

14th ACA Annual Cashew Conference – fully online!
Welcome address by Florentino Nanque

The Minister of Food and Agriculture of Ghana

The Minister of Trade, Industry and Handicrafts of Burkina Faso,

Ladies and Gentlemen, representatives of other ministries and government agencies,

Distinguished players in the cashew industry,

Dear members of the African Cashew Alliance - ACA,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you to the 14th ACA annual cashew conference – one that is for the first time being held virtually. Over the years, we have had the opportunity to meet and greet, connect physically, share ideas, learn from each other and engage in business conversations. This time, what has become a world challenge presents us with a new opportunity to explore virtual means to achieve industry goals and I am very optimistic of the outcomes of this first ever virtual cashew conference experience - The ACA Annual Cashew Conference remains the largest cashew event on the African continent! From today to the 11th September, we will share ideas on the theme, **“Building a viable cashew value chain to withstand market disruptions”** and your presence here, emphasizes the immense importance of this subject at such a moment as this.

Ladies and gentlemen, Africa has maintained its position as the largest producer of raw cashew nuts, through concerted efforts, accounting for approximately 57% of the world's total production. Though processing is still a challenge, it cannot be ignored that cashew contributes greatly to Africa's economic growth and hence, the need to come together in the midst of a pandemic that has brought world economies to their knees, to further discuss how stakeholders can work together to build a viable value chain that can withstand any form of unexpected disruptions like the one we are currently faced with. Discussions during these three days will focus on the growth of the industry to where it is now, the changes we are

experiencing, and learnings for a fortified industry. Advanced researches, required processing options and adequate policies needed in Africa and more are some of the topics to expect...

Distinguished guests, colleagues, I commend the ACA secretariat, with support from key partners, for their continuous efforts in the midst such a difficult year by all standards, to still hold virtual learning forums to ensure that the industry was not saturated with fictions. We have received a number of great feedback on the virtual iforums organized by ACA from earlier this year, hence, the motivation to still hold the 14th annual conference! Though virtual, quality has not been compromised. I urge all participants to maximize this unique opportunity also. Learn from the seasoned speakers, ask questions, watch the recordings which will be shared later on and with joint efforts let us build a viable cashew industry! Next year, we hope to host you all physically in Accra, Ghana!

I would like to thank you all for logging in this morning, with special mention of our partners and sponsors. It is an honor for us at the African Cashew Alliance to serve you! Your participation demonstrates your commitment to promoting an industry that benefits the entire value chain, from farmer to consumer. In anticipation of a future where cashew is recognized as global and sustainable business for all, I say...

Thank you!

Merci Beaucoup!

Obrigado!