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**P.V.V.Kumar**

Research Scholar, Acharya  
Nagarjuna University-Guntur,  
Asst.Professor, Department of  
Business Administration  
St. Ann's College of  
Engineering & Technology,  
Chiral, Andhra Pradesh, India

**Dr. Krishna Banana**

Asst.Professor,  
Head of the Department  
Department of Business  
Administration, Acharya  
Nagarjuna University Ongole  
Campus, Ongole, Andhra  
Pradesh, India

**Correspondence:**

**P.V.V.Kumar**

Research Scholars, Acharya  
Nagarjuna University-Guntur,  
Asst.Professor, Department of  
Business Administration  
St. Ann's College of  
Engineering & Technology,  
Chiral, Andhra Pradesh, India

## An Analysis of Cashew Nut Production in India (With Reference To Selected States)

**P.V.V.Kumar, Dr. Krishna Banana**

### Abstract

The present study has been carried out with a view to analyse the growth, stability and performance in the production of cashew nut in selected states in India. The study has focused on the production. A comparative study of cashew nut production spread through different years. Study shows a strong perception of farmers towards cashew cultivation and shows a positive future prospect in the region. Today cashew tree is grown as a cash crop in many countries around the world with equatorial and tropical climate. The present study makes an attempt to analyze the cashew nut production performance and its contribution to the Indian Economy. Especially in the production and marketing aspects are creating more employment opportunity to the illiterate peoples as well as backward society. The cashew industry is a traditional agro-based industry in India. It is considered traditional mainly because of the low level of technology involved in the processing of cashew nut. Though cashew nut was brought to India in the 16th century, it gained economic importance only in 1920 with the export of 10,160 tons of nuts to the U.S.A. Until 1920, cashew nuts were collected from the markets in villages and distributed among small-scale processors. Cashew nuts were mixed with sand and roasted in open pots by the people of those days. In India more than one million peoples are engaged and they are benefitted directly as well as indirectly. Particularly, in Andhra Pradesh state has significant contribution in cashew nut performances at the same time economically they are coming forward, Cashew generates employment in the crop production and processing. Employment extends both economic status and social status to women.

**Keywords:** comparative, perception, production, performance, economic importance.

### Introduction

India is mainly an agricultural country and agriculture is the main occupation for most of the Indian families. The cashew nut has been introduced into India in 16th century in order to prevent soil erosion only. Later the kernels from cashew nut become a major source of income for most of the people in coastal tropical regions of India. India has always been a major player in the production of cashew. It is the largest producer, processor, consumer and exporter of cashew in the world.

The word 'cashew' is derived from the Portuguese name for the nut 'caju', which was adopted by them from the native name 'acaju'. The cashew is a low, sprawling evergreen tree (Fig. 1a) with a gnarled or twisted trunk, possessing alternate, simple, leathery, oval glabrous leaves (10-12.5 cm long, 5-10 cm wide) that are rounded and often notched at the apex (Fig. 1a). The wood of the tree exudes a yellow gum. The flowers are borne in clusters on lax terminal panicles at the end of the branches (Fig. 1b). The fruit consists of a soft, shiny, pear-shaped, swollen, juicy basal portion or hypo carp, commonly known as cashew apple. In fact, the swollen peduncle and receptacle is reddish or yellow in colour when ripe. The cashew apple bears at its summit a kidney-shaped, single-seeded nut with a hard, grey-green pericarp or shell. This true fruit attains its full size before the enlargement of the receptacle. The shell of the nut contains an acrid juice or sap that causes severe irritation of the skin resulting in painful blisters. The seeds are exalbuminous with reddish brown testa, two large white cotyledons and a small embryo. They are inedible when raw and must be cooked or roasted to drive off the volatile oil before it is opened or shelled.

### Crop History

Cashew is a native of tropical America from Mexico to Peru and Brazil and also the West Indies. Four centuries ago, the adventurous Portuguese came sailing down the Indian coasts and brought with them the priceless nut tree to control soil erosion on the coasts. Cashew came, conquered and took deep root in the entire coastal region of India. The crop found the Indian soil more homely than its homeland. The first introduction of cashew into India was made in Goa from where it spread to other parts of the country's west and east coasts, especially in the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh (Sham Singh et al., 1963). In the beginning it was mainly considered as a crop for a forestation and soil binding to check erosion. Although its commercial exploitation began from the early 60s, only marginal land and denuded forests were set apart for plantation development.

