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MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT TITLED

“TO STUDY THE SOCIO-ECONOMICAL STATUS OF CASHEW  
NUT GROWER IN SHRIWARDHAN TALUKA.”

A PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED TO UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

Western Regional Office  
Ganesh Khind, Pune -411007

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF MINORE RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT

### **Introduction –**

In sixteenth century Portuguese introduced cashew cultivation in the west Coast region of India cashew plantation has higher commercial significance. This tropical evergreen crop flower and fruits only once in a year, producing considerable considerable amount of cashew apple and nut as cashew has higher commercial importance and its potential to earn foreign exchange quite significant through the trade of kernels in international market, the crop has been assigned the status of an important horticultural crop. As cashew is a hardy crop it has been preferred, mainly for soil conservation programmers, a forestation and waste land development (1) Cashew (*Anacardium accidental L.*) has become a traditional crop of konkan region, because the soil and climate of the region has been more suitable for growing cashew. At present the area covered under cashew plantation is about 1.65lakh hectares, out of which about 70 percent area is productive. (2)

Cashew is most valuable nutritious nut; the apple (pseudo fruit) and other by products of this crop are also of commercial importance. The commercial exploitation of cashew kernel started in 1960,s. in the early stages, it was introduced in marginal and demanded forests, which were the only areas used for the plantation development “ However the new plantation development. Was earlier mainly by indiscript seedkubg progenies, due to non availability of high yielding varieties and feasible and commercial multiplication techniques for planting yielding varieties varieties and feasible and commercial multiplication techniques for planting material generation. “(3) As the cashew crop can be taken under different agro climatic conditions and different types of soil, the process of cashew production spread all over India, as well as in other countries of the world.

### **Research Methodology:**

For the purpose of the present study, Raigad district of Maharashtra state which is famous for cashew production was selected. The Raigad district has 15 talukas having the total 1919 villages, where as shriwardhan taluka which is one of the major cashews producing talukas of the district was selected for study. This taluka has 79 villages out of that ten percent or eight villages were selected at random. In order to collect data relating to the cashew growers, ten cultivators from each village i.e. 80 cultivators were selected on the basis of convenience sampling as these were the cultivators, who were willing to give necessary information required for study as they were convinced after explaining the importance of study.

In order to collect primary data questionnaire was preformed and tested. Secondary data was collected from reports of committees, journals, books and magazines etc.

**Objective of the study:**

The main objectives of the present study were as follows.

- 1.To investigate the problems face by the cashew nut growers and processors in Shriwardhan taluka.
- 2.To study the socio economic development of cashew nut growers in Shrowardhan taluka.
- 3.To suggest remedies for solving the problems faced by the cashewnut growers in Shriwardhan taluka.
- 4.To suggest measures to create awareness among the farmers for cashew cultivation.

**Significance of study:**

Taking into consideration the importance of cashew production and processing it was decided to study the process and impact of cashew cultivation in one of the leading district of Maharashtra state, namely Raigad district and Shriwardhan Taluka of the district. This study was quite significant because of the following reasons.

- 1.The study will help in identifying the problems take by the cashew grows and cashew processes in Shriwardhan taluka of Raigad district.
- 2.The study will help and guide the cashew nut grows in Shriwardhan taluka for improving their socio-economic conditions.
- 3.The study will motivate the farmers to adopt cashew growing practices on large seal and processing them before marketing with a view to maximize profits.
- 4.To study improvement in socio- economic conditions of farmers who are cashew growers and processes.
- 5.To suggest measures for expanding and improving cashew cultivation in the taluka.
- 6.To make farmers aware of using organic fertilizers for producing quality cashew products for exports.

## FINDINGS

- 1) 50 out of 72 (69.44%) of the respondents were from the age group up to 50 years of age.
- 2) 65 out of 72 (90.28%) of the respondents had education up to 12<sup>th</sup> standard only.
- 3) Regarding number of dependents 56 out of 72 (77.78%) of the respondents were having dependents up to 5 only.
- 4) 35 out of 72 (48.61%) of the respondents were the owners of the land up to 3 hectares and rest of them owned it more than 3 hectares.
- 5) 73.61 percent of the respondents were growing cashew crop in the area up to 3 hectares only.
- 6) Out of varieties of cashew V7 and V4+V7 were preferred by 56 out of 72 (77.78%) Cashew growers in Shriwardhan Taluka.
- 7) 40 percent of the cashew growers produced cashew up to five quintals per hectare and 83.33 percent of the cashew grower and procession produced cashews more than five quintals per hectare.
- 8) 34 out of 60 (56.67%) of the cashew growers had to spend up to Rs. 5000/- per growing cashew per hectare and 5 out of 12 (41.68%) of cashew growers and procession incurred RS.5000/- to 7000/- per hectare.
- 9) Regarding source of finance of cashew growers 65% of them had to invest own capital and 46.67 percent of them used bank as a source of finance for cashew growing. In case of cashew growers and processing 91.67% of them raised finance from the bank for cultivate processing of cashews.
- 10) 32 out of 60 (53.33%) of the cashew growers and 5 out of 12 (41.67%) of the cashew growers and procession had the wells as the main source of irrigation for cashew crops. Bore well has been the source of irrigation for 40% of the cashew growers and 25 percent of cashew growers and procession.
- 11) Benefits of the Government schemes received by the respondents. As most of the respondents were not properly informed about government schemes only. a few respondents were able to get the advantage of government schemes such as golden fruit production scheme, drop irrigation field ponds etc. Hence there is a need to give wide publicity to the government schemes.

## SUGGESTIONS

- 1) Providing HYV variety grafts at lower rates to the farmers. The quality of the grafts and the cost should be reasonable.
- 2) Banks should provide financial assistance cashew growers and monitor the utilization of loan given in installments.
- 3) Regarding manures and fertilizers, Table 5.23 shows that 65% of the growers reported that manures and fertilizers were not available in time and also the cost was higher. Hence there is a need to supply manures and fertilizers at subsidized rates to them, Even plant protection chemicals were stated as costly. These chemicals need to be made available to the cashew growers at fair price.
- 4) Frequent training programmes should be arranged for providing technical and related knowledge about scientific practices of cashew nut plantation.
- 5) Promotion of post harvest technology in cashew relating to preparation of value added products such as juice, syrup etc.
- 6) Steps should be taken to promote IPM on tea mosquito in cashew tree.
- 7) Training programmes should be organized for training educated unemployed, rural youths in the one of post harvest technology, which will help in reducing unemployment to some extent.
- 8) Cashew growers should be encouraged to form their associations in various villages and a federation of them at taluka level to look after development of cashew crop in rural areas and promoting welfare of cashew growers .
- 9) Cashew growers face the problem of marketing, hence subsidy support be given to those growers to go for successful marketing.
- 10) Rural infrastructure especially market infrastructure need to be developed, including means of transport roads etc. and market yards, drying yards, storage facilities and on line marketing.

  
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