



CASHEW PROCESSING INDUSTRY: A SUNSHINE INDUSTRY (A STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SOUTH KONKAN REGION)

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ABSTRACT

India is the largest producer, processor, exporter and second largest consumer of cashew kernels in the world. In India, cashew is grown mainly in Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala along the west coast and Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal along the east coast. The total area under cashew cultivation was 10.62 lakhs hectares having total production of 8.17 lakhs MT tons.

KEYWORDS: processor, exporter, production and productivity.



INTRODUCTION :

In Maharashtra state, the production and productivity of cashew is highest in the country. Maharashtra is the largest cashew producer with 1.91 hectare area under cashew cultivation with 269.44 thousand MT production followed by Andhra Pradesh. Maharashtra also ranked first in productivity with 1,378 kg/ha followed by West Bengal 1140 kg/ha and Kerala 962 kg/ha. The total area under cashew cultivation in Maharashtra state was 1,91,450 hectares. Of which more than 75% having 1,42,534 ht area was contributed by South Konkan region of Maharashtra, mainly by Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri district. Production and productivity of cashew is highest in Maharashtra. Maharashtra is the state having first rank with highest productivity of 1,378kg/ha. There are number of cashew processing units in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. Most of the cashew processing units are small and tiny and labour intensive. They are worth contributing in employment generation for especially rural women folk. Out of the total employment 92% is female labour employment. There are about 800 cashew processing units in the Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. There is vast scope for establishment of cashew processing industries in the south konkan region of Maharashtra. The demand for cashew kernel is increasing in the local as well as global market. The infrastructure facilities of south Konkan region are increasing. On the this background researcher feels that the prospect of cashew processing industry in the resource region is very bright. So the researcher has finalized the research topic as: Cashew Processing Industry: A Sunshine Industry (A Study with Special Reference to South Konkan Region)

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To take an overview of cashew processing industry in Ratnagiri district.
2. To evaluate export potentials of cashew kernels from India in general and Ratnagiri district in particular.

3. To evaluate infrastructure facilities available for export of cashew kernels from Ratnagiri district.
4. To assess problems in export of cashew kernels and to suggest ways and means to increase marketing of cashew in domestic as well as especially in the global market.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the present study primary as well as secondary data is used. For primary data collection pre-structured questionnaire is used. Secondary data is collected from various journals, Government records and web support.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table No. 1
STATE-WISE PRODUCTION OF CASHEW

Sr. No.	States	Area in (000 hectare)	Production (in 000 MT tons)	Productivity (kg/hect)
1	Maharashtra	191.45	269.44	1378
2	Kerala	92.817	88.18	962
3	Karnataka	129.065	89.447	672
4	Goa	58.25	34.259	561
5	Tamil Nadu	142.275	71.03	478
6	Andhra Pradesh	186.781	116.915	600
7	Orissa	193.988	98.585	513
8	West Bengal	11.36	12.96	1140
9	Other	56.06	36.184	708
Total		1062.042	817	753

(Source: Director of Cashew and Coco Development 2017-18)

From the above table it shows that Maharashtra is the largest cashew producing state in India contributing 1,91,45,000 area of cashew cultivation which is increasing day by day. The production and productivity of cashew is also of Maharashtra state.

PRODUCTION OF CASHEW IN RATNAGIRI AND SINDHUDURG DISTRICTS

Table No. 2
AREA WISE PRODUCTION OF CASHEW IN KONKAN REGION

Sr. No.	States	Area in (hectare)	Production (in MT tons)	Productivity (MT/hect)
1	Ratnagiri	82114	76366	0.93
2	Sindhudurg	60420	82171	1.36
3	Raigad	3142	4720	1.5
4	Palghar	831.30	748.20	0.9
5	Total	1,46,507.73	1,64,005.2	1.11

In 2017- 18, the total area under cashew cultivation in Maharashtra state was 1,91,450 hectares. Of which more than 75% having 1,42,534 ht was contributed by South Konkan region of Maharashtra, mainly in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri district. Production and productivity of cashew is highest in Maharashtra. Maharashtra is the state having first rank with highest productivity of 1,378kg/ha. The varieties suggested Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konakn Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli for cashew cultivation varies from Vengurla 1 to Vengurla 9 are the excellent varieties for cashew cultivation. It results in excellent cashew kernel of W 180 and W 210 grades which are largest and heaviest grades having highest prices.

