



The Steps Upheld The Cashew Growers After Cyclone 'Thane' In Tamil Nadu - A Case Study

R.Jayasankar* and R.Muthukumar

Assistant Professors, Department of Agricultural Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, Annamalai University, Annamalai nagar – 608 002, Tamil Nadu.

*E-mail: agrijayasankar@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

India is the largest producer of raw cashew nut contributing 20% of total global production. Tamil Nadu is the six largest producer state of cashew nut in India. Cuddalore district ranked first in terms of cashew production with 24,302 tonnes (47.0 per cent) and had the highest cashew productivity of 810 kg / ha among cashew growing districts in the state. In December 30, 2011 the cyclone "Thane" severely damaged the whole district. From the 32349 ha of total cashew cultivated area of this district, almost 32162.72 ha were completely vanished. The State Horticulture Department of Tamil Nadu takeover this challenge, frame and implemented the various step by step activities along with other supporting agents. To identify the impact of relief operations the present study was taken up in to Panruti, Annagramam, Vridhachalam and Kurinjipadi blocks of Cuddalore district with a sample size of sixty growers selected based on the random sampling method. Before that the researcher was collected the various data, block wise information and schemes which implemented in this district to improve the social upliftment of cashew growers from the District Officials. The findings revealed that almost all the cashew growers were satisfied with the relief functions of State Horticulture Department. This study completely explained the list of measures taken by the Department and shown the present status of this major cashew cultivated district.

Key words: Cashew, cashew growers and relief activities

Received 12.01.2019

Revised 10.02.2019

Accepted 23.02.2019

INTRODUCTION

Based on The Directorate of Cashew nut and Cocoa Development report, Indian Cashew is known world-wide for its excellent quality. India being a leader in cashew production is also world's largest producer, processor and exporter of cashew kernels. Cultivation of cashew in India confines mainly to the peninsular areas. It is grown in Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra along the west coast and Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal along the east coast. Cashew is also being cultivated in Chhattisgarh, North Eastern States and Andaman Nicobar Islands to a limited extent.

Tamil Nadu is the six largest producer state of cashew nut in India. Among the different cashew growing districts in Tamil Nadu, Ariyalur (31.4 per cent), Cuddalore (30.2 per cent) and Pudukkottai (8.5 per cent) were the major cashew growing districts accounting for about 70 per cent of the total area. Cuddalore district ranked first in terms of cashew production with 24,302 tonnes (47.0 per cent) and had the highest cashew productivity of 810 kg / ha among cashew growing districts in the state [1].

In December 30, 2011 the cyclone "Thane" severely damaged the whole district. From the 32349 ha of total cashew cultivated area of this district, almost 32162.72 ha were completely and partially vanished. Keeping this in view, the present study has been made to know the activities are made by State Horticulture Department to overcome the natural disaster and collect the feedback from the farming community regarding those activities [2].

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was taken up among the cashew growers in the area of Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. Collect the name list of cashew growers those who completely loss their entire trees from the Officials the of State Horticulture Department. Totally 60 cashew growers were selected from the four potential blocks of the district namely Panruti, Annagramam, Vridhachalam and Kurinjipadi by

proportionate random sampling method. The data were collected from the respondents with the help of well structured and pre tested interview schedule. The statistical tools used in the study were percentage analysis and mean percentage score.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the information gathered from the Block wise State Horticulture Department Officials, after the cyclone 'Thane' was damaged the entire Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu in 2011, December 30, out of 32349 ha cashew area of this district, 32162.72 ha were damaged. Most of the trees were above thirty years of old. That was the peak yield period and produced maximum average yield. All the three farming categories based upon the land holding, the marginal, small and big farmers were lost their only income source within three hours.

Immediately, the State Horticulture Department of Tamil Nadu deputed number of Officials from various levels from the other district to Cuddalore. With the help and direction of the existing Officials in the district, the whole team were collected the damage information and calculated the total affected area. The Revenue Department Officials also help to calculate the area exactly.

