

## **ICAR-Directorate of Cashew Research organizes drone demonstration on progressive farmers' field**

ICAR-Directorate of Cashew Research, Puttur in collaboration with *Vijaya Grameena Abhirudhi Prathishtana*, Mangalore organized a demonstration on micronutrient spray using drone on Progressive farmer Siri Kadamajalu Subash Rai's field on 10.01.2024. The programme aimed at creating awareness among the cashew farmers on the importance of pest management and use of micronutrients in Cashew for increased productivity.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. J Dinakara Adiga, Director, ICAR-DCR Puttur and in the inaugural address he emphasized the importance of drone technology for judicious spraying of micronutrients and how it can help farmers to reduce the cost of manual labour. In the presidential address, Shri Rajendra Rei, Manager, *Vijaya Grameena Abhirudhi Prathishtana* conveyed his wishes for the success of the programme. Dr. T N Raviprasad, Principal Scientist, ICAR-DCR, Puttur explained about management of Tea Mosquito Bug which is the most common pest in cashew and Dr. Manjesh G N explained about the importance of micronutrient spray in cashew and when it should be done.

The lectures were followed by demonstration of drone technology to the farmers by Dr. Manjunatha K, Scientist (Farm Power and Machinery), ICAR-DCR, Puttur. He explained to the farmers the need to use drone for spraying micronutrients and the operating procedure. He also briefed about the subsidy available for purchasing drone and other technical aspects. Around 45 farmers attended the drone demonstration and they showed keen interest in the technology.