

Safalam Cashew processing Society of Kasaragod

Safalam Project implemented in Kasaragod involves the collection and processing of cashew nut grown in the district by the local rural women, who are the members of Safalam Womens Cashew Processing Society. The society operates and manages 13 cashew processing units, which includes one Central Grading and Packing Centre at Chattanchal and twelve primary processing units, spread across 12 Grama Panchayaths, which function in a hub and spoke format. The membership comprises of 74 women. The society produces 21 grades of Cashew, Cashew Pickle and Cashew Syrup. The Safalam Cashew processing society of Kasaragod had touched the lives of many. The District Mission of Kasaragod had been extending enough support for the society. Let's find out how the Safalam project stands out unique in the crowd!

Safalam Cashew Processing Society

Safalam Cashew processing Society in Kasaragod was started during 2008- 2009 with 78 women as members. 13 units were opened in 13 Panchayats. 12 were processing units and 1 was grading and peeling unit.

Units were started in Ajanoor, Bedadukka, Enmakaje, Kallar, Karadukka, Kuttikkol, Kudumbelur, Kayyoor Cheemeni, Panathadi, Peelikode, Puloor Periya, Pallikkara and Chemmanad Panchayaths of Kasaragod.

Cashew nut being available in plenty and being familiar to the works related to the cashew nut production encouraged the members to start such an enterprise.

Most of the women in the units had received basic education only and are from financially backward families.

To help the units, a consortium of Safalam units was opened in Chattanjal Mini Industrial building. The Consortium is registered under Charitable Societies Act, 1860. The units work under this consortium and through the consortium crisis management fund is also given to them.

Consortium

A consortium is a group made up of two or more individuals units in the same sector that work together toward achieving a chosen objective. Each entity within the consortium is only responsible to the group in respect to the obligations that are set out in the consortium's contract. Therefore, every entity that is under the consortium remains independent in his or her normal business operations and has no say over another member's operations that are not related to the consortium. The consortium/societies have been established to deliver a host of services to Kudumbashree units, through establishing backward and forward linkages and instituting a professional management structure. The consortium is owned by Kudumbashree women entrepreneurs, and run with professional support. The consortiums in Kudumbashree are legally registered under Charitable Societies Act. A charitable organization is a type of Non Profit Organization (NPO). Its goals are social well being of the units and its members. For Example, charitable, educational, or other activities serving the public interest or common good.

The consortiums are organizational forms that will improve the bargaining power, net income and quality of micro entrepreneurs, contribute to the scale of

production, helps in cost reduction by collective raw material purchase and organized marketing. This helps in collective action and reduces the chances of defuncting of member units. Also if some member units/members come to a crisis they financially support from the pooled funds. The consortiums take all licenses and other legal requirements.

The steps involved in the formation of Consortiums are

- Mobilization of Micro entrepreneurs
- Awareness classes
- Selection of Adhoc Committee members (7 members)
- Preparation of MOA and byelaws
- Selection of Name of the Society
- Finding an office
- Formal registration process

The General Body consists of one member from each unit. The General Body meetings are conducted once in three months and the Executive Committee meetings are conducted in every month. The General body members elect the Executive member in each district. The Executive members are formally elected from the member units in each district through procedures mentioned in the Byelaws. The President, Secretary and Treasurer are elected from the Executive members. The Executive committee takes decisions regarding the day to day affairs of the Consortium and major decisions are presented in the General Body meetings and get approval. The Secretary presents the accounts in the General Body meetings. If one third of the quorum approves the decisions are taken.

The following are the units opened in various Panchayaths:

Name of the Panchayath	Name of the Unit	Members
Ajanur	Samagra Cashew Processing Unit	7
Bedaduka	Dhanam Cashew Processing Unit	6
Enmakaje	Keerthy Cashew Processing Unit	4
Kallar	Unity Cashew Processing Unit	7
Karaduka	Aishwarya Cashew Processing Unit	7
Kayyur Cheemeni	Matruka Cashew Processing Unit	7
Kodem Belur	Udayasree Cashew Processing Unit	5
Kuttikol	Dhanasree Cashew Processing Unit	6
Panathadi	Aishwrya Cashew Processing Unit	5
Pallikera	Safalam Cashew Processing Unit	5
Pilikode	Menma Cashew Processing Unit	0
Pullur Periya	Gramasree Cashew Processing Unit	0
Chemnad	Thejas Cashew Processing Unit	7

Kudumbashree had extended help to the units by giving a subsidy of Rs. 50000. In addition, revolving fund of Rs 17,500 was given to each unit. An amount of Rs. 33 Lakh was received from NRLM fund as well. For meeting the marketing purposes, a pick up van was also given to the consortium.

Every woman working in the unit is getting an average amount of Rs. 9000 per month as income.

How it works?

The units procure the cashew nuts from the cashew nut farmers. Each unit has a secretary and president. After procuring the cashews they dry it and bring it to the unit at Chattanjal along with the bill. The dried cashews would be procured and the units would get a commission of Rs 3 per kilo for drying the cashews. The units bring the cashews by grading it into 10 types and later at the grading and peeling unit the cashews are graded into 21 different types viz., W180, W210, W240, W320, SW, RW, DW, RW2, FW, KW, JH, SPLIT, SPLIT2, K, LWP, SWP, SP, DP and BB. After grading the cashew nuts are packed.

The workers would get Rs 45 for cutting each kilogram of cashew and Rs 60 for peeling. A worker could earn upto Rs 350 per day. The first grade cashew is available in 1 Kg and half Kg packs. The cashews are also available in 1 Kg, 500 gm, 250 gm and 100 gm packs as well.

The grade and the rate of the different cashew grades are as follows:

Grade	Rate (Rs)
W180	1200
W210	1050
W240	1000
W320	950
SW	860
RW	820
DW	730
RW2	600

FW	580
KW	450
JH	850
SPLIT	830
SPLIT2	750
K	780
LWP	750
SWP	650
SP	680
DP	450
BB	600

Paranky Nuts

The product of Safalam cashew is available in the market under the brand name 'Paranky Nuts'. 1 Kg of Paranky Nuts costs Rs 1000. Paranky Nuts is also available in 500 grams and 250 grams packet.

Paranky Nuts is receiving huge demand from the bakeries in and around Kasaragod. It is also on sale in wholesale rate at places like Payyanur, Cheruvathoor, Kanjangad and Thaliparambu. The same is also sold through Kudumbashree melas and regional trade fairs. The cashews have shelf life of 6 months.

Status so far

The Safalam Cashew processing Society in Kasaragod had been making notable interventions by being the notable brand in the market. The Safalam cashews are also getting calls from exporters as well. The cashews are being sold in nearby places like Kasaragod, Payyannur, Cheruvathoor, Kanhangad, Thaliparambu etc.

Description	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Procurement Quantity	2779949	4474226	7989642	4913210	5774188	6510265	6307514	7698362	9316730
Procurement Expense	59767.9	88094.44	113844.3	71148.47	86676.1	86398.7	72013	66863.1	67258.5
Average Rate	46	51	70	69	66	75	87	115	138.5
Work Days	14521	13718	14388	11433	12841	12359	11299	9270	
Sales Cash	2646690	7297809	9435746	8781255	10073128	8431562	10296257	11962520	

Safalam Cashew processing Society in Kasaragod was started during 2008- 2009. After 10 years of working, Safalam processing unit has turned out into an initiative that could change the lives of many common women. The District Mission of Kasaragod has helped Safalam Cashew Processing Unit to become one of the successful initiatives in the state.