

**Burkina Faso – Country Report
March 2013**

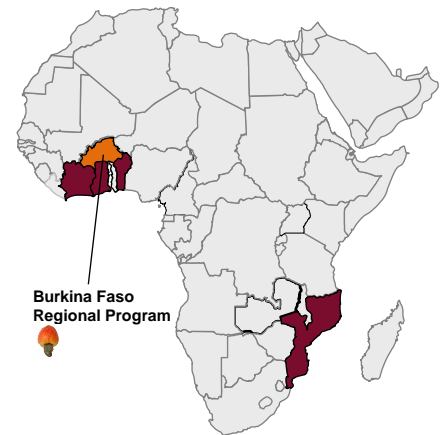
Promoting Competitiveness of African Cashew Farmers

ACi – The African Cashew initiative

Background

The African Cashew Initiative (ACi), funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as well as private companies and public partners, is aiming to increase incomes of 330,000 farmers by \$ 90 per year and thereby achieve a sustainable reduction in rural poverty.

Cashew cultivation in Burkina Faso only started to focus on economic benefits in 1980, with the launch of the *Projet Anacarde*. In 1997, the Burkinabe government launched a project to promote the cashew sector with the objective to plant one million cashew trees. Today 45,000 small-scale farmers are engaged in cashew production, 90 % of which are located in the Cascades, Sud-Ouest, Hauts-Bassins and Centre-Ouest regions. The sizes of most cashew plantations range between 2 and 5 ha, and a few plantations with maximum sizes of 50 ha in the Centre-Ouest region. The aim of the African Cashew initiative in Burkina Faso is to increase the net income of 40,000 farmers by \$ 80 per year from now to 2015.

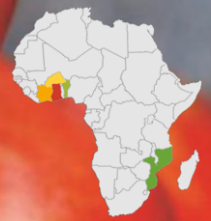


Another objective is to make trade relations among all value chain stakeholders more effective. The challenges in order to achieve those goals are the small number of organized farmers and the little information exchanges between all actors. Other obstacles in the Burkinabe cashew sector are low yields and the quality of raw cashew nuts. Only through the application of improved planting material, farmers can sustainably improve their productivity and quality in the long term. Local processing represents a great potential for the cashew sector as it provides thousands of jobs, 85 % of which are for women. The current processing capacity of raw cashew nuts of 8,000 metric tons can easily be doubled in the second phase of ACi interventions. By linking small-scale farmers to processors, supported by innovative data management and up-to-date market information further efficiency potentials can be exploited. Partners of the African Cashew initiative comprise the Ministry of Agriculture with its regional directorates, the cashew producer associations, the *Centre National de Semences Forestieres (CNSF)*, the *Institut de l'Environnement et de la Recherche Agricole (INERA)* and bilateral projects like the *Programme de développement agricole (PDA)*. The cashew processors as well as their national association ANTA complete the group of important partners.

Facts and Figures

| | 2009 | 2011 |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Production Volume of RCN (Metric Tons) | 20.000 MT | 30.000 MT |
| Productivity (kg/ha) | 320 kg/ha | 410 kg/ha |





Main Achievements and Impacts of ACi Phase I

- Implementation of training sessions for more than 33,000 farmers, 24 % of which are women, in GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) such as harvest and post-harvesting handlings and the establishment of new cashew plantations with improved seedlings;
- In order to achieve a sustainable dissemination of knowledge, a total number of 443 "paysans relais" have been trained as trainers between 2009 and 2012, 8 % of which are women;
- Identification of 55 superior mother trees and establishment of 5 mother plantations for improved planting material and the production of scions;
- Implementation of special training sessions for 414 farmers, 9 % of which are women, on quality checks of raw cashew nuts (KOR – Kernel Outturn Ratio), production of grafted seedlings and beekeeping as a strategy of income diversification;
- Certification of 11,274 on Fair Trade standards;
- Since 2009, 1,921 jobs were created, 70 % for women;
- Expansion of existing processing capacities from 1,000 MT (2009) to 8,500 MT (2012), in compliance with international quality standards;
- Increase of production prices from \$ 225 /MT (2009), \$ 400 /MT (2010) to \$ 550 /MT (2011, 2012).

The Second Phase of the Project

The second phase of the project focuses on the following measures, which are mainly carried out by the private and public partners of the initiative on their own responsibility:

- Introduction of a national master trainer program to train experts with integrated expertise about cashew;
- Development and production of improved planting material by national research institutes;
- Formation of farmer groups with direct links to cashew processors and traders;
- Intensified communication with all partners through radio programs.

| The African Cashew initiative at a glance | | |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| Project Duration | July 2009 to September 2015 | |
| First Phase Duration | July 2009 to December 2012 | |
| Second Phase Duration | January 2013 to September 2015 | |
| Budget Phase II | BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) | 3,4 Million Euros |
| | Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation | 5,97 Million Euros |
| | Total | 9,3 Million Euros |
| Implementing Partners | GIZ (lead agency), FairMatch Support and TechnoServe | |
| Partner Companies / Organizations | ACA, Kraft Foods, Intersnack, OLAM, Trade and Development Group, SAP, USAID, Ministry of Food and Agriculture in Ghana, IDH | |
| Project Countries | Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique | |