

Package Programme for Cashew Plantations to be carried out during 1977-78 in Departmental Cashew Plantations

1. Objectives

This is a Scheme for implementing special package programme in the existing cashew plantations of the Department.

The bulk of the Cashew Plantations of the Department are distributed in the Central and Northern Circle. In the part effected plantation protection measures and application of fertilizer were carried out to some of these plantations, and the results of such applications were found to be encouraging. The yield of raw nuts in general from these plantations showed corresponding increase. It has been the experience that cashew plants respond quickly and favorably to soil working coupled with application of fertilizer and plant protection measures. If this is done at the appropriate time, there is considerable increase in the yield of nuts. The application of fertilizers and pesticides should be carried out in plantations 10 years of age and above but below 25 years of age.

As the funds at the disposal of the Department is limited it is proposed to undertake package of practices for improvement of yield over 200 ha. 100 ha. Each in Trichur and Wyanad Forest Division during 1977-78.

Following are the items of works to be carried out during August-September.

1. Soil Working to a diameter of 1 to 1.5 metres radius around each tree. This is estimated to a cost of Rs.7/- per 20 trees.
2. Fertilizer application:
Nutrient dosage (gm. Per tree per annum)
250 gms. of nitrogen
125 gms. of Phosphate and
125 gms. of Potassium

The fertilizer should be applied in circular tranches. 15 to 20 cm. deep with a radius of 1.0 to 1.5 metre from the plant base during August –September. This is estimated to cost of Rs.50/- per 20 trees. This cost includes value of Fertilizers and also its application.

3. Pest and Disease Control

1. For control of tea mosquito observed in the trees, spray .05% Endosulfan or 0.5% carbaryl at the time of emergence of new flushes and panicles. 2 sprays may be given. A third spray may be given at the time of fruit setting in order to reduce immature fruit drop.
2. For control of root and stem borer, drench tree bases with BHC 0.1% suspension. In badly infested plants, cut off dried –up portions and burn.
3. For control of die –back or pink disease, prune the effected shoots and apply Bordeaux paste. The plant protection measures is estimated to cost of Rs.10 per 20 trees including cost of pesticides.

For other Miscellaneous expenditure of contingent nature, Rs.3/- per 20 trees may be incurred. Divl. Forest officers Wyanad and Trichur may be directed to take up package of practices for cashew as indicated above in selected areas. Before trees are identified, they should estimate the yield of nuts from these trees prior to allocation of fertilizer and pesticides. Thereafter, the yield should be correctly worked out for each tree after the application of fertilizers and pesticides during subsequent fruiting season. Each Divl. Forest Officer may be directed to take 20000 trees in their division to begin with, for execution of the package of practices on cashew.

Sd/-

For Chief Conservator of Forest

True Copy

For Conservator of Forest,
Trichur