



## Grafted Seedlings + Top-working + Farm Maintenance + Beekeeping = increased Farm Productivity

Low yielding trees and low quality of raw cashew nuts constitute major problems, not only for cashew farmers but also for local processors and international buyers. In Benin URPA/BA, a regional farmer union, together with GAPA a group of cashew nut buyers, INRAB and CRA - two national research organizations - focus on improving farm productivity. Through the Matching Fund, they train experts on seedling production and distribution, nursery management, cashew farm maintenance as well as beekeeping.

### **Achievements so far...**

...14,343 grafted seedlings produced in 5 nurseries, from which 6,006 were sold to farmers at a price of 350 FCFA per grafted seedling.

...59 plantations (9 owned by women) with an average of 211 trees/ha rehabilitated through top-working.

...30.8 hectare upgraded by cutting trees to the desired number of 100 trees/ha and through top-working on 370 plants in 44 plantations with a survival rate of 53%.

...47 farmers (8 being women) in 12 communities trained in beekeeping and equipped.

...12 beekeeping experts (4 being women) and 4 trainees (2 being women) trained to oversee the integration of so far 200 bee hives on farms.



*Soule working in his nursery*



*3 sprouts on a grafted tree stump*

### **Bio Sorou Adam: Cashew farmer**

Bio Sorou Adam owns a 12 year old cashew farm in Pèrèrè, a small community in the western part of Benin, bordering Nigeria. Since he planted the orchard, Mr. Adam experienced low yields of 200 kg/ha without knowing the cause. "Only after I joined trainings by URPA/BA and INRAB on farm rehabilitation, I learnt that the main reason for low yields was the high tree density on my farm. The 0.5 hectare pilot plot counted 80 trees/ha, a normal density would be 50 trees/ha. I have started by cutting 20 trees. I still have to cut another 10 trees to reach the ideal density. I am confident the next harvest will be better."

### **Soule Tchao: Professional top-worker**

In 2010/11, Mr. Soule Tchao attended ACI trainings on cashew grafting. Applying these techniques on his nursery in Ouaké, northwest of Benin, he experienced a success rate of 95 % to 100 %. In 2013, Soule attended another training and learnt about a different technique known as top-working - grafting tree stumps of old unproductive trees. That same year, he grafted 40 stumps on his cashew plantation with a recovery rate of 100%. Today, Mr. Soule Tchao is assisting URPA/BA and INRAB in the rehabilitation of demonstration plots, using the top-working technique with a recovery rate of 75%, inspite of the unfavourable weather conditions associated with the dry season.

### **Contact**

Ernest Mintah (Matching Fund Manager)

e [ernest.mintah@giz.de](mailto:ernest.mintah@giz.de)

p +233 302 771807 / 774162