



Sierra Leone – Country Report  
April 2019

## Promoting Competitiveness of the African 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. ComCashew is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), In collaboration with private and public partners significant progress and impact has been made for over 512,000 farmers and about 40 processing companies. Since its inception, around 530,000 new jobs have been created in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique and Sierra Leone – 75 per cent in production, 20 per cent in trade and 5 per cent in processing. Income per farmer has increased to EUR 913 compared to EUR 360 in 2009.



Sierra Leone has favorable ecological conditions for cashew cultivation, ranging from a tropical climate with warm temperatures and sunny conditions for many months to a rainy season spanning from April/May to October/November with an annual average rainfall of about 2,746 millimeters (mm). The country offers extensive arable land, the greater proportion of which is either underutilized or not utilized at all. Given this fact, the government has recognized cashew as an alternative cash crop to diversify agriculture and export with the aim of boosting the economy. In 2017, the country recorded its first official export of 75 metric tons of raw cashew nuts.

### Actors overview

<b>Number of cashew farmers</b>	14,500
<b>Number of Processors in country</b>	Only artisanal small village processors
<b>Cashew growing regions</b>	Northern, eastern, and southern provinces
<b>Matching Fund partners</b>	None
<b>Policy and Regulation</b>	Trading License required from SLIEPA
<b>Lead Ministry</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
<b>NGOs active in Cashew Sector</b>	COOPI, Welthungerhilfe
<b>Private Sector</b>	SLIEPA, SLeCAD, Balmed Holding, TDG, CaroNut

### Facts and Figures

	2016	2017	2018
<b>National production volume of RCN – estimate (metric tons)</b>	2 200	4 300	5 000
<b>National processing capacity – installed (metric tons)</b>	None	None	None
<b>National processing capacity – utilized (metric tons)</b>	None	None	None
<b>Productivity (kg/ha)</b>	120	150	150
<b>Number of Master Trainers trained (cumulative)</b>	8	14	14

### Competitive Cashew initiative

P. O. Box KIA 9698, H/No. 313A, Cotonou Street  
East Legon Residential Area - Accra, Ghana  
Tel: +233 207705401/2 Fax: +233 207705428  
Email: cashew@giz.de  
Web: www.comcashew.org / www.a4sd.net

The Competitive Cashew initiative is a private- public partnership project under the implementation of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.



Implemented by:  
**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



### Main Achievements



**Baseline Survey** under the lead of MAF and in collaboration with other public and private actors; Establishment of **25 nurseries** in **11 districts**



**154 Cashew Mother Tree** selected for analysis and future cashew breeding programme

Procurement of **2,600 kg** polyclonal seeds from Ghana facilitated and technical support to EU/ProAct (MAF and COOPI) for distribution of **300,000 high yielding seedlings**



Capacity development of **36 experts** (10 women) through the Regional Master Training Program on Cashew Value Chain in Africa

### Ongoing Activities

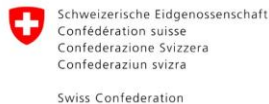
ComCashew supports the development of the cashew sector in Sierra Leone, on demand basis and in synergy with ongoing activities in the country.

Activities ongoing and suggested for include:

- Advise on policy reform and strategy development – with EU/BAFS and other actors.
- Conducting of Yield Survey and Economic case study with farmers
- Mother tree selection and establish germoplasm, scion bank and clonal gardens
- Continue support to MAF to boost cashew production through nurseries, production and distribution of seedlings and farmer trainings
- Facilitating Sierra Leone's integration into Regional networks (Consultative International Cashew Council - CICC, research network - REDAA, Industry association- ACA, etc.)

### ComCashew at a Glance

#### Funding Partners:



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



#### Implementer:



#### 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:



#### Project Duration:

Phase 3: May 2016 to December 2020

#### Project Countries:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique, Sierra Leone

#### Contact Person:

Mohamed Salifou

[Issaka.salifou@giz.de](mailto:Issaka.salifou@giz.de)

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