

the case of veneer grafting, undefoliated scions were found to be a complete failure and hence defoliation, about a week prior to grafting operation was found essential.

However, the observations recorded *in situ* reveal that veneer grafting gave as high as 92 per cent success as against 62 per cent in case of patch budding during rainy season.

For large scale multiplication of promising clones, seeds should be sown in alkathene bags during September-October and patch budding operation should be undertaken during March (i.e. on about 6 months old seedlings), so that the sprouted buddings could be planted just before the onset of monsoon. For quick multiplication, budding is preferable over grafting since more number of buds can be had than scions per unit area of clonal material.

## Preliminary Studies on Propagation of Cashew by Stooling and Layering

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Experiments have been carried out to propagate cashew vegetatively adopting, budding, grafting and air-layering with varied degrees of success. But, no detailed study seemed to have been made to propagate cashew by stooling and layering. Hence, trials were taken up on mound layering in cashew at C.P.C.R.I. Regional Station, Vittal, in 1978.

Fifteen adult trees of cashew were subjected to stooling during the second fortnight of February 1978. The girth of each stool was measured to find out correlation, if any, between stool girth and the number of coppice produced. The coppice produced were covered with a mound of sand at the basal portion during the first week of May 1978. After etiolation for about 40 days, the basal portion of the stools were cinctured and treated with IBA for quick rooting and again covered with sand for rooting to take place. The shoots were observed for rooting during first week of August 1978, and the rooted ones were separated and planted in polybags for further studies.

The process was repeated with another set of fifty shoots. The etiolated shoots were cinctured during last week of September 1978 and observed for rooting during the last week of October 1978 and the rooted layers were planted in containers.

The studies revealed that the coppiced trees with larger girth (36 – 40 cm) produced more number of shoots showing a declining trend as the girth size decreased (16 – 20 cm). The percentage availability of cinctured shoots gradually declined with the increase in girth size and this was due to overcrowding of more number of slender shoots emerged from the coppiced tree.

Different girths of coppiced trees were classified under five groups viz. 16–20, 21–25, 26–30, 31 – 35 and 36 – 40 cm and the number of shoots produced in each group were noted. It was found that the trees of higher girth ranges produced more number of shoots than those with lesser girth of coppiced trees.

Out of 157 shoots treated for rooting, 64.3 per cent had struck roots from the first batch and out of fifty shoots cinctured in the last week of September 1978, 44 per cent of them had struck roots.

One hundred shoots were cinctured for the third time in the last week of November 1978 of which 55 per cent success in rooting was observed.

There is a scope for quick multiplication of promising types in cashew in larger numbers economically, adopting stooling and layering as a technique.

## Studies on Cashewnut Air-Layers I. Use of Different Decomposable Containers and Potting Mixtures as Aids in Maximising Field Survival and Establishment

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Two decomposable containers viz. straw pot and coconut husk pot and four potting media were tried to study their effect on the survival and establishment of cashew air layers in the field.

Planting the layers along with the decomposable containers in which they were raised viz., coconut husk pot and straw pot gave 86 and 62.3 per cent field survival respectively as against the survival rate of 32.6 per cent from the usual method of transplanting from clay pot. The different potting mixtures had no effect on improving the field survival of cashew air-layers.