

Utility of canopy management in Cashew nut production

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Cashew, an important horticultural crop, is gaining importance as an important rain fed tree crop both in traditional and nontraditional regions of the country. The demand for raw nuts for processing by Indian Cashew Processing Factories is ever increasing and now it is around 12-13 lakh tonnes per annum. Presently more than 50 % of the raw nut requirement of the country is met from imported sources especially from African countries. These cashew nut exporting countries have developed processing facilities and countries like Vietnam which are competing with India have improved their processing capabilities. Hence it is imminent to India to enhance the production so that the country will be self sufficient in raw cashew nut requirement.

India has the potentiality to enhance the production in multifold. The area expansion and productivity enhancement are the means to achieve it. The improved production technologies including horticultural interventions have shown to enhance the productivity with which targeted nut production can be achieved. Pruning and training practices to shape the canopies and also to rejuvenate the growth enabling the plantations to remain ever productive has arose enough hopes in enhancing the cashew nut production in the country.

Canopy management

Canopy management is the ‘art’ of fruit growing - it is much more than cutting off a few branches.

Cashew is a fast growing woody perennial tree and if allowed to grow naturally the canopy will be in irregular shape with low spreading branches ultimately resulting in poor yield. Therefore managing a canopy will help to develop a strong tree that will support heavy crop loads, increase nut production and improve nut quality in the long-term.

The Basics

There are three primary methods for managing fruit tree canopies.