



## Raising Cashew Farmer Livelihoods in Ghana

### ACi Matching Fund Project in cooperation with Olam Ghana

Olam Ghana is one ACi's partners for the first call of the Matching Fund. Starting in 2013, the Olam project focused on three key activities to enhance farmer incomes (1) increasing cashew yields through the distribution of improved planting material; (2) establishing farmer quality improvement programs, including model farms and farmer trainings on proper harvest and post-harvest handlings; (3) promoting farmer associations, building warehouses and providing drying yards to avoid quality losses.

#### Alhaji – King of Cashew

Alhaji Siaka is a 54 years old cashew farmer and one of the 26,000 targeted beneficiaries. He already bears the fruits of Olam's interventions in the Brong-Ahafo Region. Alhaji lives in Bonakere, a community outside of Sampa on the border to Côte d'Ivoire. About 20 years ago, Alhaji planted his first cashew trees, a modest 5 hectares. Ever since he has increase his farm bit by bit.



Source: Olam. Alhaji's weeded cashew farm

Today, Alhaji is the Chairman of the Olam farmer buying association in Bonakere. Since September 2013, Olam provides him and other farmers in the surrounding villages with improved planting material. The distribution of hybrid saplings has helped Alhadji to increase his farm by another 3

hectares. He expects the newly planted fields to produce higher yields and better quality nuts.



Source: Olam. Alhaji (middle) with Olam staff

#### Higher incomes triggered smart investments

To ease the farm work, Alhaji constructed a bore hole water pipe to provide his own farms and the surrounding ones with a steady water supply. He also bought tractors to transport the harvested nuts to the buying stations and to till other food crop farms owned by him. All members of the farmer association sell their produce directly to Olam and are guaranteed a fair price, which is determined by the raw nut quality being delivered. Thanks to higher incomes from cashew nut sales, Alhaji was able to send four of his eight children to school. When realizing the profitability of cashew farming, his children returned to the farm after graduating from school. They are now managing daily laborers and calculating farm expenditures and revenues, such as farm inputs and profits made during the harvest season. "We are proud to be cashew farmers and to work on our farms. Cashew makes our lives better," says Alhaji.

#### Contact

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