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CASHEW PRODUCTION AND MARKETING IN BATTICALOA DISTRICT

BY

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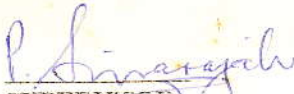
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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to ascertain the present situation of cashew production in the district with regard to agronomic features, technology used and marketing. Fifteen villages in the major cashew growing areas, from seven AGA's divisions in the district, were randomly selected for the study. Data was collected using a pre-tested structured questionnaire, from 111 randomly selected farmers in the area for analysis.

It was observed most of the cashew farmers are part-time cultivators with very low farm size and thier monthly income was also very low. " Local Variety" was the most popular variety and unavailability of "Improved Variety" was one of the major limitations in cashew production. Few farmers had obtained credit facilities and, nearly half of the farmers have not obtained any subsidy.

Managament practices such as fertilizer application and irrigation were adopted not to a great extent, but pest and disease control measures were carried out by about 89 percent of the farmers. The extension services for cashew cultivation was very poor in the district.

The lack of extension officers at the village level was a major constraint and they also did not provide enough information about cultivation practices.

Cashew farmers in Batticaloa were not involved in cashew processing. The villagers of Eravur, Kallar and Navatkudah are mainly involved in cashew processing. They bought raw nuts not only from Batticaloa but from other districts. All processors used traditional technology which results in a high percentage of broken nuts and low quality nuts.

Private Dealers, Middlemen and Village Boutiques owners were the main buyers of cashew products. Locally, female processors were the major sellers on pavements of town areas. Processing of fresh cashew apples was rare and cashew syrup too was not produced in large quantities.

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