



Research Paper

Post harvest management practice in disposal of cashewnut

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Paper History :

Received : 18.10.2011;

Revised : 15.12.2011;

Accepted: 25.01.2012

ABSTRACT : The cashew growers used bamboo basket for local variety (42.86%) and gunny bag for HYV. (53.85%) for storing cashewnut and observed to sale after one month. In grading practices, very few numbers of cashew growers from both varieties viz., local (25.64%) and HYV (38.03%) had followed grading practice before of nuts. Regarding disposal pattern of cashewnut among the both varieties of cashewnut, 90.18 per cent and 95.42 per cent quantity was sold in market respectively and remaining quantities were utilized for home consumption, wage payment, gift to relatives and losses during storage and drying. In case if local variety observed that maximum quantity was sold through itinerant merchant (37.04%) and in case of HYV cashewnut maximum quantity was sold through wholesaler or commission agent (42.33%) Regarding price realized by cashew growers on the basis of agency wise disposal of cashew nuts, it is observed that at overall level per kg price realized for local variety and HYV cashew orchard was Rs.42.41 and Rs.46.02 respectively for small size orchard and Rs.42.16 and Rs.46.52 for large size orchard. This analysis revealed that cashew growers were in better position for per kg price realization in case of selling of nuts directly to processing factory.

KEY WORDS : Drying, Storage, Grading, Disposal and price

HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER : Patil, A.B., Talathi, J.M., Naik, V.G. and Wagale, S.A. (2012). Post harvest management practice in disposal of cashewnut (M.S.), *Internat. Res. J. agric. Eco. & Stat.*, **3** (1) : 115-119.

INTRODUCTION

In Maharashtra state cashewnut is grown mainly in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. Most of the cashew producers are unorganized. Consequently, marketing of cashewnut remained to be primitive nature and unorganized. Cultivation of cashew is also unscientific and not commercialized in most of the areas. Now days, large number of intermediaries are involved in marketing of cashewnut. The channels consist of the producers, village trader, wholesalers, pre-harvest contractors (PHC) and processors. The intermediaries play an important role in the movement of raw cashewnut, their by reducing the margin to producers.

A good marketing system is one in which there are minimum number of intermediaries between producers and processors in turn, large proportion of reasonable price realized to producer / grower. From this point of view, it is important to investigate the present system of marketing followed in disposal of cashewnut.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The south Konkan region of Maharashtra state comprising Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts, was selected purposively for the present study. Three stage sampling method was followed in the selection of cashew growers. i.e. Tahasils, villages and cashew growers and from each village they were selected randomly. Thus, a cross sectional sample consisted of 80 cashew growers having bearing orchards.

The selected sample cashew growers were classified into two broad categories viz., (i) cashew growers having local varieties plantation and (ii) cashew growers giving high yielding varieties (HYV). The data on post harvest management practices in disposal of cashewnut production were collected through personal interviews with the growers during the year 2006-07 by survey method with the help of specially designed schedule.