

Features of Nethra Vaaman

Character	Particulars
Tree height (10 th year)	2.5 m (dwarf)
Tree Spread (10 th year) without pruning	6.0 m (Intermediate)
Internodal length	0.9 cm (Short)
Duration of flowering	November - February Long duration (>90 days)
Nut Weight	5.5-6.0 g (Intermediate)
Apple Weight	50 g (Medium)
Shelling %	29-30 %
Kernel Weight	1.1-2.5 g
Kernel Grade	W 320
Cashew Apple skin and colour	Glossy, red colour crispy and less fibrous
Special Character	Stem galling
Yield per tree	1.0 - 1.5 kg (4 th year of planting)
Cumulative Yield per tree (6 harvests)	9.1 kg

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Published by :

Dr. T. N. Raviprasad, Director (Acting)

July 2022



Financial support for publication

DUS Project on Cashew from PPV & FRA

New Delhi

Nethra Vaaman : A Dwarf Variety of Cashew



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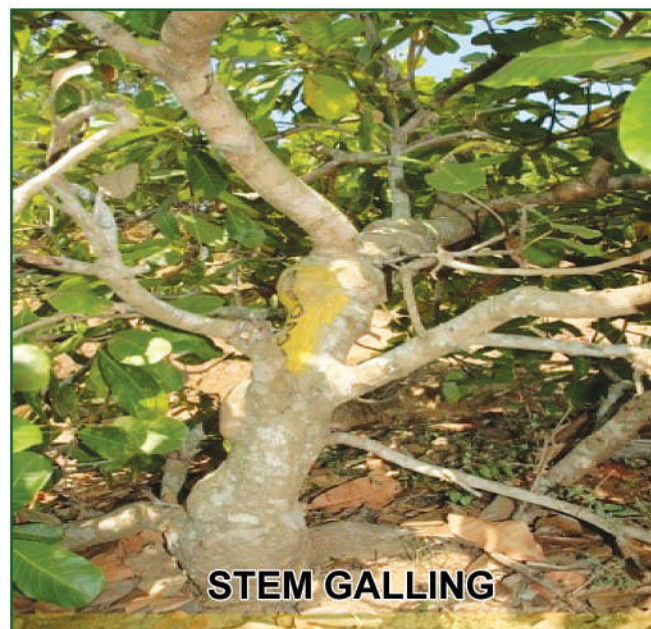
Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka



Dwarf genotypes identified / developed in tall growing tree crops such as Arecanut, Coconut and Mango have attracted the attention of general public. Generally, people are curious about dwarf accessions in tall growing species and in fact, many farmers are also cultivating these varieties in main field, backyards and homestead gardens.



Like other tree crops, cashew is generally tall and vigorous growing tree with spreading branches and it requires large area for its cultivation. Naturally it can grow up to 40 feet height and in commercial plantations, farmers manage at a height of 15 feet by pruning every year, where the plants are planted at a spacing of 8m x 8m. In high density planting systems also (3 m x 3 m, 4 m x 4 m), plants are managed at a height of 5-6 feet by annual pruning. In this context, if there is a dwarf variety which can be managed through minimum pruning practices, it will be beneficial for the farmers.



The country was hitherto lacking dwarf cashew genotypes and for the first time, the Directorate of Cashew Research, Puttur has identified a dwarf cashew variety named Nethra Vaaman. Upon characterisation and evaluation, its slow growth and dwarf character was confirmed. This was evaluated for ten years and recently it is released and recommended for cultivation.



The Nethra Vaaman can be maintained with minimum pruning and trimming as an orchard management practice. It is easy to harvest because of dwarf nature and reduces cost of labour. The genotype is moderately susceptible to major pest of cashew i.e Tea Mosquito Bug (TMB) like any other cashew variety but it is easier to take up plant protection sprays as the plants are dwarf. The variety seems to be also amenable for homestead and terrace gardens, and for bonsai cultivation. However, high yield cannot be expected because of its dwarf nature.