Prospect of cashew processing industry in South Konkan region Market of cashew kernels.

Table No. 3

Opinion	No. of Units	%
Increasing	125	100
Decreasing	-	-
Stable	-	-

All cashew processors have opined that market of cashew kernels is increasing rapidly and there is bright future to cashew processing industry in this region.

The quality of cashew in this region is excellent due to its taste, and nutritional values due to geo-climatic condition in this region as well as the production is **organic**. Innovations of different cashew varieties by Regional Fruit Research Centre, Vengurla, major area under cultivation is naturally organic, wild flora and fauna – area blessed with variety of aromatic and medicinal plants. assist in retaining quality of cashew these are the major strengths of this region.

DESTINATIONS WHERE CASHEW ARE BEING EXPORTED?

India is the major exporter of cashew kernels and earns a sizeable amount of foreign exchange in the tune of Rs. 5,500 crores per annum.

Indian cashew kernels are exported to more than 60 countries in the world, mainly to U.A.E U.S.A., Netherlands, U.K., Germany, Japan, Australia, etc. The country earned foreign exchange equivalent to ₹5870.97 crores, from export of 84352 MT of cashew kernels in the year 2017-18. There are various infrastructure facilities for transportation of cashew kernel and mango based products at global level. The Jawaharlal Neharu Port Trust, Navi Mumbai is 300 km. away from Ratnagiri. There is Jaygad port also in the Ratnagiri district. The another sources of transportation is Konkan railway and Mumbai Goa highway. The Government of Maharashtra has announced Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Thane and Raigad districts of Konkan region as Agri-Export -Zone for Alphonso mango. Various facilities are available for export of mangoes. For Alphonso mango **Geographical Identification** is also received due its quality. Cashew and mangoes are major cash crops in the Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. These are the backbone of South Konkan Region economy. Government should take initiatives for promotion of cashew kernel in the global market including starting a branch of regional office/ branch of Cashew Export Promotion Council in Ratnagiri district. Following table shows various destination of export cashew nuts.

EXPORT OF CASHEW NUTS TO THE MAJOR MARKETS

Table No. 4

Rs. in Crores

Country	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	MT	₹	MT	₹	MT	₹	MT	₹	MT	₹
U.A.E.	17421	788.20	239.40	1140.86	18537	963.55	18556	1216.7	17570	1252.29
U.S.A.	33898	1505.73	30643	1408.85	22661	1149.53	17515	1102.9	13179	906.14
Netherlands	9918	423.60	9349	417.9	6236	312.39	4891	296.27	8650	584.05
Japan	6702	311.62	7413	351.94	7826	420.76	6434	399.41	8509	596.85
Saudi Arabia	7195	326.20	6636	306.60	7535	390.75	7441	474.34	7827	552.36
Germany	2808	121.36	4724	214.42	2720	142.55	2449	150.39	3278	229.44
Spain	3089	131.97	2384	108.95	2296	117.84	2140	139.27	2534	182.16
France	2963	127.78	2958	131.02	2916	154.37	1907	118.63	2135	154.33
Kuwait	1568	73.72	1329	63.28	1706	91.22	1658	107.19	2067	150.58
Belgium	2122	94.13	26.1	116.96	2597	135.2	2362	148.8	1978	136.17
U.K.	2813	118.47	2766	124.76	1780	90.59	1674	104.41	1825	124.93
Korea	2221	99.90	3193	147.4	2777	144.4	2271	140.048	1541	108.41
Singapore	1654	70.55	1490	65.97	1145	58.65	1199	76.85	1268	88.95

