



TREE CROPS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



TCDAs Proposed Policy Framework
On
Cashew Apple Utilization in Ghana

Outline

- Background
- Policy Goal
- Objectives
- Key Challenges
- Policy Pillars
- Implementation Framework
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- Conclusion



Background & Rationale

Ghana's current production is around 250,000mt annually.

90% of the fruit mass (Cashew apples) are underutilized.

Challenges: perishability, astringency, low processing, overreliance on nut exports among others are the major causes.

Opportunity for agro-industrial transformation.



Policy Goal

- Enhance value addition, reduce losses, and increase incomes through commercialization of cashew apples.

Specific Objectives



Build technical capacity for product development and processing.



Promote investment in infrastructure



Support research & innovation in addressing astringency




Strengthen markets for cashew apple products (fairs etc,)



Improve coordination across the cashew value chain

Key Challenges

- Limited technical expertise in apple processing
 - High perishability and short shelf life
 - Astringent taste limiting consumer acceptance
 - Inadequate processing facilities and infrastructure
 - Market and policy bias toward raw nut exports
 - Weak linkages between farmers and processors
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Policy Pillar 1: R&D and Innovation



SUPPORT RESEARCH
INSTITUTIONS TO DEVELOP
TECHNOLOGIES TO REDUCE
ASTRINGENCY



PROMOTE INNOVATIONS IN
PRESERVATION (E.G., DRYING,
FERMENTATION, COLD
STORAGE)



ENCOURAGE PRODUCT
DIVERSIFICATION (JUICE, WINE,
ETHANOL, ANIMAL FEED, ETC.)

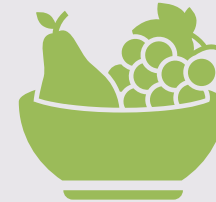
Policy Pillar 2: Capacity Building and Skills Development



Establish regional training centers on cashew apple processing



Integrate cashew apple utilization into agricultural extension services



Promote youth and women entrepreneurship in apple-based products

Policy Pillar 3: Product Categorization and Prioritization



Classify cashew apple products into:

Large-scale (industrial) products
Small-scale (artisan and community-level) products



As a national policy direction, prioritize two products for large-scale production, namely:

Cashew apple juice
Ethanol (industrial and biofuel use)



Promote small-scale product development for decentralized and community-based enterprises, including:

Animal feed
Organic fertilizers (compost)



Provide targeted support mechanisms tailored to each category to enhance efficiency, investment, and market development

Policy Pillar 4: Infrastructure & Investment promotion



PROVIDE INCENTIVES (TAX BREAKS,
GRANTS, SUBSIDIES) FOR
PROCESSORS



FACILITATE ESTABLISHMENT OF
DECENTRALIZED PROCESSING
UNITS NEAR PRODUCTION ZONES



PROMOTE PUBLIC-PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIPS (PPPS) IN
PROCESSING AND LOGISTICS

Policy Pillar 5: Market Development & Commercialization



DEVELOP STANDARDS AND
CERTIFICATION FOR CASHEW
APPLE PRODUCTS



PROMOTE DOMESTIC
CONSUMPTION AND EXPORT OF
PROCESSED APPLE PRODUCTS



SUPPORT BRANDING AND
MARKETING OF GHANAIAN
CASHEW APPLE PRODUCTS

Policy Pillar 6: Value Chain Integration



STRENGTHEN LINKAGES BETWEEN
FARMERS, AGGREGATORS, AND
PROCESSORS



ENCOURAGE INTEGRATED
PROCESSING MODELS (NUT +
APPLE UTILIZATION)



SUPPORT COOPERATIVES TO
ENGAGE IN APPLE COLLECTION
AND SUPPLY

Policy Pillar 7: Policy and Regulatory Support

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Align

Align cashew apple utilization with national industrialization policies

Develop

Develop guidelines for safe processing and quality assurance

Promote

Promote inclusion of apple utilization in national cashew strategies

Policy Pillar 8: Digitalization and Traceability

Deploy digital traceability systems to track production and processing

Use data platforms to link producers with processors and markets

Strengthen traceability systems to align with EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) requirements, including farm geolocation, supply chain transparency, and deforestation-free verification to maintain access to premium export markets

Implementation Framework



Lead Agency: Tree Crops Development Authority under the supervision of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Key Partners:, Research institutions, private sector, development partners

Approach: Multi-stakeholder collaboration with phased (step-by-step) implementation



Financing Mechanisms

- Export tax on RNC to support value addition in apples
 - Development partner support
 - Structured Co-Financing and blended finance schemes
 - Private sector investments
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Monitoring & Evaluation



Establish KPIs (e.g., volume of apples processed, jobs created, reduction in waste)

Annual progress reviews and stakeholder consultations

Data-driven tracking of value chain performance

Expected Outcomes

- Reduced post-harvest losses of cashew apples
- Increased income for farmers and processors
- Growth in agro-processing industries
- Job creation, especially for youth and women
- Enhanced contribution of cashew to Ghana's economy



Conclusion

- **The effective utilization of cashew apples presents a significant opportunity to transform Ghana's cashew sector from a raw export-driven industry into a diversified, value-added agro-industrial sector. With the right policies, investments, and stakeholder commitment, Ghana can become a leader in cashew apple valorization in Africa.**







Cashew Apple Training In Sunyani



Cashew Apple Training In Sunyani



Cashew Apple products

