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

Background

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 progress and impact has been made for over 512,000 farmers and about 40 processing companies. Since its inception in 2009, around 530,000 new 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. The government is developing sector specific cashew strategies to promote productivity, in-country processing, and sector organization along the value chain through the establishment of a tree crops authority.

Actors Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No of cashew farmers</th>
<th>Approx 125,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No of Processors in country</td>
<td>14 (6 active and 8 closed for lack of sustainable supply of raw cashew nuts)</td>
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<td>Cashew growing regions</td>
<td>Bono Ahafo, Ashanti, Northern, Eastern, Volta Central and upper East</td>
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<td>Matching Fund partners</td>
<td>MOFA, CRIG, INVITRO LAB, ACA</td>
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<td>Policy and Regulation</td>
<td>10-year cashew development policy. National tree crops Board, Cashew part of PERD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donors and NGOs active in Cashew Sector</td>
<td>Brazil Government, ADRA, EU Self Help Africa, SECO, GIZ/E4D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Sector</td>
<td>ACA, Ghana Cashew Industry Association, Association of Cashew Processors</td>
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Facts and Figures

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National production volume of RCN – estimate (metric tons)</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>National processing capacity – installed (metric tons)</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>65,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>National processing capacity – utilized (metric tons)</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>14,500</td>
<td>10,700</td>
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<td>Productivity (kg/ha)</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>600</td>
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<td>Number of ComCashew trained farmers (cumulative)</td>
<td>40,409</td>
<td>41,243</td>
<td>45,743</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumulative Income of all farmers trained (Mio EUR)</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>88</td>
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Main Achievements

Over 47,000 farmers received two and more trainings
40,788 jobs created in production
71 Master Trainers trained 18 women

Over 10,000 ha new plantation cultivated with more than 1 Mio seedlings
Maintenance of 13 ha existing scion banks and set up of at least new 20 ha Scion banks
Establishment of 50,000 capacity nursery in Offinso North district
Support for development of polyclonal seeds and tissue culture

Over 4,700 jobs existing in processing

Current Activities

ComCashew through its intervention supports the development of conducive business environment for all actors of the cashew value chain. Some activities currently ongoing include:

- Technical advice to Ghanaian cashew sector actors
- Support to scion gardens as well as nurseries establishment
- Technical assistance and organisation of trainings on cashew apple processing
- Yield survey to assess productivity of cashew plantations
- Advice to processors on business planning, management and access to finance.
- Support to production of improved planting material and development of cashew demonstration plots using Climate-Smart Agriculture by GRIG.

ComCashew at a Glance

Funding Partners:
- Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
- Confederazione svizzera
- Swiss Confederation
- State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)

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
- IDH
- the sustainable trade initiative
- Internex
- ACA
- FairMatch
- Walmart

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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