

# Panruti cashews

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**In news**– The Tamil Nadu Cashew Processors and Exporters Association (TNCPEA) has applied for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Panruti cashews recently.

## About Panruti cashews-

- Panruti cashews **are slightly small, unique in nature because of the taste and quality.**
- Colloquially **known as the 'goldmine' of Cuddalore**, it has a huge demand across India and the world.
- **Panruti cashew is mainly cultivated in laterite, red and coastal sands.**
- The **cashew apples from Panruti are round-shaped and bright red** in colour.
- The average fruit weight is 42.80 gm while the nuts are of medium size with an average weight of 6.63 gm and kernel weight of 1.7 g.
- Out of six cashew varieties selected from different parts of India, the Panruti variety showed **significant results in high raw protein content of 23.0g/100g.**
- The **moisture content of the Panruti cashew is also low** when compared to other varieties
- GI tagging of Panruti cashews would not only provide a fillip to the industry but would also enhance the secondary economic activities in the region and safeguard the interests of farmers and cashew exporters from the region.

## About Cashew & its cultivation in India–

- **Cashew (Anacardium occidentale), a native of Brazil**, was introduced in India during the later half of the Sixteenth Century for the purpose of afforestation and

soil conservation.

- **Red sandy loam, lateritic soils and coastal sands with slightly acidic pH are best for cashew.**
- They also thrive on pure sandy soils, although mineral deficiencies are more likely to occur.
- **Heavy clay soils with poor drainage and soils with pH more than 8.0 are not suitable for cashew cultivation.**
- Excessive alkaline and saline soils also do not support its growth.
- It is **a tropical plant and can thrive even at high temperatures.**
- Young plants are sensitive to frost.
- **Areas where the temperatures range from 20 to 30°C with an annual precipitation of 1000 – 2000 mm are ideal for cashew growing.**
- Commercial cultivation of cashew is taken up in eight states of our country mainly in west and eastern coast viz., **Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamilnadu and West Bengal.**
- In addition, cashew is also grown in a few pockets of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura.