

Mozambique – 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. Mozambique's agricultural sector contributes to 20 % of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 3 % of which is generated by the cashew sector. Approximately 42 % of the farmers in Mozambique own cashew trees, even though a single farmer possesses only 10 to 20 trees on average. The most important cashew producing region is the Nampula Province, which is at the same time an intervention area of ACi. In the five major cashew districts of the province, 60 % to 80 % of the farmers own between 25 and 50 cashew trees.

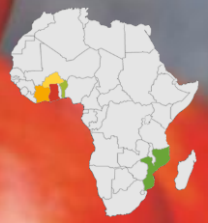


The tree population, however, is clearly over-aged as a majority of cashew trees are older than 30 years. Efforts to sustainably and comprehensively rejuvenate the tree population have failed. Due to their age and favored by the cool weather during flowering season, all trees are heavily affected by fungal diseases. Due to this, the yield of individual trees, and thus the national harvest strongly depends on the effectiveness of spraying campaigns. In Africa, Mozambique has by far the highest processing capacity. Depending on the yield, processed quantities cover 40 % to 60 % of the amount produced. The non-availability of capital leads to considerable annual fluctuations. The partners of the African Cashew initiative in Mozambique are primarily from the private sector. Among them are Intersnack, Kraft Foods, SAP, OLAM, and the Nampula-based cashew processors. Also included are the Mozambican companies represented by the AICAJU association, as well as the association itself. Furthermore, there is a close cooperation with INCAJU, the institute for the promotion of Mozambique's cashew industry and the cashew research institute IIAM.

Facts and Figures

	2009	2010	2011
Production Volume (Metric Tons)	64,200 MT	65,000 MT	65,000 MT
Productivity per Cashew Tree (kg/tree)	3-10 kg/tree	3-10 kg/tree	3-10 kg/tree





As part of ACi Phase I, it was aimed that by 2012 about 30,000 small-scale farmers increase their income from cashew production up to \$ 50 and 150,000 seedlings are produced and distributed to about 400,000 farmers.

Main Achievements and Impacts of ACi Phase I

- Implementation of 75,000 training sessions for about 50,000 farmers in GAP (Good Agricultural Practices), such as harvest and post-harvest handlings, cultivation and maintenance of older trees, establishment of new cashew plantations with improved seedlings, application of sustainable and integrated pest management;
- Training of 108 trainers, 80 of which are farmer trainers (Promoters);
- Establishment of four scion banks for improved planting material, 48 ha in total, owned by smallholder communities;
- Production of 276,000 (2011), respectively 784,000 (2012) grafted seedlings for a long-term rejuvenation of tree populations;
- Dissemination of 189,000 (2011), respectively 394,000 (2012) seedlings to sustainably increase yields of cashew plantation;
- Organizational support to the association of cashew processors (AICAJU) to form a powerful, member-funded association with a range of services to its members.

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:

- Training of 50,000 farmers in the establishment of new plantations;
- Training of 120 farmer trainers (Promoters);
- Establishment of four additional scion banks for improved planting material of up to 20 ha each;
- Linking producers to local processors through supply agreements, to increase quality and income of small rural enterprises;
- Supporting the production of seedlings for another two years, primarily to private rural nursery gardens.

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, IDH	
Project Countries	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique	