

Training on cashew production and post harvest technologies for Meghalaya farmers and officers at ICAR- Directorate of Cashew Research, Puttur

A 5 day's training programme on Cashew Production and Post Harvest Technologies for the farmers and officials from Meghalaya is underway at ICAR- Directorate of Cashew Research, Puttur from 10th February 2020. The training is sponsored by Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) and 20 people including 4 women farmers are attending the training. The training shall cover different aspects of cashew cultivation including varietal selection, scientific cultivation and crop management practices, control of pest and diseases and it also includes various aspects of post harvest handling of both cashewnut and cashew apple, and value addition. While welcoming the trainees, Dr. Shamsudheen Mangalassery, Senior Scientist (Soil Science) and Training Coordinator stated that the North Eastern states have immense potential to reduce the gap in demand and supply of raw cashewnuts in the country. Dr. M.G. Nayak, Director (Acting) inaugurated the programme and spoke at length about the immense scope of cashew cultivation in Meghalaya with respect to climate and land availability. He stressed the need to come out with the information on most suitable varieties of cashew for Meghalaya regions. The scope of utilizing the cashew apple for preparation of value added products and beverages were also highlighted by him.

Mr. Saurabh Bose, Senior Manager, Inclusive Supply Chain & Enterprise Development, Megha-LAMP, Meghalaya explained about the activities of Meghalaya Livelihoods Access to Market Project funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development and Govt. of Meghalaya, being implemented by Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA). They focus on improving family incomes and quality of life of the rural mass in Meghalaya through

expanded and sustainable livelihood opportunities adapted to the hill environment and to the effects of climate change. Further, in 3 project blocks they focus on Cashew as they are the maximum producer of Raw Cashew Nut (RCN) in the state. Mr. Zacharius Marak, District Programme Manager, MBMA highlighted about the lack of scientific ways of managing cashew plantations in Meghalaya. Because many of the plantations are of seed origin, and due to climate change affects the fruiting and flowering varied very much in the state. He hoped that the training shall be useful to learn the scientific methods of cashew cultivation and to get exposure on post harvest handling and value addition in cashew apples and cashewnuts. The inaugural session was followed by the training lectures and demonstrations. The training programme shall continue for 5 days till 14th February 2020.

