CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

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6.01 Introduction:

In Maharashtra state, the production and productivity of cashewnut is highest in the country, as majority of plantation are developed primary by clones of high yielding varieties and also cultivators are adopting better management practices. Maharashtra topped cashew production with 1,83,000 MT followed by Andhra Pradesh at 92,000 MT. Maharashtra also ranked 1st in productivity with 1300 kg/hectare followed by West Bengal 950 kg/hectare and Kerala 900 kg/hectare (Venkatesh, 2007).

The following conclusions on production of cashewnut and processing of cashewnut are drawn from the present study.

6.02 Production:

1. Cashew is the perennial cash crop which is having gestation period of five years. In this period to establish a cashew orchard growers have to incur huge expenditure. It is observed from the study that, on an average an amount of Rs. 114610.83 was required for establishing one hectare of HYV cashew orchard, while the approximate cost of establishment of local cashew orchard was worked out to Rs. 87430.56.

2. In establishing a cashew orchard (HYV) highest amount (34.50%) was incurred on labour wages. Out of total establishment cost, 42.04 per cent was incurred during the first year, 15.92 per cent during second year, 15.78 per cent during third year, 13.25 per cent during fourth year and
13.01 per cent during fifth year. This indicated that, maximum expenditure was incurred during the first year.

3. Regarding group wise cost of cultivation of cashew orchard was observed that per hectare cost of cultivation was considerably maximum, (Rs.46793.29) in HYV cashew orchard than (Rs.30257.40) in local variety cashew orchard. In local variety cashew orchard the share of cost ‘A’ was 26.35 per cent and cost ‘B’ was 86.98 per cent. In HYV cashew orchard the share of cost ‘A’ was 29.49 per cent and cost ‘B’ was 87.92.

4. Regarding profitability of bearing cashew cultivation, in study area the per hectare net profit was considerably higher in HYV cashew orchard (2.00) than local variety cashew orchard (1.80) as indicated by benefit cost ratio.

6.03 Processing :

1. The cashew processing unit in the region had provided 1.92 lakh day employment. Out of the total employment, nearly 92.00 per cent was female labour employment.

2. The average capital investment per unit was Rs. 94.47 lakhs. The investment on working capital was more (88.32%) than the fixed capital (11.68%) of the total working capital invested, the purchase of raw nuts shared about 91.87 per cent.

3. The per quintal cost of processing was Rs. 938.45 and exhibited positive relationship with the scale of production.
4. One quintal of cashewnut when processed resulted in 24.70 kgs of kernels. The gross and net value added came to 48.18 per cent and 28.36 per cent, respectively. The picture of utilized capacity in relation to installed capacity was to the tune of 64.05 per cent of the total capacity utilized. The cost-benefit ratio for unit was 1.25.

5. Major problems faced by the unit have been mainly related with finance, followed by quality of raw material, labour, electricity supply etc.

6.04 Résumé:

On an average an amount of Rs. 114610.83 was required for establishing one hectare of HYV cashew orchard, while the approximate cost of establishment of local cashew orchard was worked out to Rs. 87430.56. In establishing a cashew orchard (HYV) highest amount (34.50%) was incurred on labour wages. Regarding group wise cost of cultivation of cashew orchard was observed that per hectare cost of cultivation was considerably maximum, (Rs.46793.29) in HYV cashew orchard than (Rs. 30257.40) in local variety cashew orchard. Regarding profitability of bearing cashew cultivation, in study area the per hectare net profit was considerably higher in HYV cashew orchard (2.00) than local variety cashew orchard (1.80) as indicated by benefit cost ratio.

The cashew processing unit in the region had provided 1.92 lakh day employment. Out of the total employment, nearly 92.00 per cent was female labour employment. The average capital investment per unit was Rs. 94.47 lakhs. The investment on working capital was more (88.32%) than the fixed
capital (11.68%) of the total working capital invested, the purchase of raw nuts shared about 91.87 per cent. Major problems faced by the unit have been mainly related with finance, followed by quality of raw material, labour, electricity supply etc.

6.05 Relevance of the study:

At the end of this work it is felt that the study is quite relevant. It is useful to understand the cost structure of the cashew plantation and processing activities. This has direct relationship livelihood of the farmers. Some of the results of the study have thrown light on how to save cost of production and improve marketability of the same. In addition to this the study states how advantage of “Value addition” can be sought of by the farmers.

So far as geographical studies are concerned the preset works is in tune with the recent trends in Agricultural Geography. It gives idea about how to use cost-benefit analysis as a tool to understand geographical parameters. The study may be considered as good addition in the knowledge of Agricultural Geography.

6.06 Limitations:

Obviously, present work is not free from any limitations. The candidate is aware of the limitations regarding data collection, data analysis and exposition. The cost of production is mainly based field enquiry without any laboratory experiments. However, this may be considered as more realistic data
as it comes from the farmers who are practicing cashew cultivation in the given geographical situation. The cost structure is open for correction in different geographical situations.

The study has not taken into account probable externalities of the problems. Such external economic problems may well be understood if the study of macro-economic aggregates and policies is carried out.

It may be remarked that in depth study may be carried out in future by the same scholar or other researchers in the field of agronomy, agriculture geography and environmental management.

6.07 Further study:

The present work has outlined the planning of strategy how to transfer benefits of “Value Addition” to the farmers and to reduce ’risk’. However, it is not completion in the sense that proper ’action plane’ suitable to different geographical situations. Therefore it may be suggested to carry out comparative cost-benefit-analysis for different area producing cashewnut.

As a part of further study it may be suggested to integrate this type of work with the scenario of globalization, national policies and environmental aspects of farming. It would be interesting to evaluate cashewnut cultivation in terms of cost, output, quality and marketability if principle of organic farming are adopted. Furthermore, it may be worth studying the impact of environmental degradation on cashew plantation.
The present work has given proper methodology to understand costing of plantation crop. It may be applicable to other plantation crops also. Therefore it may be suggested that the cost-benefit-analysis of other crops like mango, pepper, jambhul etc. may be carried out as further study.

Thus, the present work provides good academic background for various types of further studies.

6.08 Concluding remarks:

The present work has outline strategy to achieve development of the farmers cultivating cashew. It also has suggested the strategy that cashewnut processing activity should be carried out by farmers on co-operative basis to achieve improvement of farmers 'economic status'. Thus, the hypothesis stated in the beginning is accepted in the work.