

CASHEW KERNEL



Cashew cultivation is an important agricultural activity in Dhenkanal, which is part of the larger cashew-growing region in Odisha. The **cashew kernel** is the edible part of the cashew nut, known for its high nutritional value, rich taste, and versatility in culinary applications. There are 65 Cashew Kernel manufacturing enterprises in Gajapati district.

Nutritional Value: Cashew kernels are rich in essential nutrients like proteins, healthy fats, fiber, vitamins (especially Vitamin E), and minerals (such as magnesium, zinc, and iron). They are commonly used in snacks, sweets, and various culinary dishes.

Processing: The cashew nut is harvested from the cashew tree and goes through a series of processing stages that involve shelling, peeling, and drying to extract the edible kernel. The kernels are then categorized into different grades based on size and quality.

Varieties: Cashew kernels from Dhenkanal are known for their high quality. The most common varieties include **W-180** (large), **W-210** (medium), and **W-320** (smaller-sized kernels). These varieties are prized for their crisp texture and delicious taste.

Market and Export: Dhenkanal's cashew kernels have significant demand both in domestic and international markets. They are widely exported, especially to countries like the USA, UAE, and European nations.

Economic Impact: The cultivation of cashew and the processing of cashew kernels provide employment to many people in Dhenkanal, especially in rural areas.

GRANITE SLABS



Granite is typical of a larger family of *granitic rocks*, or *granitoids*, that are composed mostly of coarse-grained quartz and feldspars in varying proportions. These rocks are classified by the relative percentages of quartz, alkali feldspar, and plagioclase, with true granite representing granitic rocks rich in quartz and alkali feldspar. Most granitic rocks also contain mica or amphibole minerals, though a few (known as leucogranites) contain almost no dark minerals. Granite is nearly always massive, hard, and tough. These properties have made granite a widespread construction stone throughout human history.

Granite Slabs of Gajapati: Granite is a durable, versatile, and aesthetically appealing natural stone that is widely used in construction and interior design. The granite stones are processed into various forms, including slabs, tiles, and decorative stones. The granite slabs produced here are renowned for their strength, texture, and color variety, making them suitable for both domestic and international markets.

Types of Granite Produced: The granite from Gajapati comes in different colors and textures, with some of the popular varieties being: **Black Granite, Grey Granite and Pink and Red Granite** available in various finishes such as polished, honed, and bush hammered, allowing for a wide range of applications in both residential and commercial construction.

Economic Impact: Granite slab production has led to the development of infrastructure in the district, such as roads, warehouses, and processing plants. The demand for granite slabs has contributed to increased trade and commerce, both within the state of Odisha and beyond. In addition, the export of granite slabs has bolstered the region's international market presence.

Government Initiatives: The government of Odisha has recognized the importance of the granite industry in Gajapati and has implemented initiatives to support its growth. These include providing technical support for the development of high-quality granite products, improving infrastructure, and offering skill development programs to workers in the granite industry.

TURMERIC OIL



Turmeric oil is the essential oil extracted from powdered turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) rhizomes through steam distillation known for its distinct aroma and therapeutic properties. Turmeric rhizome oil (TO) is responsible for this spice's characteristic taste and smell. Dried rhizomes contain about 3–6% essential oil.

Gajapati, situated in the southeastern part of Odisha, is renowned for its fertile land and diverse agricultural practices. Turmeric is widely cultivated in the district, which provides an ideal climate for the growth of high-quality turmeric. The district's farmers have long engaged in turmeric farming, using traditional methods passed down through generations.

Production Process: Turmeric oil is extracted through steam distillation from the fresh rhizomes of the turmeric plant. The essential oil is golden-yellow in color and has a warm, earthy, and slightly spicy fragrance. The extraction process involves careful handling of the turmeric roots, ensuring that the oil retains its potent medicinal properties and high curcumin content, which is believed to be the key active compound in turmeric.

Medicinal and Therapeutic Benefits: Turmeric oil is renowned for its anti-inflammatory, antiseptic, and antioxidant properties. It has a wide range of uses in natural medicine, particularly in the treatment of skin conditions, joint pain, respiratory issues, and digestive problems. The oil is also used in aromatherapy for promoting mental well-being and relaxation.

Economic and Cultural Significance: As an ODOP product, turmeric oil holds cultural and economic significance for the people of Gajapati district. By promoting turmeric oil as a key local product, the district boosts its economy, providing livelihood opportunities for farmers, artisans, and small-scale producers. The recognition of turmeric oil as an ODOP helps in preserving traditional agricultural practices while enhancing the district's global recognition for quality turmeric-based products.

Sustainability and Market Potential: Gajapati district's emphasis on turmeric oil aligns with sustainable farming practices and eco-friendly production methods. The market for natural essential oils is expanding globally, and turmeric oil's unique properties make it highly sought after in both domestic and international markets. Its use in personal care products, health supplements, and wellness therapies further increases its potential.