In the field of international development, cashew cashew cultivation has attracted considerable interest from the development agencies, producers, governments and advocates of sustainable economic and environmental development. As a resilient and drought resistant tree that is adaptable to poor soil conditions, it offers environmental benefits in the fight to combat deforestation and soil erosion. Most importantly, its cultivation and exploitation are regarded as economically promising for both rural growers and urban industrial processors in terms of employment generated and value added to emerging economies. Cashew nuts have a relatively high fat content (12 g per ounce and 2 g saturated fat), but it is considered "good fat". Even with a relatively high fat content, cashew nuts are considered to be a "low-fat" nut. In fact, cashew nuts contain less fat per serving than many other popular nuts commonly found in grocery stores and health food stores, including almonds, walnuts, peanuts and pecans.

Cashew is composed mainly of unsaturated fatty acids (nearly 80%), which in humans raise the levels of high

density lipoproteins (HDLs), which are associated with a decreased risk of atherosclerosis and coronary heart disease. Cashew kernels contain polyunsaturated fatty acids in a 1:1 ratio with saturated fatty acids, which also is considered to have potential good health effects (Nair, 2009). There are various recommendations for use of cashew nut consumption for diet and weight loss. Cashew nuts have a high energy density and high amount of dietary fibers, both of which have been credited as having a beneficial effect on weight control, but only when eaten in moderation.

### Objective of the Study

To examine the growth and performance of Cashew Nut in India. The cashew processing industry plays a significant role in Kerala's economy in terms of foreign exchange earnings and as an employment. The present study mainly focused on the performance of cashew nut industries in Kerala and also made attempt to understand the reasons behind in the reduction of production and exports in the state.

The main objective of the paper is highlight the growth and performance of the cashew nut production in India and compared with the large and small sample data during 1965-66 to 2015-16 (large size) and 1990-91 to 2015-16 (small size). The secondary data were collected from the Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development ([www.indiastat.com](http://www.indiastat.com)).

### Methodology Data and Sources

The present study is based on secondary data and information on the cashew nut production. It has been collected from various reports, books, journals and other official secondary data. Further, for the detailed study on the production, importance and status of cashew nut Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & Karnataka

**Table.1:** Cashew Nut Production in the Major Producing States in India During 1990 To 2015

Year	Kerala	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka	Tamil Nadu
1990-91	142.1	37.8	25.8	12.47
1991-92	155.5	71.2	74.4	12.71
1992-93	151.6	44.9	31.3	19.19
1993-94	140.2	46.6	31.5	19.2
1994-95	119.2	58.7	26.4	22.0
1995-96	140.0	71.7	37.6	30.9
1996-97	134.0	60.0	52.0	30.0
1997-98	100.0	50.0	35.0	30.0
1998-99	130.0	80.0	40.0	35.0
1999-00	100.0	100.0	60.0	45.0
2000-01	76.0	75.0	42.0	59.0
2001-02	87.0	88.0	40.0	46.0
2002-03	94.0	98.0	44.0	50.0
2003-04	95.0	95.0	46.0	51.0
2004-05	64.0	88.0	43.0	53.0
2005-06	67.0	92.0	78.0	56.0
2006-07	72.0	99.0	84.0	60.0
2007-08	78.0	107.0	90.0	65.0
2008-09	75.0	112.0	95.0	68.0

2009-10	76.0	99.0	84.0	60.0
2010-11	71.0	107.0	91.0	65.0
2011-12	74.0	113.6	96.0	60.0
2012-13	0	0	224.6	12.1
2013-14	80.1	100.4	85.7	67.4
2014-15	80.0	100.0	85.5	67.0
Total	5073.7	2397.9	1952.9	1471.67
Percent	28.088	13.2747625	10.811245	8.1471578
Rank	I	III	IV	VI

