

Cashew Day celebration at ICAR- Directorate of Cashew Research

The institute celebrated the Cashew Day-2024 on 16-03-2024 (Saturday). Shri Ramakumar Rajarathnam, progressive cashew farmer, Chitradurga, was the chief guest of the program and he highlighted the importance of cashew cultivation prospects in rainfed areas especially in plain parts of Karnataka. He shared his own experience of adoption of different varieties of cashew and other production technologies of this Directorate to increase the yield levels. He also adopted solar based drip irrigation system in farm and effective water utilization for growing cashew.

Dr. M.K. Rajesh, Head CPCRI, Regional Station, Vittal graced the program as guest of honor and appreciated the contribution made by DCR, Puttur on cashew cultivation and production technology. He also highlighted the various cashew varieties released by the Institute and the contribution of the biotechnology in respect of whole genome sequencing of cashew variety for the first time and releasing of other value-added products of cashew apple for increasing the farm income of farmers.

During the program, Nethra Jumbo-2 (H-125), a new variety developed by this directorate was released and distributed the cashew grafts to farmers and also the cashew value added products like cashew fruit bar, Nethra-CAAPP cookies were also released on this occasion. The extension leaflet folders on different aspects were also released in the event. An e-book on 25 cashew fruit recipes in 11 languages written by Smt. Soukhya Mohan was also released. Under Schedule Caste Sub Plan, agricultural inputs chain saw and brush cutters were also distributed to selected farmers in the program

In his presidential address, Dr. J.D. Adiga, Director, ICAR-DCR, Puttur highlighted about the necessity of introducing new varieties and suggested to farmers to make use of all the varieties developed by the Institute. We are now witnessing a widespread practice of changing crops and farming methods because farmers are confused by the fluctuations in the market prices of horticultural crops like arecanut, cashewnut, rubber etc.

The two special lectures were also delivered on waste to wealth: adding value to cashew apple by Dr. Veena, G.L. Scientist, DCR, Puttur and Value addition in cashew apple by Dr. Jalaja S. Menon, Head, Cashew Research Station, Madakathara, Kerala Agriculture University (KAU), Thrissur. In both presentations, highlighted about the importance of the cashew apple which can be used to prepare various value-added products and increase in income of cashew farmers.

Dr. Eradasappa E. Senior Scientist, welcomed the dignitaries and farmers and vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Bhagya H. P. Scientist and the program was compered by Mr. Prakash Bhat, Chief Technical Officer. Total 150 participants participated in the event.



