



Digital Event Hub

Welcome to the
Regional Cashew Apple Valorization Conference & Exhibition

Accra, 30th April 2026

The Regional Cashew Apple Valorization Conference & Exhibition aims to raise awareness of the economic potential of cashew apple valorization and to promote knowledge exchange, innovation, and partnership among key stakeholders. It will showcase practical results from ongoing initiatives, encourage dialogue on scaling viable solutions, and position cashew apple valorization as an important pathway for inclusive and sustainable agri-business development.



Your Guide through the Conference

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Regional Cashew Apple Valorization Conference & Exhibition

AGENDA

MORNING PROGRAM

9:00 am Opening Ceremony

9:45 am Opening of the Cashew Apple Exhibition

10:10 am Cashew Break

10:45 am Government of Ghana's vision for
Cashew Apple Valorization

11:15 am Unlocking the Potential of
Cashew Apples: Insights from
GIZ/MOVE-ComCashew

11:45 pm Cashew Apple Valorization:
Experiences, Lessons Learnt from
Brazil and Recommendation for Africa

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

12:15 pm Panel discussion: Showcasing
GIZ/MOVE-ComCashew MGF
Interventions in the Cashew Apple Sector

1:30 pm Lunch

2:30 pm Panel discussion: Bridging Research and
Investment in the Cashew Apple Sector:
Opportunities for Investment at Scale

3:30 pm Shaping the Future: Next Steps for
Cashew Apple Valorization

4:00 pm Connecting Opportunities: Exhibition,
Networking and B2B Meetings

5:00 pm Cashew Networking and Departure

Unlocking Value, Empowering Growth

Did you know?

Cashew apples contain:

- 5x the **Vitamin C** in oranges;
- 12x the Vitamin C in pineapples.

They carry important antioxidants, iron, and calcium and are a good source of **Vitamin A & B**.

Drinking just one cashew apple drink a day can help **boost your immune system**.

*“A cashew apple
a day keeps the
doctor away”*

Scan QR Code or click
[here](#) to find out more
about the health benefits
of cashew apples!



Our Speakers

Doreen Caesaria Abaane

*Sustainability Lead Cashew
OFI Ghana*



Professional Background:

Sustainability and agricultural development professional with over five years of experience in farmer capacity building, cashew and shea value chains, and organic certification in Ghana.

Core Strengths:

Sustainability programming, farmer capacity building, organic certification and audits, donor-funded project management, women and youth enterprise development.

Persepctive at the Conference:

She brings practical experience in sustainable cashew production, smallholder farmer support, and organic certification in Ghana and Burkina Faso. As Sustainability Lead for Cashew at OFI Ghana and MGF Project Manager, she leads sustainability initiatives, donor-funded interventions, and organic audits. Her previous work with Tree Aid Ghana and Presbyterian Agricultural Services focused on natural resource management and women- and youth-led enterprises in cashew, shea, honey, and cashew apple processing. With a background in Renewable Natural Resources and ongoing MPhil studies in Environmental Management and Sustainability, she adds a strong environmental and community development perspective.

Mary Adzanyo

Director Private Sector Development, GIZ/MOVE



Professional Background:

Over 25 years experience working in several countries across Africa, Asia, Europe and the USA as a seasoned private sector expert across several value chains.

Core Strengths:

Strategic leadership and management, organizational governance, program development and implementation, private sector development.

Persepctive at the Conference:

She contributes to shaping the agribusiness landscape in Africa, fostering gender equality, and driving sustainable development. She offers insights on cashew industry trends, challenges, and opportunities. She is a key advocate to gender equity. She is a mentor and coach to young people. Mary is a Gestalt Practitioner since 2013. She is key resource person in international cooperation.

Eugenia Boafo

New Product Development Lead at HPW Fresh & Dry Ltd



Professional Background:

New Product Development Lead at HPW Fresh & Dry Ltd in Ghana, a leading producer of sustainably sourced tropical dried fruits, where she leads the development and commercialisation of innovative fruit-based products.

