

## **ICAR-Directorate of Cashew Research demonstrated drone technology to the farmers of Sansad Adarsha Grama in Dakshina Kannada**

On the occasion of Gramotsava held in Balpa, ICAR-Directorate of Cashew Research demonstrated drone technology to the farmers on 10.01.2024. Balpa village is adopted by Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel, Member of Parliament under the Sansad Grama Yojana scheme. A team of scientists comprising Dr. Manjunatha K, Scientist (Farm Power and Machinery), Dr. Bhagya H P, Scientist (Spices, Plantation, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants) and Dr. Aswathy Chandrakumar, Scientist (Agricultural Extension) visited Balpa Grama Panchayat for drone demonstration.

A Krishimela was organized by the Balpa Gram panchayat as a part of this Gramotsava and around 500 farmers attended. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel, Member of Parliament inaugurated the Gramotsava and in his presence, Dr. Manjunatha K, Scientist (Farm Power and Machinery) demonstrated the technology to the farmers. He explained to the farmers the need to use drone for spraying micronutrients, the operating procedure and he emphasized on how drone can enhance the efficiency of spraying chemicals and reduce the cost incurred in hiring manual labour.

Farmers showed keen interest in the technology. They enquired about the cost, subsidies available for purchase and also on technical aspects of drone application such as flying time for spraying one acre, quantity of micronutrients required for spray and on maintenance aspects.