

Training on Raw Cashewnut processing and Value-added products of cashew apple for the farmers and officials of Meghalaya from 6 to 10 February 2023, at ICAR- Directorate of Cashew Research, Puttur

Five days training programme on 'Raw Cashewnut processing and Value-added products of cashew apple' for the farmers and officials from Meghalaya has been conducted at ICAR-Directorate of Cashew Research, Puttur from 6th -10th February 2023. The training programme covered different aspects of raw cashewnuts processing, value addition including varietal selection and scientific management practices to control storage pest and diseases. The training also included various aspects of post-harvest handling of both cashewnuts and cashew apple, and value addition. The training programme included lectures and demonstrations and hands-on training experience for the participants. As a part of program, M/s Kalbavi Cashew Industries located in Mangalore visited to demonstrate industrial scale cashewnut processing and BIRD, NABARD, Mangalore on aspects pertinent to financial aspects to promote cashew in Meghalaya region.

The training is attended by 17 personnel from Meghalaya which includes 4 women farmers. During the valedictory function of the training programme, Dr. Veena G. L., training convener welcomed all. Dr. D. Balasubramanian, Principal Scientist (AS&PE) and Training Coordinator, summarized all the sessions which were held during the training programme. He pointed that this training is helpful to equip the farmers to emerge as cashewpreneurs in cashew nut and cashew apple as well. Besides, it is also mentioned that this training aids in imparting technical knowledge on processing and value addition of cashew in their states. During valedictory session of the training, Dr. J. Dinakara Adiga, Director, ICAR-DCR, Puttur spoke about the immense scope of cashew cultivation in Meghalaya with other spices like ginger, black pepper etc an intercrop with in view of favorable climate and land availability. He emphasized on application of technologies suitable for processing cashewnut and apple processing and value addition towards enhancing farmers income and employment generation in Meghalaya regions.

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). Activities of this organization 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. In addition, efforts are taken for cultivation of cashew in 3 project blocks as this region is the highest producer of raw cashew nut in NEH region. Usefulness of this training especially processing raw cashewnuts, cashew apple and value addition are highlighted by him. Feedback from participants indicated that training programme was very much useful and it lighten up their view on crop. The programme was ended with vote of thanks by Dr. V. Thondaiman, Co-coordinator and Scientist (Crop management).



