Promoting Competitiveness of the Cashew Value Chain
The Competitive Cashew initiative (ComCashew)

The Competitive Cashew initiative (ComCashew), formerly known as the African Cashew initiative (ACi) presents a new and innovative model of broad-based multi-stakeholder partnership in development cooperation. ComCashew is a private-public partnership project under the implementation of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, with funding for its third phase from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). In collaboration with private companies and public sector partners, significant impact has been made for over 512,000 farmers and about 40 processing companies. Since its inception in 2009, around 530,000 jobs have been created in the six project countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique and Sierra Leone — 75 percent in production, 20 percent in trade and 5 percent in processing. In all countries, income per farmer has increased to EUR 913 compared to EUR 360 in 2009. Cashew nuts from Benin are considered among the highest quality in West Africa. The cashew sector presents enormous social, ecological and economic potential for the country. Since cashew was introduced in the 1990s, it has emerged into Benin’s second largest export product after cotton, already contributing to 25 % of the agricultural export earnings.

Actors overview

| Number of cashew farmers | 200,000 estimated |
| Number of Processors in country | 8 processors |
| Cashew growing regions | Zou/Collines, Atacora/Donga, Borgou/Alibori, Plateaux |
| Matching Fund partners | FENAPAB, INRAB, Farmers associations URPA Atacora/Donga, Tolaro Global, SAS, |
| Policy and Regulation | Tax of 70 FCFA/kg on exported RCN; Trading License required |
| Lead Ministry | Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP), ATDA4 |
| Regional Network | Consultative International Cashew Council (CICC), Research Network (REDAA, CORAF) |
| Donors and NGOs active in Cashew Sector | WB, USAID, USDAA, OIT, AfD, Technoserve, CRS, DEDRAS, |
| Private Sector | FENAPAB, IFA (interprofession) |

Facts and Figures

| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| National production volume of RCN – estimate (metric tons) | 120,000 | 71,722 | 110,000 | 131,479 |
| National processing capacity – installed (metric tons) | 28,000 | 28,000 | 28,000 | 35,000 |
| National processing capacity – utilized (metric tons) | 12,000 | 12,000 | 14,150 | 18,750 |
| Productivity (kg/ha) | 395 | 375 | 377 | 389 |
| Number of ComCashew trained farmers (cumulative) | 103,472 | 111,472 | 127,256 | 142,756 |
| Cumulative Income of all farmers trained (Mio EUR) | 84 | 91 | 98 | 110 |
Main Achievements

- 142,756 farmers received trainings in good agricultural practices.
- 91,660 jobs in production created
- 70 master trainers trained – 10 women

- More than 8,700 farmers linked to local processors
- Over 200,000 cashew grafts distributed
- Over 2,000 high performing trees identified
- 25 clonal gardens established
- 11 nursery operators and 72 grafters trained
- Over 2,300 existing jobs in processing

Ongoing Activities

ComCashew supports the development of a conducive business environment for all actors of the cashew value chain. Some activities currently ongoing in Benin include:

- Increasing competitiveness in organic cashew supply chain
- Development of nurseries for the production of grafted seedlings and establishment of new plantations
- Assessment of cashew tree provenances and selection of efficient clones and genotypes for improved yields
- Strengthening business linkages between factory GEBANA-Benin and famers’ Union URCP in organic cashew
- 2019 Yield survey to assess productivity of cashew plantations

ComCashew at a Glance

Funding Partners:

- Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER
- State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SEDO

Implementer:

- giz

Budget: Total: more than € 139 million (€ 30.7 million from BMZ, €29.9 million co-financing and over 79 million in the cashew sector from public and private partners)

Partners:

- KraftHeinz
- Olam
- USAID
- Interbrand
- Walmart
- ECA
- Fairmatch Support
- Royalties for Food & Agriculture
- CINCAJU
- SNI

Project Duration: Phase 3: May 2016 to December 2020

Project Countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique, Sierra Leone

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