Empowering Cashew Farmers: CUTN Organizes Training Program in Collaboration with Directorate of Cocoa and Cashew Development

Thiruvarankulam Block, Pudukottai District

The Department of Horticulture at the Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN), Thiruvarur, took a significant step towards the upliftment of cashew farmers in Thiruvarankulam block, Pudukottai district in Tamil Nadu. In collaboration with the Directorate of Cocoa and Cashew Development, Cochin, a crucial training program was organized, funded by the Government of India on 07 and 08 Dec 2023.

A dedicated group of scientists from CUTN, led by Mr. D. Dhanasekar, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Thiruvarankulam, facilitated the comprehensive training session. The program focused on advanced cashew production technology and value addition to enhance the livelihoods of cashew farmers in the region. Mr. D. Danasekar shared valuable insights into the implementation of various initiatives and subsidies designed to benefit cashew producers.

Dr. A. Ramesh Kumar, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Horticulture at CUTN, provided an in-depth explanation of enhanced cashew cultivation methods. Dr. S. Srivignesh, Assistant Professor in the department, elucidated innovative technologies, with a specific emphasis on high-density cashew planting. Practical application of grafting cashew seedlings was demonstrated by both speakers, ensuring a hands-on learning experience for the participating farmers.

The scientific team, comprising Drs. S. Kathiresan, V. Thondaimaan, Kaushik Rajaram, and I. Arumuka Pravin, addressed the farmers on diverse topics, including enhanced methods for utilizing biofertilizers, integrated pest and disease control, and value addition in cashew apples.

The training program concluded with the distribution of a meticulously crafted manual titled "Improved Integrated Technologies for Cashew Cultivation," written in Tamil for the ease of comprehension by local farmers. More than hundred farmers actively participated in the workshop.