

Evaluation of Cashew Varieties in Southern Telangana Zone of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Six varieties of Cashewnut (*Anacardium occidentale* L.) were evaluated for nut yield from 2003-04 to 2006-07 at Arid Horticulture Research Station, Kondamallepally, Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh. Critical examination of the data revealed that the variety BPP-4 has exhibited the highest cumulative nut yield of 6.46 kg per tree followed by BPP-1 with 5.489 kg per tree and the lowest cumulative nut yield of 1.686 kg recorded in BPP-2 variety over the four years.

Key words: Cashewnut, Chalka soil, Nut yield.

INTRODUCTION

Cashewnut (*Anacardium occidentale* L.) belongs to the family Anacardiaceae and is one of the important foreign exchange crops of the country. In India, it is cultivated in an area of 1006242 hectares with the production of 736560 metric tonnes of raw nuts during 2013-14 (Annual report,2014). Though, India ranks first in production, processing and export of kernels in the world, however, productivity of the existing cashew is very poor, hardly 722kg per tree (Saroj et al.,2014). In India, the major states which are growing cashew are Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Goa, Orissa, Kerala and West Bengal.

Cashew is drought tolerant crop and comes up well in poor soils. Cashew Research Station, Bapatla released promising varieties

namely, BPP-1, BPP-2, BPP-3, BPP-4, BPP-5, BPP-6, etc. Cashewnut is a non-traditional crop to Telangana and hence present study was taken up for evaluating the suitable varieties to southern Telangana region to meet the growing needs.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted at Dr. YSR Horticulture University, Horticulture Research Station, Konda Mallepally, Nalgonda district during the period of 2003-04 to 2006-07. The Station falls under southern Telangana zone of Andhra Pradesh (Latitude 17.0586693 and Longitude 17.265585) with average rainfall of 560 mm with mean temperatures of 17°C minimum and 40°C maximum.

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The soils are calcareous shallow red chalka type. The trial was conducted in non replicated model with 6 varieties with 14 plants in each row with a spacing of 30 x 30 feet. Standard package of practices were followed to grow the trees. The varieties viz., BPP-1, BPP-2, BPP-3, BPP-4, BPP-5 and BPP-6 were planted in November 1995. The data on nut yield were recorded from 2003-04 to 2006-07 and the cumulative yield data was collected.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Perusal of the data (Table.1) revealed that the cumulative nut yield over four years ranged from 1.686 kg to 6.406 kg/ tree. The variety BPP-4 has recorded maximum cumulative nut yield of 6.406 kg/tree followed by BPP-1 with 5.489 kg/tree. The other varieties namely, BPP-6 recorded 3.503 kg/tree, BPP-5 with 3.19kg/tree and BPP-3 with 2.538 kg/tree and the least was recorded in BPP-2 with 1.686 kg/tree.

It can be understood from the cumulative nut yield data, that the BPP-4 is more suitable for cultivation for this calcareous soils followed by BPP-1 variety.

Table. 1: Cumulative Yield of Cashewnut varieties (2003-04 to 2006-07)

S. No	Name of the variety	Average nut yield (kg/tree)				Cumulative nut yield (kg/Tree) (2001-2008)
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	
1	BPP-1	0.403	1.100	1.736	2.250	5.489
2	BPP-2	0.166	0.346	0.524	0.650	1.686
3	BPP-3	0.273	0.538	0.802	0.925	2.538
4	BPP-4	1.062	1.542	1.652	2.150	6.406
5	BPP-5	0.368	0.854	0.948	1.020	3.190
6	BPP-6	0.352	0.875	0.976	1.300	3.503

CONCLUSION

From this study, it can be concluded that BPP-4 may be suitable for cultivation followed by BPP-1 under southern Telangana zone of Andhra Pradesh.

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