



**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

## Value chain analysis of cashew processing

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**SUMMARY :** Cashew with its unique combination of fat, proteins, carbohydrates, minerals and vitamins is in fact a poor man's crop and the rich man's favorite snack food all over the world. India is the largest producer of cashew in the world and accounts for 43.8% of the total world production. Export of the cashew kernel in the year 1996-97 was 68758 MT valued at Rs. 1281.04 crores (Source: CEPC). Indian cashew kernels are exported to more than 60 countries in the world, mainly to USA, Netherlands, UK, Germany, Japan, Australia, and UAE etc. Cashew brought home foreign exchange equivalent to Rs. 1781.61 crores (US \$ 372 million), from export of 97550 M.T. of cashew kernels (Rs. 1776.70 crores) and 1814 M.T of cashew nut shell liquid (Rs. 4.91 crores) during the year 2001-2002, constituting 0.86% of India's total export earnings. Keeping in view all these, the present study was conducted based on the secondary data and the results revealed were full utilization of cashew apple, cashew nut shell liquid, cashew shell and cashew testa will lead to higher realization of income for farmers and cashew processor-exporters. Many preparations like juices, jams, candies, pickles, chutneys and alcoholic beverages can be prepared from cashew apple. Bakery items like chocolates, biscuits, cakes etc. with cashew kernels have been developed by different manufacturers.

**KEY WORDS :**

Cashew, India, Export, Kernels, Farmers

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