Qatar	709	30.69	781	35.69	797	42.5	843	54.31	1153	82.82
Greece	1284	57.86	1252	57.37	1000	51.33	770	47.07	1129	77.70
Turkey	703	30.08	782	35.19	797	38.77	482	28.05	861	53.29
Canada	862	34.17	793	33.91	449	20.89	361	21.37	677	42.65
Malaysia	897	38.29	707	30.8	953	48.67	648	40.35	603	41.77
Trinidad	508	21.54	588	25.56	524	25.60	464	27.76	531	34.20
Israel	713	32.09	668	31.6	734	37.34	316	19.94	461	33.58
Iran	1181	50.59	927	41.52	1133	60.71	687	46.09	442	31.75
Italy	865	35.82	1201	53.5	839	38.85	756	42.06	383	20.79
Jordan	630	31.38	617	31.87	363	20.31	660	41.68	267	19.62
Algeria	1531	52.06	1356	52.67	602	27.59	685	39.26	60	3.56
Others	10536	450.93	9890	440.26	4123	367.73	5133	291.6	5424	362.59
Total Export	114791	5058.73	118952	5432.8	96346	4952.1	82302	5168.78	84352	5870.97

There are number of cashew processing units in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. Most of the cashew processing units are small and tiny and labour intensive. They are worth contributing in employment generation for especially rural women folk. Out of the total employment 92% is female labour employment. There are about 800 cashew processing units in the Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts.

1. CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT SCHEMES TO SUPPORT CASHEW CULTIVATION

Central and State government have recognized the significance of the horticulture development since 1980s. Dr. Swaminathan Committee has pointed out growing need of horticulture development in India for domestic consumption purpose, for earning foreign exchange, generating employment and for nutritional improvement in the standard of living of the Indian masses.

The major goals of the horticulture development programme have been classified into- production, domestic and export marketing and product processing and product manufacturing. It consists of the following objectives.

- To meet domestic requirements of nutritious fruits for rising population.
- To provide raw material for industries
- To prevent post-harvest losses by developing appropriate system
- To enhance export

Following are the some centrally sponsored schemes for horticulture development being implemented through state government.

For setting nurseries in private sector, organization of tours, rehabilitation of old gardens, extension programme for banana and grape etc. Integrated Fruit Development Scheme (IFDs) was implemented in the tropical region under VIIIth five year plan Supply of seed, plant and pesticides to the farmers

The scheme of use of plastic in agriculture sector covers setting up of drip irrigation set, demonstration of drip irrigation, green house, use of plastics etc.

Commodity scheme like Bidi-Leaf Development Scheme, Integrated Cashew Development Scheme, production and distribution of vegetables seeds, floriculture, mash aquaculture, coconut development are some of the centrally sponsored schemes which are implemented in the Maharashtra.

Apart from these the various schemes of National Horticulture Board, National Horticulture Mission, NCDC, APEEDA, are also implementing their own schemes for production and marketing of horticulture produce in India.

● State Government Policies

To boost horticulture production in the various states, majority of the state governments in India have set up a separate Horticulture Directorate. The Government of Maharashtra apart from the

centrally sponsored schemes has launched number of programmes for the development of horticulture in the Maharashtra.

The major predominant economic activities in the resource region are agriculture, horticulture, agro-processing, fishery, stone quarry etc. Out of these horticulture is the main economic activity of the resource region. The important fruits, spices crops in this region are Alphanso mango, cashew nut, coconut, areca nut jackfruit, kokum, black papers, nut mug etc. processing of mango, cashew, kokum and fish processing have wide scope in this region.

Horticulture gains more important in the South Konkan region owing to its peculiar topography and agro climatic conditions .It is most important sector for economical upliftment of this region. It is also useful for maintaining ecological balance through soil conservation and as compared to the conventional crops like rice, ragi, nagali etc. fruit crops have very high return per hectare. Though the average rainfall in this region is very high; due to topographical feature of this region about 90 percent water is going waste by flowing to Arabian Sea. Due to heavy rain about 10 to 15 percent soil is going waste. It results in deteriorating quality of soil. For maintaining ecological balance through soil conservation plantation of horticultural crops on slopes is essential.

