brothers	Vengurla
Messrs Sanjeevani Cashew Factory	Math

Source: DIC Kudal & survey of cashewnut processing units in Vengurla Taluka conducted by the researcher

The present study covered all the nine registered cashew processing units and hence the coverage is cent-per-cent.

• 2.4 **Period of Survey:**

It was originally decided to cover the performance for the three years of 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 for the purpose of analysis and evaluation. Data relating to production, investment, employment and marketing have been collected for the purpose of finding out the effect of variables like capital, labour, raw material on production over the time period of 3 years.

2.5 **Schedules of Analysis:**

Keeping the objectives in view the schedules have been prepared as shown in Appendix-I. The data have been collected by personal contacts.

Problem Statement:

Vengurla Taluka of Sindhudurg district is topographically located as a part of west-coastal region of Maharashtra. The soil, climate and rainfall are quite suitable for cultivation of many horticultural crops. This also has been recognised for the last many years. A good number of horticultural crops, such as mango, cashewnut and Cocum are being successfully cultivated in this area. At the level of Government District Regional Fruit Research Centre, Vengurla is playing a significant role for the development of new varieties. This

- is particularly so in the case of cashewnuts. At the level of processing also this Taluka has many processing units which have been working for the last fifty years.

The marketing of cashewnuts is also no more a problem. In spite of all these favourable factors the actual working of the cashewnut processing units is not satisfactory. Hence there is a room for improvement of the cashewnut processing units. We hoped that, certain important problems could be identified and suggestions could be offered. Secondly, cashewnut processing units are at present labour-intensive in nature which offers vast potential for female employment since sex ratio in Sindhudurg district is in favour of females. A suitable employment strategy for women needs to be worked out.