

A Study On Problems In Cashewnut Industries In Cuddalore District

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Abstract

The present India is the largest (3rd place) producer and processor of cashew in the world. The export value of cashew nut in during the year (2015-16), 96346 million tone. Cuddalore district is one of the large cashew nut industries located areas. The cashew industries create livelihood for about 1.25 lakhs of employees and farmers. The Cuddalore district alone there are 40,000 employees directly involved in the industry. Most of the industry maximum workers are females. It is a fact that any amount received by a women worker will be utilized directly for the benefits of the family and hence the link relating to family welfare is quite clear. Cashew nut processing industries one of the promising sector producing valuable commodity exported to Gulf, European and Western countries. This paper deals with labours problems in cashew nut industries in Cuddalore district.

Keywords: cashew, export, industries

Introduction

Cashew (*Anacardium occidentale*), often referred to as 'wonder nut', is one of the most valuable processed nuts traded on the global commodity markets and is also an important cash crop. It has the potential to provide source of livelihood for the cashew growers, empower rural women in the processing sector, create employment opportunities and generate foreign exchange through exports. Cashew tree is believed to be a native of Brazil, from where it has dispersed to different parts of the world primarily for soil conservation, forestation and wasteland development. The term 'Cashew' has originated from the Brazilian name 'acajaiba' and the Tupi name 'acaju', which the Portuguese converted into 'caju' and is commonly known as 'kaju' in India. It is known as 'Paragi Andi' in Kerala meaning foreign nut, 'Lanka Beeja' in Orissa assuming its introduction from Sri Lanka, and 'Mundiri' indicating the shape of the nut in Tamil Nadu.

Statement of the problems

Basically, cashew nut industries faced two types of problems (i.e) 1. Availabilities of raw cashew nut from farmers side, 2. Processing industry has some problems within the factory in production level. The cashew plantain generally planted in waste land for purpose of soil erosion, afforestation and increasing rural employment opportunities. For the natural dematis like storm, cyclone, heavy rain and monsoon failure the farmers faced several problems. The cashew nut processing industry faced labour problem, investment problem marketing problem and so on. Particularly, Cuddalore district cashew nut processing industry is fall in small scale industry. The nature of small and cottages industry is well known ours. To overcome the problem the research to be finds out some suggestion for betterment.

History of Cashew

Cashew (*Anacardium Occidentale*) is the scientific name, the Portuguese first brought into India in 15th century. This was planted as a windbreaker and to prevent soil erosion. Not much is

known about how and when the cashew became a commercial item. The commercial processing of cashew nut was started in Mangalore by setting up a factory there in Mid 1920s. Simultaneously it started in Kollam by Roc Victoria. A Sri Lankan national migrated to Kollam in mid 1920s and started processing cashew on a commercial scale. Swaminathan from Madras joined him as his manager-Cum accountant and later became a prominent cashew processor. It was W.T. Anderson from General Food Corporation USA who had set up an office in Kollam called 'India Nut Company' and Started sending cashew kernels to USA. The company was a merchant exporter (Shahal Hassan, 2001). A flourishing cottage industry began to spring up in and around Kollam town. The cashew nut were fired in pan and kernels extracted, blanched and graded into sizes and sold to the company and the company in turn packed these things in wooden tea chests lined with news papers and shipped to USA. Metal tins had replaced tea chests in the late 1920's. The tin containers were later vacuumized-using hand operated vacuum pumps and sealed. The tins were then packed in wooden cases and strapped before shipment. The introduction of vita pack machines, vacuumizing first and then infusing with carbon dioxide was introduced in the late 1950s. Export of cashew kernels began to grow and many tiny processors supplying cashew kernels to "India Nut Company" began to branch out and became exporters on their own new pattern of business and further began to evolve consisting of exporter, broker/ agent, importer/ buyer and end user.

Cashew Cultivation in India

Cashew is a native of North-East Brazil and its area of origin seems to have been the state of Ceara where the tree is found to this day in large natural groves. Its diffusion in Asia and Africa is due to the Portuguese in the first half of the 16th century (Agnolioni and Guilians, 1977). It is reported that cashew nut was introduced in the Malabar Coast of India in the 16th century by the Portuguese. The Malabar Coast probably served as a locus of dispersal to other centres in India. Cashew is considered as a waste land crop grown for afforestation and soil conservation of hilly area purposes. Cashew nut is grown in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura.

Processing Sector

It is high time to moderate the cashew processing methods, which has been existing for last six decades without pre-empting the skills of the employees. An expert committee should be formed to study the modernization of the processing industry with a view to attract more employees to the field. For example, cutting methods are to be developed so as to improve health, environment, cleanliness, etc in processing and modernizing the packaging operations to suit the customer requirements. For that the following recommendations are made. 1. Seek technical help from Central Food Industry Research Institute (CFTRI) Mysore and Defence Research Lab in improving the methods of cashew processing. 2. Seek technical help from -agencies like NCDC; Central Food Processing Department etc. for developing value added cashew products. 3. Modernization of ovens using energy saving devices with assistance of energy management agency. Quality should be assured as per the requirement of the customers. 4. Infrastructure facilities should be improved for storing, packaging etc.

Labour production – Pros & Cons

For the social upliftment of cashew workers proper laws should be formulated and service rules should be improved.

Pros

- ❖ The cultivation of the cashew tree is benefited to soil erosion in coastal regions.
- ❖ Cashew cultivation is increasing the employment opportunities in rural areas and allied activities in urban areas.
- ❖ Now a day it is converted as a cash crops in many areas and it's creates best business activities in the country.
- ❖ It's creates export and import trade and earnings is also betterment to the business peoples.

Corns

- ❖ The activities of labour welfare board should be improved to monitor the labours laws by the department of labour welfare of the state Government.
- ❖ In normally the cashew industries are not fixed wage rate for the employees in various categories. The government should fix minimum wage for the employees of cashew industries and monitoring at all levels.
- ❖ Retirement benefits should be disbursed in time.
- ❖ The cashew special officer should be empowered to take action against the employers who denied labour benefits.
- ❖ Cashew Directorate should framed the high level committee and monitoring the recommend that government should in planted in time to time directorate.
- ❖ The department of small scale of cottage industry should maintained a registered for periodically inspection of the cashew industries and it has also intimate to the state government, in time for next level promotion activities.
- ❖ The cashew industries issue uniforms, safety equipment and etc, at his own cost.
- ❖ The cashew industries bear the medical allowance and minimum of 50 percent medical expenses the treatment of employee's injurious work place in working time.
- ❖ The cashew industries should give the festival advance and bonus for the employees. The health department also monitoring the cashew industries to prevent the employee's health condition in time.

Condusion

In general, it is found that there is unanimity as regard to origin and history of cashew plant. It is one of the oldest fruits used from 500 years in India. Cashew has a wide range of its importance. Being tropical fruit, cashew was introduced in the Malabar Coast considering as a waste land crop grown for a forestation and soil conservation of hilly area. At present it is cultivated along east-west coast and in some interior part of India. However on the commercial base it is grown at selected locations in all over India. Based on the study, the cashew industries in one of high revenue earned industry in India. Hence, that the industrialist and government should give important and improve the level of the industries, industries workers and farmers.

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