

## **ICAR-Directorate of Cashew Research, Puttur in collaboration with Food Chain organizes one-day training on “Mechanization in Cashew Cultivation and Post harvest Technology”**

ICAR-Directorate of Cashew Research, Puttur, aiming to build a tech-savvy agriculture ecosystem, organized a one-day training for St. Joseph’s Engineering College, Mangalore students on “Mechanization in cashew cultivation and post-harvest technology. The program was organized in collaboration with Food Chain, based in Mangalore on 19.07.2024. The training program aimed to impart awareness about the importance of farm mechanization in preharvest and post-harvest technologies in Cashew by organizing practical-oriented lectures emphasizing some of the institute’s research initiatives.

The training commenced with a brief orientation of the training program given by Dr. Aswathy Chandrakumar, co-ordinator. This was followed by a lecture on “entrepreneurial development through engineering approaches in cashew processing” by Dr. D Balasubramanian, Principal Scientist (Agriculture Structure and Process Engineering) and also head of the Agri-Business Incubation Centre of the Directorate. In his lecture, he emphasized the scientific steps involved in cashewnut processing from steam boiling to packaging of cashew kernels, and the level of mechanization engaged at each step. He also explained the prospects of entrepreneurship development through cashewnut processing by highlighting the activities of the Agri-business incubation center and how students can use the facility.

The afternoon session was dealt with by Dr. Manjunatha K, scientist (Farm Machinery and Power). In his lecture, he highlighted the importance of farm mechanization in agriculture. He provided insights into types of mechanization, steps of cultivation, benefits, and limiting factors of mechanization. He emphasized accelerated farm mechanization and elaborated on its challenges and limitations. In another lecture on UAV application for crop protection, he explained the utilization and standard operating procedures of drones. Dr. Manjunatha also explained the benefits of utilizing drones over conventional pesticide applications.

The training program was completed with a vote of thanks by Dr. Jyoti Nishad and feedback from the students. A total of 35 students participated in the training program.



