

## **DIRECTORATE OF CASHEW RESEARCH CELEBRATES CASHEW DAY – 2021**

Cashew Day- 2021 was celebrated at the institute on 17<sup>th</sup> of February which commenced with the theme of Scientist- farmer interaction and application of drone technology in Cashew. Shri. Kishore Kumar Kodgi, President, CAMPCO, Mangalore was the Chief Guest and Dr. M. Veerangouda, Dean (AG. Engg), College of Agricultural Engineering, Raichur and Kadamajalu Subhash Rai were guests of honors for the function. The programme started with the welcome address by Dr. M. Gangadhara Nayak, Principal Scientist, (Hort.). Welcoming the guests and gathering, in his speech he told that The Cashew Day is conducted every year to introduce and familiarize all the new and latest innovations and technologies to the farming community

A dwarf cashew variety “NETHRA VAMAN” was released by Shri. Kishore Kumar Kodgi, President, CAMPCO, Mangalore. Dr. M. Gangadhara Nayak, Principal Scientist, (Hort.) briefed about the newly released cashew variety. Nethra Vaman grows to a height of less than 2.5 meters. It was evaluated for about 10 years and found unique with respect to plant height, compact spreading habit, nut size and apple colour and quality. Though the variety is not a much good yielder it can grow well even under shade conditions. The nuts are small in size with a weight of less than 7 g. The apple colour is good, attractive and has less fibre content. The variety is pruning responsive, long flowering duration variety, and flowers in the first year of planting. It has stem galling like coffee. It can be suitable for home gardens. It best suits for the one who is fond of bonsai and opts for pot culture.

Dr. M. Veerangouda, Dean (AG.Engg), College of Agricultural Engineering, Raichur released the cashew pest database developed by the Directorate. Dr. Vanitha K. Senior Scientist (Entomology) detailed about the cashew pest database. Among 20 pests, Tea Mosquito Bug and Cashew Stem and Root Borer are major ones which cause 11-55% of yield reduction if the orchards are not maintained properly. There are both pictorial representation and written information on biology of the pest, season of occurrence, damage symptoms and management practices in the database. Pest calendar is also given depicting and

alarming farmers about the season of occurrence and peak occurrence of the pest. A brochure on “ICAR-DCR technologies for commercialization” was released. Later, a book “Geru - Yettharakke yeru” was released and is written by Kadamajalu Subhash Rai.

Shri. Kishore Kumar Kodgi, President, CAMPCO, Mangalore addressed the gathering. In his speech he mentioned that the institute is working hard and has given new varieties/technologies to farmers. The Prime minister’s saying lab to land is not cent percent success yet and hence encouraged the institute to work towards it. He also added, saying that follow up activities regarding grafts must be done in order to ensure proper use of the facilities by farmers. Training to youths must be conducted to encourage Atmanirbhar bharat.

Kadamajalu Subhash Rai, a progressive farmer informed that he has grown cashew varieties VRI -3, NRCC Selection- 2 at spacing of 3m×3m and Bhaskara and Ullala- 3 at a spacing of 8m×8m and 10m×10m respectively. He said that if one invests money on soil, he can dig gold from it.

Later, Dr. M. Veerangouda, Dean (AG. Engg), gave presentation on application of drones in agriculture and horticulture. In his presentation he mentioned that, first the drones of different capacities will be identified and later applied to agriculture/horticulture after scientific evaluation of the same. Drones can be used even in forests and slopes. Decreased health hazards, greater field coverage, and women empowerment adds to advantages of use of drones in agriculture. Drones can either be operated by remote or by installing GPS.

Scientist- farmer interaction was also held. It was also requested to the President, CAMPCO to procure raw cashew nuts as farmers are getting very low price for raw nuts. Another question was regarding the cause for yellow kernels which are demanded less against white kernels. Dr. Balasubramanian, Principal Scientist, ICAR – DCR, told both the nut characters and processing parameters contributes for the yellow

colour of the kernels. Ending the programme Dr. Eradasappa, Coordinator , Cashew Day and Senior Scientist, ICAR- DCR, Puttur presented vote of thanks to the guests, farmers and staff members.

After the stage program, there was a demonstration on spray through drones in the Directorate's cashew fields.