Core Strengths:

Product development and commercialisation, food quality management, food safety systems, process optimisation, value-added fruit innovation, business model development.

Persepctive at the Conference:

She brings a strong product innovation and market-oriented perspective to the discussion. At HPW Fresh & Dry Ltd, Eugenia manages the full “concept to customer” process, working closely with production, quality and commercial teams to develop fruit-based products aligned with global market trends. Her experience in value-added fruit snacks, locally sourced raw materials and scalable food innovation offers practical insights into how cashew apples can be transformed into commercially viable products. Her academic background in Food Quality Management and participation in HPW’s international Talents for the Future programme further strengthen her contribution to strategic development and business model innovation.

Dr. Esther Gyedu-Akoto

Research Scientist, Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana



Professional Background:

Principal Research Scientist at the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana, with extensive experience in food science, processing and product development. She is currently the Deputy Executive Director in charge of Coffee, Cashew and Shea.

Core Strengths:

Food science, processing and product development, cocoa and cashew by-product utilisation, research and publication, value addition, coffee, cashew and shea sector development.

Persepctive at the Conference:

She brings deep scientific and institutional experience in developing traditional and non-traditional products from cocoa, cashew and shea. Since joining CRIG’s New Product Development Unit in 1992, Esther has contributed to key research initiatives, including the Cocoa By-Product Utilisation Project and the Cashew Research Team under the Ghana Cashew Development Project. Her long-standing work in product innovation, applied research and sector development offers valuable insights into practical pathways for cashew apple valorisation.

Dr. Oyilanka Christianah Jayeola

Director Value Addition Research, CRIN/FoodPro



Professional Background:

Dr. Olayinka Jayeola is a seasoned Research Scientist and Director at the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria, with over 20 years of experience in value addition for cocoa, cashew, coffee, kolanut and tea.

Core Strengths:

Food science and technology, food microbiology, value addition, research and innovation, scientific publication, product development.

Persepctive at the Conference:

She brings a strong research and technical perspective on value addition across key agricultural commodities. With more than 60 published research papers and presentations at global conferences and in peer-reviewed journals, Dr. Jayeola offers valuable insights on science-based innovation, product development and quality improvement. Her academic background includes a BSc in Food Science and Technology, an MSc in Food Science and a PhD in Food Microbiology, complemented by membership in professional bodies such as NIFST and NMASN.

David Sylvan Jordan

Co-Managing Director of Espen Organics Senegal (EOSEN)



Professional Background:

Co-Managing Director of Espen Organics Senegal (EOSEN) Sarl, where he is responsible for building and developing the company's operations in Senegal, with a focus on cashew processing.

Core Strengths:

Cashew processing, organic agriculture, sustainable value chains, business development, international sourcing and trading, made-in-Africa value creation.

Persepctive at the Conference:

David brings a strong entrepreneurial and market-oriented perspective to the conference. At EOSEN Sarl, he is driving the diversification into additional organic products and the development of own agricultural production to reduce dependency on raw material suppliers and strengthen sustainable value chains. His previous experience in international timber sourcing and trading at ESPEN AG in Germany, combined with his background in business psychology and practical experience in organic agriculture since childhood, shapes his commitment to bringing more "Made in Africa" products to the German market.



Mohamed Salifou Issaka

Head of the Production Component, GIZ/MOVE

Professional Background:

Head of the Production Component for the GIZ/MOVE regional project in the ECOWAS region, with over 16 years of experience in the cashew sector.

Core Strengths:

Sustainable cashew development, project design and implementation, farmer capacity building, extension services, agricultural research, south-south cooperation.

Persepective at the Conference:

He brings extensive regional experience in advancing sustainable cashew production and strengthening farmer support systems. Since joining GIZ in 2009, Mohamed has contributed to major cashew development initiatives, including his role as Regional Expert with the African Cashew Alliance, supporting the USAID-TIME project across Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria. His expertise in training material development, smallholder capacity building and regional knowledge exchange adds a strong production and implementation perspective to the discussion.