Maharashtra Govt. has recently declared Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts as horticulture districts in order to boost economy in this region. The quality of soil is good for cultivation of horticultural crops like mango, cashew, areca nut, kokum etc. There are lack of irrigation facilities in this region in spite of heavy rain. Due to lack of irrigation facilities for bringing out cultivation the dry cultivable land and as prevailing geo-climatic conditions in this region are suitable to horticulture. So horticulture has tremendous scope for the development in this region. Horticulture development in the resource region is also beneficial for production of bio-fertilizer through utilization of solid waste from garden, garbage and solid waste in processing of fruits.

The important horticultural crops in this area are mango, cashewnut followed by arecanut. Mango and cashew are export oriented fruits. The cultivable land in this region may be brought under cultivation of various horticulture crops through various planned and sustained efforts. Due to various plans and policies of the state as well as national governments, the area under cashew cultivation is increasing tremendously.

Due to various efforts of National Horticulture Board, National Horticulture Mission, Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyaeeth and Regional Fruit Research Centre, Vengurle, the production and productivity of cashew in the region is increasing.

CONCLUSIONS

- Horticulture is the major activity in the south Konkan region and fruit processing industry is a sunshine industry in this region.
- Production and productivity of cashew is highest in Maharashtra. The nature of cashew processing units in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts is small and tiny. There is an office of Cashew Export Promotion Council in Kerala.
- Due to support of Cashew Export Promotional Council, the export of cashew kernel as well as Cashew Nut Cell Liquid (CSNL), area under cashew cultivation will be increased rapidly.
- Cashew Export Promotional Council will be beneficial for earning higher return to the cashew growers.
- Cashew Export Promotional Council will also results in higher profitability to the cashew processing units due to remunerative prices in the global market.
- Cashew Export Promotional Council will be results in expansion of cashew processing units.
- Due to rapid growth of cashew cultivation and cashew processing industry, there will be tremendous increase in the employability.
- Cashew Export Promotional Council will be helpful in economic upliftment of south konkan region.
- Cashew Export Promotional Council will be also helpful in capital formation and earning valuable foreign currency.

SUGGESTIONS

Maharashtra is the largest producer of cashew having highest productivity and South Konkan region is majorly contributing in the production and processing of cashews. It is a need of an hour to establish regional office of cashew export promotional council in Ratnagiri district. There are about 800 cashew processing units in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. The cashew export promotional council will play prominent role in the export of cashew kernel in the global market. It will be also helpful to establish brand image of Ratnagiri Cashew Kernel like Ratnagiri Alphanso mango.

The Council will be provide the necessary liaison for bringing together foreign importers with member exporters of cashew kernels. The enquiries received from the foreign importers are circulated amongst Council members which will be beneficial to cashew processors for export of cashew kernel as well as cashewnut shell liquid. In Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts, there are infrastructural facilities required for promotion of mangoes, cashew kernel, processed fish and other products like ports as Jaygad port, Javaharlal Neharu Port Trust (JNPT), authority for issue of Phy- sanitary certificate required for export, Export Promotion Agency Office, Export Inspection Agency etc. Maharashtra State Agricultural Produce Marketing Board is providing storage facility and loan facility on the pledge of cashew through Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee. If the regional office of Cashew Export Promotion Council extends support to the cashew processors, it will helpful to growers of cashew to get remunerative price to the produce, earning more profitability to the cashew processors due higher prices in the export market and huge employment generation to the illiterate rural women folk. There is one cashew cluster in the Ratnagiri district and two clusters in Sindhudurg districts, which provides common facilities to cashew processing units. Cluster development has become recently worldwide popular for promoting small scale fruits processing industries. In India cluster development technique is becoming popular from the last decade with the initiative of Government of India and United Nations Development Organization. As per above strong background, it is essential to establish regional office of Cashew Promotion Council in Ratnagiri district.

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