

## CROP MANAGEMENT

### FERTILISER APPLICATION AND PLANTING DENSITY

1. The recommended fertilizer dose at Vengurle for proper growth and to improve the yield is 4 pots of FYM, 1000 gm N, 250 gm P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and 250 gm K<sub>2</sub>O for the 4 year old plants, i.e., in the first year 1/4 dose, 2<sup>nd</sup> year 1/2 dose, 3<sup>rd</sup> year 3/4 doses and 4<sup>th</sup> year full dose.
2. The recommended dose of fertilizer of cashew in Odisha is 500:250:250 g N: P: K per plant. Whereas for Jagdalpur centre the fertilizer dose is standardized for adult tree of cashew @ 1000:250:250 g of N: P: K respectively per tree.
3. At Pilicode Centre, medium plant density (6 m x 4 m, 400 plants/ha) with low fertilizer dose (75: 25:25 NPK Kg/Ha) gave the best economic returns.
4. At Vengurla, spacing of 7m x 7m and 8m x 8m is recommended for normal planting whereas, 5m x 5m spacing is recommended for high density planting (Removal of alternate rows at 10<sup>th</sup> year).
5. At Bhubaneswar, high density planting with 500 plants ha<sup>-1</sup> (5m x 4m) with application of fertilizer @ 150: 50: 50 N:P:K kg ha<sup>-1</sup> gives 106% more yield than normal density (200 plants ha<sup>-1</sup>) upto 7<sup>th</sup> harvest and this has been recommended in new plantation area. However, beyond 7<sup>th</sup> harvest (9<sup>th</sup> year of planting) limb pruning to be followed to stabilize yield and control insect pest population in the plantation area.
6. At Vridhachalam in Tamil Nadu, application of 1100 g urea, 1250 g super phosphate, 500 g muriate of potash for a well grown tree is essential for better growth of the canopy and yield of nuts. For high density cashew plantation, 225:75:75 Kg NPK/ha is recommended.

## INTERCROPPING

Growing intercrops in cashew in the initial years has given better returns and found economically feasible. At Bapatla centre, intercropping with marigold, cluster bean, *Hibiscus cannabinus*, amaranthus was found to be profitable. At Bhubaneswar colocasia as an intercrop in cashew plantation is most remunerative which can be followed in the initial year of planting.

At Jhargram, cashew variety BPP-8 spaced with 6x6m and cowpea, tapioca, okra and bottle gourd were intercropped where bottle gourd was found to be most profitable (62 q/ha). However, in Paria cashew with okra was found to be suitable. In Vengurla intercropping cashew with elephant foot yam showed significantly higher yield. At Vridhachalam net return was higher in cashew with Okra. Intercropping of cucurbitaceous vegetables viz., bitter melon, cucumber and ridge gourd in the initial growth stage of orchard during kharif season is recommended. In Madakkathara center, growing medicinal plants such as periwinkle and patchouli was found to be profitable.



**Amaranthus**



**Cluster Bean**



**Periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus*)**



**Arial Yam**



**Greater Yam**



**Tapioca**



**Turmeric**



**Patchouli (*Pogostemon cablin*)**



**Marigold**



**Elephant Foot Yam**

## **DRIP IRRIGATION**

Cashew crop responds very well to irrigation particularly irrigation with 200 lit water/ tree/ turn from January to March at fortnightly intervals during fruit set to fruit development period to improve the yield.