Serge Hobert Kponou

Managing Director, Tolaro Global SAS

Professional Background:

CEO of Tolaro Global SAS and seasoned agro-industrial leader in Benin's cashew sector, with over 15 years of experience in business and operations management.

Core Strengths:

Agro-industrial leadership, operations management, quality systems and food safety, international certification and compliance, sustainable value creation.

Persepective at the Conference:

He brings practical experience in building and managing a competitive cashew processing enterprise connected to international markets. He has led organisations employing more than 600 people and worked with a network of 7,500 cashew producers, positioning Tolaro Global as a trusted global supplier. His perspective combines operational excellence, food safety, market access and sustainability, including experience with international certifications such as BRCGS, FDA, HACCP, Organic EU, Fairtrade and Kosher. Under his leadership, Tolaro Global has also advanced sustainability initiatives, including a US\$2.5 million bioenergy project converting cashew shells into clean energy.



John Joseph Nkundwanabake

Managing Director, Akros Ltd

Professional Background:

Entrepreneur with over 10 years of experience in agribusiness, specialising in sourcing, processing and marketing. Founder and Managing Director of Akros Ltd and Founding Member and General Secretary of the Tanzania Association of Cashewnut Processors.

Core Strengths:

Agribusiness development, cashew processing, sourcing and marketing, technology transfer, association leadership, cashew apple valorization.

Persepctive at the Conference:

With 12 years of experience in cashew processing and technology transfer, he brings a strong entrepreneurial and industry perspective to the discussion. His current research on cashew apple valorization adds practical relevance to exploring new opportunities for processors, value addition and market development in Africa.



Dr. Andrews Okrah

Chief Executive Tree Crops Development Authority (TCDA)

Professional Background:

He is the Chief Executive Officer of the Tree Crops Development Authority Ghana, with over 30 years of experience in sustainable forestry management, climate change, strategic human resource management, business management and transformational leadership.

Core Strengths:

Strategic leadership, tree crop sector development, sustainable forestry management, human resource management, organisational development, youth empowerment, stakeholder engagement.

Persepctive at the Conference:

He brings a strong policy, leadership and institutional development perspective to the conference. As CEO of TCDA, he leads the regulation, development, production, marketing and promotion of Ghana's six strategic tree crops: cashew, coconut, oil palm, rubber, mango and shea. His experience across natural resources management, public service, human resources and leadership development supports his focus on strengthening tree crop value chains, improving productivity, and creating benefits for nature, communities and the economy.



Daniel Otu

Executive Director of Operations and Production, Koa Impact Ghana Ltd

Professional Background:

Executive Director of Operations and Production at Koa Impact Ghana Ltd and a member of the Koa Group management team, with over 12 years of experience in research and development, food processing systems and production operations.

Core Strengths:

Food production operations, research and development, food processing systems, product shelf stability, food safety and quality management, agroforestry and valorization.

Persepctive at the Conference:

He brings a strong technical and operational perspective on transforming agricultural by-products into high-value products. As Koa's leading food scientist, Danny has overseen production expansion, product shelf-stability initiatives, and the design and operationalisation of the world's first decentralised cocoa fruit factory in Akim Achiase, Ghana. His background in Food Technology, Nutrition and Food Science, food safety, quality management and occupational health adds depth to discussions on scalable processing and product innovation. He is currently championing Dynamic Agroforestry, advancing the intercropping of cocoa with crops such as cashew in Ghana's Eastern and Central Regions.



Rodolpho Ramilton de Castro Monteiro (RRCM)

Researcher, Embrapa Tropical Agroindustry

Professional Background:

Researcher in bioprocesses for renewable energy at Embrapa Tropical Agroindustry, with a background in chemical engineering, energy engineering and agro-industrial biomass valorization.

Core Strengths:

Bioprocesses, renewable energy, agro-industrial biomass valorization, enzyme immobilisation and biocatalysis, biofuels and biolubricants, research supervision.