Step by step relief measures taken by State Horticulture Department

First relief

In 2012, January 4 (after 4 days of cyclone), Tamil Nadu Government distributed Rs. 9000 per hectare for 58655 cashew growers at the total value of Rs 3431.48 lacs through the State Horticulture Department

Second relief

In 2012, March 2, the State Horticulture Department fixed and distributed the lumpsum grant for removal of stumps and roots at the rate of Rs. 24000 per hectare and ploughing cost for Rs. 1000 per hectare.

High Density Planting

After that, for 850 ha of completely damaged cashew growers, the State Horticulture Department consulted with the Scientists of various Agriculture Universities and experts of KVK, decided the 'High Density Planting' of cashew as the most suitable planting method to overcome the issue for immediate effort. They recommended High Density Planting (HDP) to the farming community and create awareness about that through various Extension methods.

Joint Liability Group

They formed seven members Joint Liability Group (JLG's) in all affected areas to implement the High Density Planting system.

VRI-3

After the discussion with scientist from various institutions, the State Horticulture Department identified the VRI-3 cashew variety as the most suitable for High Density Planting. The State Horticulture Farms located at Neyveli and Vridhachalam of this district and Regional Research Station, Vridhachalam taken the responsibility to produce and supply the VRI-3 grafting.

Drip Irrigation

With the help of Agricultural Engineering Department of Tamil Nadu, the State Horticulture Department, decided to install the drip irrigation for High Density Planting in cashew with seventy five per cent subsidies for big farmers and hundred per cent subsidy for marginal and small farmers.

Field Demonstration

In Cuddalore district, the State Horticulture Department identified the 'Meleruppu' village as the model village to conduct the field demonstration for High Density Planting in cashew. They formed the seven members Joint Liability Group (JLG's) at this village for 8.01 hectare. Planting VRI-3 with 5 and 4 meter spacing and installed drip irrigation system.

Bore well

Erection of bore well is the other major component of this method. The Electricity Board of Tamil Nadu gave the first priority to the affected area cashew growers for electricity connection without any delay. The Agricultural Engineering Department of Tamil Nadu erected bore well in any one of the JLG members field with fifty per cent subsidy.

Implementation

Finally, the State Horticulture Department implemented the High Density Planting system with drip irrigation to entire affected cashew field of this district with minimum period of time successfully.

Inter cropping for immediate income

After planting, third year onwards the VRI-3 starts flowering and fifth year its gives recommended yield. So, the first five years the cashew growers not able to run their life without income from farm. To solve this issue, the State Horticulture Department distributed green gram and black gram seeds for all affected farmers without cost. The income from this two intercrops solved their economic problem for five years. Totally 37000 cashew growers were benefited for this.

Subsidies

The State Horticulture Department distributed 500 numbers of VRI-3 cashew grafts and other inputs to cashew growers those who cultivated HDP with drip irrigation at the worth of Rs 24000 for planting and maintenance.

Practices done by HDP in cashew

Based upon the response from the HDP cashew growers, Pit preparation almost all the cultivars were followed the all the components of HDP in cashew cultivation like, varieties, age of cashew grafts for planting, planting, spacing, nutrient management, application of organic manures, irrigation management, fertigation, pest management, diseases management, flowering management, intercropping, weed management, pruning and time of harvesting.

CONCLUSION

After seven years of the cyclone 'Thane', now the cashew growers from Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu harvested the maximum yield of around 20 kg/tree. The State Horticulture Department stands behind this entire success. The perfect planning and execution of the Extension functionaries, the excellent support and cooperation of the cashew growers, fund provided by both Central and State Government, created the renaissance to cashew growers life. This case study shows the priceless value of the Extension workers for technological dissemination at any stage along with the good combination of the Scientists and the supportive Farmers.

REFERENCES

1. Loganathan, R. and M.Chandrasekaran. (2013). Agribusiness potential Impact of Horticulture Crops: An Agricultural Economic Analysis of Cashew Nut in Tamil Nadu, 3 (12).
2. The Department of Horticulture and Plantation crops, Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu.

CITATION OF THIS ARTICLE

R.Jayasankar and R.Muthukumar.The Steps Upheld The Cashew Growers After Cyclone 'Thane' in Tamil Nadu - A Case Study. Bull. Env. Pharmacol. Life Sci., Vol 8 [5] April 2019: 88-90