**Table.2:** Cashew nut production in the major producing states in India during 1990 to 2015 (In Million Tones)

Year	Kerala	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka	Tamil Nadu
1990-91	142.1	37.8	25.8	12.47
1992-93	151.6	44.9	31.3	19.19
1993-94	140.2	46.6	31.5	19.2
1994-95	119.2	58.7	26.4	22.0
1995-96	140.0	71.7	37.6	30.9
1996-97	134.0	60.0	52.0	30.0
1997-98	100.0	50.0	35.0	30.0
1998-99	130.0	80.0	40.0	35.0
1999-00	100.0	100	60.0	45.0
2000-01	76.0	75.0	42.0	59.0
2001-02	87.0	88.0	40.0	46.0
2002-03	94.0	98.0	44.0	50.0
2003-04	95.0	95.0	46.0	51.0
2004-05	64.0	88.0	43.0	53.0
2005-06	67.0	92.0	45.0	56.0
2006-07	72.0	99.0	52.0	60.0
2007-08	78.0	107	56.0	65.0
2008-09	75.0	112	60.0	68.0
2009-10	76.0	99.0	53.0	60.0
2010-11	71.0	107	57.0	65.0
2011-12	74.0	113.6	66.0	60.0
2012-13	0	0	0	12.1
2013-14	80.1	100.4	80.6	67.4
2014-15	80.0	100.0	80.5	67.0
Total	2401.7	1994.9	1179.1	1095.97
Percent	<b>18.0089</b>	<b>14.95853392</b>	<b>8.8413491</b>	<b>8.2180081</b>
Rank	I	II	III	IV

### Comparing With Large and Small Samples with Descriptive Statistics

When compared with the large samples and small samples, it would be moderate different from the standard error, confidence level, kurtosis and skewness. Whether highly different from mean, standard deviation, sample variance and coefficient of variance. In the coefficient of variance (CV) was unit- free measure. The CV value would be small if the variation was small. In small sample has the less variation. From this study the consistency of two samples, the small sample with less coefficient of variation (CV), it represents to be small sample is more consistent when compared with large sample.

### Percentage Analysis

The large samples (i.e. 1990-91 to 2014-15 years) were showed in table 3 and Kerala state was the leading cashew nut producer state in India. They produce 28.09 per cent of total production from India. Kerala was the second largest producer state of cashew nut in India. They produce highest per cent of total production followed by Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are occupied third, fourth,

producer state of cashew nut in India.. Poor qualities of cashews are grown in some states, which is due to the natural calamities, drought, pest and diseases.

The results conclude that the cashew nut production in India was increased during selected period from 1990-91 to 2014-15. In small sample have less variation and more consistent (i.e. less CV value) when compared with large sample. But the small samples, Kerala state has been largest cashew nut production around 1990-91 years. In that year, Tamil Nadu has been poor qualities of cashews. So only the cashew production would be decreased. But other states (i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu) are does not change the position of the cashew nut production for large and small samples.

Moreover, from these results lightning call for policy makers and development departments to implement suitable programmes to reverse the scenario so as to build confidence and to improve status of cashew growers by making farming as a profitable occupation. Departments need to make supporting price, insurance to cashew and subsidies has to be given to cashew growers in order to sustain their livelihood security. These supportive measures

taken by the government through respected and line department people will help the farmers to get maximum profit from cashew nut cultivation

### **Prospects of Indian Cashew**

Among the cashew growing countries, India has the largest planted area, and is the largest producer, exporter and importer. The Indian cashew industry is one of the few industries in the country that is so export oriented. Apart from earning valuable foreign exchange, the cashew industry is providing many concrete employment opportunities. In global trade contracts, cashew is one of the items supporting the multilateral trade policy. Indian production is meeting only 50% of its industrial capacity. Any effort to increase the production will therefore not be in vein in the context of expanding consumer preference and market absorbability. Indian production can very well touch one million tons within a period of 15 years

### **Conclusion**

Contribution of cashew nut production to Kerala economy towards the high value commodities in the economy is well established comparing with Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Productions of these commodities and shares in total value of agricultural output have shown positive trends. All these parts of cashew (including CNSL) have the potential to increase employment. However, what is lacking is more organize effort to promote employment in this sub sector. Such efforts would also promote developing the processing and export potential of cashew crop. And at the same time with that consequences Tamil Nadu Economy have to move on positive path. The cashew nut production in has significant difference in production and area of production in India

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