



Intervention of Precision Farming in Cashew

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Abstract

Advancing knowledge in tree architecture, growth physiology, possibility of using promising cultivars, water management etc. has enabled farmers to adopt closer planting and maintaining reachable canopy by tailoring soil and crop management applications to fit in varying conditions in the field. This system is popularly known as Precision farming. It enables profitable cropping, high, regular yields and improved farm management practices, leading to higher productivity. This system produces precocious cropping, high and regular yields of good quality fruits and low labour requirement to meet ever rising production costs. It is cultivated in tropical regions on either side of the equator for its delightful nutritious kernel and apple. Cashew (*Anacardium occidentale* L.), a member of *Anacardiaceae* family, is a native of Brazil and introduced in India by the Portuguese during 16th century. India is one of the leading producer, processor and exporter of cashew in the world. Cashew kernel is a rich source of proteins (21%), fat (47.0%), carbohydrates (22.0%), minerals, vitamins and essential amino acids.

Keywords: cashew, training, pruning, mulching, fertigation.

Cashew (*Anacardium occidentale* L.), a member of *Anacardiaceae* family, is a native of Brazil and introduced in India by the Portuguese during 16th century. India is one of the leading producer, processor and exporter of cashew in the world. World wide the annual production of cashew is about 2.1 million tonnes with an estimated value of 1.5 -2 billion US\$. India is the 3rd largest producer of raw cashew nut in the world with an area coverage of 10,11,000 ha, production of 753 000 MT and a productivity of 706 kg /ha. Odisha produces about 85.71 thousand MT from an area of 166.91 thousand ha with an average productivity of 514 kg/ha. Source: (NHB 2013-14).

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fit in varying conditions in the field. This system is popularly known as Precision farming.

It enables profitable cropping, high, regular yields and improved farm management practices, leading to higher productivity. Today new orchards are being attempted to plant in this system with a view to produce higher yield and increased profitably. Precision farming is a modern method of cultivation involving planting of trees densely, allowing small or dwarf trees with modified canopy for better light interception and distribution and ease of mechanised field operations. Control of pests and diseases, weeds and pruning of tree canopy can be carried out by machine. Irrigation and fertigation are automatically

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