



Research Paper

## Cost returns and profitability in organic and inorganic cashew production

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**ABSTRACT :** The per hectare yield of cashew nuts was 16.90 q and 12.69 q in organic and inorganic cashew orchards, respectively. The per hectare total cost of maintenance of inorganic cashew orchard (Cost C) was worked out to Rs. 58999. While in case of organic cashew orchard, cost of maintenance (Cost C) was worked out to Rs. 45393. The per hectare gross returns realized were Rs. 93546 from inorganic cashew orchard and Rs. 75405 from organic cashew orchard. The benefit cost ratio in inorganic and organic cashew orchard was 1.59 and 1.66, respectively.

**KEY WORDS :** Cost returns, Profitability, Cashew production

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### INTRODUCTION

In India cashew is grown mainly in Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala states along the West coast and Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal along the East coast. At present Maharashtra state ranks first in area, production and productivity due to strong research backup from SAU's through varietal improvement and sound propagation technology. In Maharashtra, major cashew growing districts are Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg coming under Konkan region having Sahyadri ranges in the East and Arabian sea in the West (Kolekar, 2010).

Organic farming is a production system which favours maximum use of organic material (crop residues, animal excreta, legumes, on and off farm organic wastes, bio pesticides) and discourages use of synthetically produced agro-inputs for maintaining soil productivity and pest management under conditions of sustainable natural resources and healthy environment (Yadukumar, 2007).

Now-a-days the market for agricultural produce is shifting from chemical intensive fertilizer produce to the organic produce. Also the organic products are now getting higher prices in the international market than inorganic products. Organic products fetch 20-30 per cent higher price than

inorganic products in the world market. So looking towards prime prices for organic products in global market, demand for organic cashew nut products is increasing. Keeping all these aspects in view, the present study was undertaken in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra state to estimate per hectare cost, returns and profitability in cashew nut production.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sindhudurg district was selected purposively for this study, wherein 200 cashew growers were found to be registered as organic cashew growers from Sawantwadi and Dodamarg Tahsils. From each Tahsil, 25 registered organic cashew were selected randomly. The equivalent number of inorganic cashew growers (using plant protection chemicals, chemical fertilizers, etc.) were selected randomly from the adjoining areas of each tahsil. Hence a total sample consisted of 100 cashew growers. The cashew growers were classified into two categories, on the basis of type of orchard *viz.*, inorganic cashew orchard and organic cashew orchard. The data related to the agricultural year 2009-2010 were collected by personal interviews with the cashew growers. The cost of maintenance of cashew orchard was worked out by using standard cost concepts.