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Constraints experienced by growers on cashewnut plantation on hillocks and plane land

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Abstract

The study was conducted in Sindhudurg district with objective to comparative nutrient management, plant protection practices and yield of cashew plantation on hillocks and plane land by interviewing 100 cashewnut nut growers. Growers remarked constraints like no package of practices for organic cashew farming, no fix price for cashewnut in the market, infestation of stem borer, tender/raw cashewnut peeling device is not available and shortage of laboures during harvest. The suggestion like package of practices for organic cashew cultivation be made available, fix price for purchase of cashewnut should be decided, for peeling of tender cashewnut mechanized cashewnut peeler may be developed, power operated cashew apple juice extractor may be developed and effective repellent for stem borer be made available offered by cashewnut growers. The policy makers consider suggestions for better production of cashewnut.

Keywords: Hillocks, plan, cashewnut

Introduction

Cashew (*Annacardium occidentale* L.) was introduced to India from Brazil about 500 years ago as a crop of afforestation and soil conservation. which has been adapted to Indian climatic conditions and is being cultivated in different part of the country. In Maharashtra total area under cashew crop is 1.83 lakh ha. with annual nut production more than 2.00 lakh MT. and average productivity ranges between 1.3 ton to 1.5 ton/ha. The Regional Fruit Research Station, Vengurle of Dr. BalasahebSawant Konkan KrishiVidyapeeth, Dapoli has evolved Vengurla-1 to Vengurla-9 high yield varieties of Cashew as well as standardized soft wood grafting propogation technique. Further, organized massive extension programme for dissemination of information regarding modern package of practices of cashew crop among the farmers which has resulted into increase in area under cashew crop. The cashew plantation in the Konkan region is mostly observed on hillocks and at some of the places it is on plane land. Hence, the present comparative study on cashew plantation on hillocks and plane land was undertaken with the following objectives.

1. To analyse the constraints experienced by the cashewnut growers in cultivation of cashew crop.
2. To analyse the suggestions of the cashewnut growers in popularizing the cashew crop cultivation among the farmers.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Sindhudurg district. Out of 7 tahsils, two tahsils namely Dodamarg and Sawantwadi were selected purposively according to area under cashew crop. From each tahsil 5 villages were selected on the basis of maximum area under cashewnut cultivation. In all 100 farmers i.e. 10 farmers from each village (5 farmers from hillock plantation and 5 farmers from plane land) were selected randomly and interviewed with the specially designed interview schedule. The farmer having more than 10 years old and at least 100 plants of high yielding varieties of cashew was considered as a cashew grower under this study.

Results and Discussion

1. Constraints in cashew cultivation

An attempt was made in the present study to understand the constraints experienced by the cashew growers in cultivation of cashew crop. The constraints experienced by the cashew growers while cultivating the cashew crop are presented in Table 1.

It is revealed from Table 1 that as regards the hillock plantation of package of practices for organic farming of cashew cultivation was the constraint reported by 74.00 per cent of the respondents, while, no fix price for cashewnut in the market was the constraint experienced by 58.00 per cent of the respondents while shortage of laboures during harvest (42.00 per cent) were some of the constraints stated by cashew growers from hillock region.

The data about constraints of cashew growers from plane land region revealed that more than three-fifth of the respondents (64.00 per cent) opined unavailability of package of practices of organic farming as a constraint, whereas, heavy infestation of stem borer (56.00 percent), no fix price cashewnut in the market (54.00 per cent), for effective utilization of tender cashewnut peeling device is

not available (46.00 per cent), and shortage of laboures during harvest (32.00 per cent) were some of the constraints experienced by cashew growers from plane land.

2. Suggestions of cashewnut growers for popularizing cashew crop

The cashew growers offered various suggestions to overcome the problems in cashew farming were collected and prevented in Table 2.

It is seen from Table 2 that more than three-fourth of the respondent (76.00 per cent) suggested to have package of practices for organic cashew cultivation from hillock plantation. while, fix price for purchase of cashewnut may be decided was the suggestion made by 64.00 per cent of the respondents. Whereas, equal number of respondents (52.00 per cent) suggested to develop mechanized tender cashewnut peeler and mechanized cashew apple juice extractor.

As regards the cashew plantation from plane land data revealed that maximum number of respondents (74.00 per cent) suggested to develop package of practices for organic cashew cultivation. While, 72.00 per cent of the respondent suggested to make available effective repellent for stem borer. Fix price for purchase of cashewnut may be decided was the suggestion made by 58.00 per cent of the respondents. Whereas, 56.00 per cent of the respondents suggested to develop power operated cashew apple juice extractor. While 40.00 per cent of the respondents suggested to develop mechanized peeler for tender cashewnut.

Table 1: Constraints experienced by the cashew growers

Sr. No.	Constraint	Hillock plantation		Plane land plantation	
		Respondents (N=50)		Respondents (N=50)	
		Number	Percentage (N=100)	Number	Percentage (N=100)
1.	Heavy infestation of stem borer	19	38.00	28	56.00
2.	No package of practices for organic cashew farming	37	74.00	32	64.00
3.	Tender/raw cashewnut peeling device is not available	21	42.00	23	46.00
4.	No fix price for cashewnut in the market	29	58.00	27	54.00
5.	Shortage of laboures during harvest	21	42.00	16	32.00

Table 2: Suggestions offered by the cashew growers

Sl. No.	Suggestion	Hillock plantation		Plane land plantation	
		Respondents (N=50)		Respondents (N=50)	
		Number	Percentage (N=100)	Number	Percentage (N=100)
1.	Package of practices for organic cashew cultivation be made available	38	76.00	37	74.00
2.	Fix price for purchase of cashewnut should be decided	32	64.00	29	58.00
3.	For peeling of tender cashewnut mechanized cashewnut peeler may be developed	26	52.00	20	40.00
4.	Power operated cashew apple juice extractor may be developed.	26	52.00	28	56.00
5.	Effective repellent for stem borer be made available.	21	42.00	36	72.00

Conclusion

1. Package of practices for organic farming in cashew crop from hillock region and plane land need to be developed.
2. Government may decide fix price for purchase of cashewnut.
3. Mechanized device for peeling of tender cashewnut as well as mechanized power operated cashew apple juice extractor need to be developed

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