

Manjacaze/3

warehouse was sabotaged, and the walls and roof were damaged by fire

The factory itself does not process cashews at the moment, due to the overall decline in cashew marketing. The nuts that were destroyed were to have been transported to another factory in Xai-Xai, which is part of the state-owned National Cashew Company. The Manjacaze factory has obsolete equipment, while the Xai-Xai one is modern.

Nonetheless the Manjacaze factory has the installed capacity to process 5,000 tonnes of cashew per year and provide 783 jobs. The last time it processed cashews was in 1981, when it dealt with almost 4,000 tonnes.

The director of the Manjacaze factory, Moises Saute, said that cashew production this season was particularly poor, due to drought in the region. So far only 437,000 kilos had been marketed in Manjacaze district - and over 75 per cent of that has now been destroyed by the MNR.

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