Persepctive at the Conference:

He brings a strong scientific and innovation-focused perspective on converting agro-industrial biomass into renewable energy and high-value products. His work focuses on bioprocess optimisation, enzyme technologies, biofuels and biolubricants, offering relevant insights for cashew apple and by-product valorisation. With 32 published papers, 12 book chapters, 28 scientific event contributions and experience as a consultant for renewable energy companies, he contributes a strong research-to-application perspective. He also supervises master's and doctoral students in Chemical Engineering at the Federal University of Ceará, strengthening his role in advancing knowledge and innovation in renewable energy.

Beate Weiskopf

Programme Manager GIZ/MOVE



Professional Background:

Programme Manager of GIZ-MOVE, with more than two decades of experience in sustainable agriculture and value chain development across Africa and Latin America.

Core Strengths:

Sustainable agriculture, value chain development, project leadership, policy development, institutional strengthening, capacity development.

Persepctive at the Conference:

She brings a strong international cooperation and value chain development perspective to the discussion. Before leading GIZ-MOVE, Mrs. Weiskopf headed the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa, where she supported policy and project development, collaborated with European cocoa platforms and served as a member of the ICCO Consultative Board. Based in Ghana for more than two years, she now focuses on strengthening Africa's cashew sector through MOVE-ComCashew, supporting production, processing, institutional development and policy engagement with a strong emphasis on capacity development.

Samuel Yeboah

Chief Operating Officer, GIRSAAL



Professional Background:

Chief Operating Officer of GIRSAAL, with over 25 years of experience in agribusiness, agricultural finance and enterprise development in Ghana and across Africa.

Core Strengths:

Bioprocesses, renewable energy, agro-industrial biomass valorization, enzyme immobilisation and biocatalysis, bAgribusiness finance, credit risk guarantees, agricultural value chain development, enterprise support, strategic business planning, public-private partnerships, donor-funded project leadership.

Persepctive at the Conference:

He brings a strong finance and investment perspective on how to make agricultural value chains more commercially viable and bankable. At GIRSAAL, Samuel provides strategic and operational leadership for agribusiness portfolio development, enterprise support and the assessment of agricultural projects submitted by partner financial institutions for credit risk guarantee coverage. His experience combines agricultural finance, value chain analysis, stakeholder coordination and public-private partnership development. Having previously managed a commercial export-oriented agribusiness, he also brings practical insight into the operational realities of building sustainable agribusinesses for regional and international markets.

Dr. Elídio Zaidine Maurício Zitha

Researcher, Institute of Nuts of Mozambique



Professional Background:

Researcher at the Institute of Nuts of Mozambique, with over 10 years of experience in the cashew sector, food science, post-harvest management and value addition for agricultural products.

Core Strengths:

Post-harvest management, cashew apple valorization, food safety and quality management, sensory analysis, ISO 22000 and FSSC 22000 implementation, farmer and institutional training.

Perspective at the Conference:

He brings a strong research and technical perspective on cashew processing, post-harvest handling and value addition for global markets. With a PhD and Master's degree in Food Science from the Federal University of Lavras in Brazil, and a background in Agricultural Engineering from Eduardo Mondlane University, he combines scientific expertise with practical sector experience. As a graduate and resource person of the Cashew Master Training Programme, he supports farmers and institutions in cashew apple valorization, fruit processing, packaging and labelling, food marketing and Good Manufacturing Practices.



Cashew apple valorization
contributes to improved
incomes, stronger rural
enterprises, and **inclusive**
agri-business development.



Scan QR Code or click
[here](#) to find out more
about the economic
potential of cashew
apples!



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NOW**

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Economics of Cashew Processing



The Cashew Processing Process

The course explores the transformation of raw cashew nuts into processed kernels through six interactive sections.

It provides a clear, step-by-step understanding of the cashew processing workflow.

Learners gain practical skills in efficient processing, quality control, and producing high-quality cashew kernels.

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click to visit our website.](#)



Opportunities & Challenges in Cashew Processing

The course explores the African cashew processing industry, highlighting its economic potential and key growth barriers.

It also examines stakeholder roles in strengthening the value chain and driving industry development.

