ICAR-Directorate of Cashew Research, Puttur celebrates Annual Cashew day

The annual cashew day was celebrated on 22-01-2019 at the Directorate of Cashew Research, Puttur, Dakshina Kannada. The cashew day was inaugurated by Smt. J. Mercykutty Amma, Hon’ble minister for fisheries, harbor engineering and cashew Industry, Government of Kerala. On the occasion, she released the first cashew hybrid of ICAR-DCR, H-130 by distributing it to Horticultural department officials from Karnataka and Kerala. It may be recalled that it is already distributed to farmers last year for field evaluation. This hybrid has precocious flowering behavior and suitable for high density planting. It has bold nuts weighing around 12-13 grams and yield levels are also high. In the program, a website that serves as tool for monitoring cashew phenology (depicting developmental stages such as sprouting, leaf development, flowering and fruiting) in relation to environmental parameters. This will help in modifying the cultivation practices of particular variety to get maximum yields.

In the inaugural address, the minister said that there is a shortage of raw cashew nuts for processing in Kerala and different parts of the country. There is an urgent need to increase production and productivity of cashew and towards this end, the Directorate of Cashew Research is striving hard to develop technologies and reach farmers for taking up better practices of cashew cultivation. She stressed the need for adapting ultra high density planting system in cashew for higher yields in less space. She urged the farmers to utilize the services of Directorate for betterment of cashew cultivation.

During the program, the guest of honour, Mr. Shirish, K., Special Officer(Cashew) and Managing director, Kerala State Agency for Expansion of Cashew Cultivation opined that cashew planting material is of utmost importance in the present condition to expand the cashew cultivation in Kerala. He felt that minister from Kerala is taking many initiatives to revive cashew cultivation in Kerala. Another guest of honour was Dr. Anitha Karun, Director(Acting), Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, Kasargod. She lauded the efforts of ICAR- Directorate of Cashew Research in developing modern technologies for improved cashew cultivation.

On this occasion, Dr. M.G. Nayak, Director (Acting), ICAR- Directorate of Cashew Resaserch, Puttur announced the formation of Cashew Growers Association of India. In the event, an exhibition on cashew production technologies, different cashew varieties and cashew apple products was organized. In addition various publications on cashew production and processing technologies were displayed. Farmers were taken for the fields to show the various cashew research plots. More than 200 cashew farmers participated besides nursery men, representatives of KVK, development departments and scientists.

Dr. M. G. Nayak, welcomed the farmers, dignitaries, delegates and other participants. Dr. JD Adiga, Principal scientist, extended the vote of thanks and Mr. Prakash Bhat, Technical Officer, compeered the program.