

## **Training Programme on “Cashew Cultivation and Cashew Apple Utilization” cum Distribution of inputs to the SC beneficiaries of Thrissur, Kerala**

As a part of the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) scheme of this Directorate, the training programme was organized in collaboration with Cashew Research, Station, Madakkathara, Kerala and Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ollukkara Block, Thrissur on 02.03.2024.

In this programme Dr. Jalaja S. Menon, Assistant Prof and Head, CRS, Madakkathara chaired the programme and addressed the gathering about the training programme of this Directorate, and emphasized the use of cashew cultivation and cashew apple utilization by preparation of value-added products. Mr. Ravi (President, Ollukkara Block panchayath), the chief guest, spoke about the importance of the training programme in today's context to become self-reliant by generating additional income out of cashew apples and encouraged Women farmers to take up small-scale processing of cashew apple for value-added products. Ms. Sathyavathi Varma Assistant Director of Agriculture, Kerala State Agriculture Department, Ollukkara Block. spoke about various state government schemes under Agriculture and emphasized to get benefitted. Further, Dr. Manjesh G N, Scientist, [SPM&AP, Nodal officer SCSP] highlighted the Central government schemes available for farmers under SCSP and briefed them about the training programme. Besides, Dr. Rajasekhara, H Scientist, [Pl. Path. Co-Nodal officer SCSP] emphasized to the trainees the proper use of inputs and to get the maximum benefit out of the training programme.

As part of a training series of lectures covering aspects of cashew cultivation and cashew apple utilization, demonstrations were organized on cashew apple value-added products and softwood grafting technique. Field visits were also covered as a part of the training programme to Bee Park, cashew museum, cashew varietal block and cashew nursery of CRS, Madakkathara. This training programme was benefitted by 35 SC farmers of 4 Panchayaths of Ollukkara Block, Thrissur, Kerala. The beneficiaries were also provided with a training kit and cashew grafts and other inputs [cashew apple-based products.]. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Ms. Sathyavathi Verma, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Kerala State Agriculture Department.

**[Source: Nodal officer SCSP]**



**Training cum Input distribution to SC beneficiaries of Ollukkara Block, Thrissur, Kerala**