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click to visit our website.](#)



Economics of Cashew Processing

Raw Cashew Nut

Processing Equipment



The course provides a comprehensive overview of raw cashew nut (RCN) processing machinery and sourcing options. Learners assess different equipment based on capacity, efficiency, cost, and maintenance requirements.

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click to visit our website.](#)



Food Safety in Cashew Processing

The course focuses on maintaining high quality and safety standards throughout cashew processing. Learners develop expertise in meeting consumer expectations and improving marketability in both local and international markets.

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click to visit our website.](#)



Quality Assurance and Good Agricultural Practices

Harvest and Post Harvest Practices on Cashew Farms



The course uses 3D animated videos to deliver practical, hands-on learning. Learners gain skills in managing cashew farms, applying Good Agricultural Practices, and producing high-quality raw cashew nuts (RCN).

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Raw Cashew Nuts Quality Measurements

The course focuses on assessing key quality parameters using standardized evaluation methods. Learners apply this knowledge to implement effective quality control measures and improve competitiveness in the global cashew market.

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Conservation Agriculture Techniques

Introduction to Conservation Agriculture (CA)



The course introduces learners to environmentally sound and economically viable farming systems. It focuses on improving soil fertility with minimal external inputs to support sustainable and profitable food production.

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click to visit our website.](#)



Practice of Conservation Agriculture

The course is a continuation of the Conservation Agriculture Technique Series. It presents 8 interesting units of key practices of conservation Agriculture, including: Soil Health, Land Preparation and Planting, Cropping Systems, Weed Control and Soil Cover.

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click to visit our website.](#)



Conservation Agriculture Techniques

Inclusive Adoption of Conservation Agriculture

The course Agriculture is the third and the final course within the Conservation Agriculture Technique Series. This course presents 4 exciting units on making Conservation Agriculture more inclusive and easier to adapt.



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The Cashew Value Chain

Creating an Investment- Ready Agribusiness

The course teaches learners how to turn practical agribusiness ideas into clear, profitable business plans. It focuses on developing proposals that can attract funding and support from investors.

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Cashew Apple Processing

Introduction to Cashew Apple Processing



The course provides knowledge on the nutritional and economic value of cashew apples and their potential use in various products. Learners also gain an understanding of proper harvesting, handling, and processing techniques to maximize quality.

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Manual Processing of Cashew Apple Juice

The course focuses on the manual processing of cashew apples into fresh juice for pasteurisation and safe packaging. Learners apply this knowledge to sort cashew apples, extract juice, carry out clarification and pasteurisation, and improve packaging and storage practices for value-added cashew apple products.

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Cashew Apple Juice Processing Machines

The course focuses on operating and maintaining machines used in cashew apple juice processing. Learners apply this knowledge to use juice extraction, pasteurisation, and bottling machines effectively, supporting safer and more efficient value addition for cashew apples.

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Cashew Delights. East Cashew! For Excellent Health.

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cashew recipe book!



CASHEW RECIPE BOOK

*Cashew
Delights.
Eat Cashew!
For Excellent
Health.*





The Actors Behind



International Partnerships - European Commission (DG INTPA)

The [European Commission](#) is co-funding this Initiative on Cashew under the [Global Gateway](#). It aims to work with African partner countries to develop their societies and economies. Simultaneously, it aims to create opportunities for the private sector in the EU to invest and remain competitive, whilst upholding the highest environmental and labour standards, as well as sound financial management.



Tree Crops Development Authority (TCDA)

A statutory body established under Ghana's Tree Crops Development Authority Act, 2019 (Act 1010) to regulate and develop the country's tree crop sub-sector, including cashew, shea, mango, coconut, rubber, and oil palm.

Implemented by



Market-Oriented Value Chains for Jobs and Growth in the ECOWAS Region (GIZ/MOVE- ComCashew)

A regional project co-financed by the [European Union \(EU\)](#) / [OACPS](#) and [BMZ](#) and implemented by the [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH](#). MOVE-ComCashew promotes the competitiveness of the cashew value chain.

Thank you for being part of this important platform for innovation, partnership, and sustainable value addition. We wish you a productive, inspiring and enjoyable event!

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on the Cashew Sector!



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