AFRICAN CASHEW ALLIANCE

A SUSTAINABLE CASHEW SUPPLY CHAIN FOR THE FUTURE

Fully Online

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The Cashew-IN Platform

A decision support platform

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Contents

- Cashew-IN component
- Methodology
- Main objective: to inform decision-making for the development of the cashew nut sector
- Themes: Production, Processing & Marketing
- Tips & tricks: essential for good data collection and use.

The Cashew-IN platform

- A component of the Pro-Cashew project

- Regional data collection and visualisation platform

- Implementing countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria

- Cashew-IN aims to facilitate access to comprehensive and reliable data that can be integrated into decision-making for the development of the cashew sector in implementing countries.

Development Gateway Methodology

- **Assessment missions in each country**
  - Literature search
  - Study of the institutional and organisational frameworks
  - Interviews with key stakeholders and collection of needs
- **Co-creation workshops**
  - Confirm and complete data requirements
  - Identify variables and configuration of visual tools
  - Set up steering committees in each country
    - Drawing up the specifications
    - Development of the Cashew-IN website

- Themes of Cashew-In

Production

Production data should:

- Provide an overview of the production capacity of the orchards;
- Estimate the number of producer associations
- Identify the strengths of the NCRs produced (certifications, quality, etc.)
- Identify producer challenges

Expected results

Industry players and policy makers can estimate the average national production capacity, as well as that of the different producing regions

How many orchards have joined an association?

Present the strengths of NCRs in a given country

Identify and address challenges (low equipment, low ownership of good practice, etc.)

The processing

Processing data should inform investors to:

- Provide an overview of the processing capacity of the factories;
- List the products resulting from the processing and their strengths
- Identify the challenges and opportunities for each type of processing: artisanal, semi-industrial and industrial

Expected results

The processing units are able to list their strengths and interest potential investors.

The products of processing give an idea of the economic potential of a country

Including the gender sub-theme can help in promoting women's entrepreneurship.

Identify and address challenges (low equipment, low ownership of good practices, etc.)

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Marketing

The marketing data should enable one to:

- Know the profile of consumers and their expectations
- Keep abreast of innovations and new selection criteria
- Access to national and international market prices.

Expected results

The production units know their consumers and are able to meet their expectations.

They can easily adapt to new demands by following market trends (national and international)

Access to international and sub-regional prices allows them to remain competitive.

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Other needs expressed

Stakeholders expressed the need to access other information, including

- Weather data
- Data on access to finance facilities
- Service providers across the value chain (nurseries to exporters)
- The gender theme or the involvement of women in the sector

Expected results

Weather forecasts help actors to develop forecasts for future campaigns.

The list of different service providers is available for each country.

Gender mainstreaming and gender data can support women's entrepreneurship and lead to gender-focused financing opportunities.

- How does Cashew-In intend to inform decision-making?

Impact of limited access to data...

...often manifests itself as follows:

- A lack of knowledge of the sector - including its challenges and opportunities;
- Isolated and repetitive initiatives with limited impact;
- Weak inter-stakeholder collaboration;
- A plurality of data sources
- Decisions made on the basis of flawed data, especially in the absence of a national strategy

Thus,

Producing countries may find it difficult to compete.

The impact of the initiatives is limited due to lack of consultation in their implementation.

National strategic plans are rarely defined on the basis of producers' problems, challenges and priorities.

Low visibility creates misunderstandings among actors

Monitoring/evaluation plans are not developed on national indicators.

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Assumptions

Production data

In the orchards

- Support the government to encourage individual producers to join an association;
- To know the state of the orchards; the degree of appropriation of good practices and training; diseases and pests - and support them to increase their productivity

At the association level

- Data is more commercial in nature to attract investors;
- Certifications; production capacity; NCR type and quality; available stock; average selling price

At the regional level

- Identify regions that need assistance;
- Assess the impact of different efforts on production
- Harmonising the growth of producing regions

Processing data

Their objective is to better assess national processing capacity and identify opportunities:

- By type (artisanal, semi-industrial, industrial)
- By gender (promoting female entrepreneurship)
- By type of product - taking advantage of technological innovations and improving the number and quality of by- products.

Marketing data

They allow you to remain competitive and to know:

- The profile of consumers and their demands
- Rules governing import/export and customs services
- International prices

Modules and functionalities

Key points

Developed in collaboration with the country steering committees on the basis of expressed needs;

Multiple access rights configurable per country;

Data will be aggregated at regional and country level;

Each country is responsible for the management of its data.

Features

A web-based platform accessible online via a secure protocol.

The data will come from official national sources as designated by the Steering Committees.

Cashew-IN aims to standardise information for all countries to drive the continuous collection and proactive publication of relevant data.

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Practical advice

- Data collection and use

Data collection

Often carried out using questionnaires, data collection should include certain aspects and follow a quality assurance process that includes:

- A representative selection of the sector (key player; regions; type of activity; etc.)
- **At the time of collection**:
  - Describe the potential uses of the data;
  - Obtaining written or oral consent from respondents for the use of their data;
- **After the collection**
  - Clean up the data and compile it as you go along
  - Include the sources of the data collected

The use of data

The most common rules include:

- Preference should be given to official sources with a mandate to publish data for a given sector;
- Mention of the source is mandatory;
- The protection of sensitive and personal data is a prerequisite;
- An information management framework:
  - Define the roles and responsibilities of each actor
  - Define the type of data to be made available and their frequency
  - Define the data validation mechanism before publication
- Where appropriate, refer to the national reporting framework

- Implementation of Cashew-In

The next steps

- Signing of the MoUs with the 5 Cashew-IN countries (Burkina Faso's MOU was almost signed)
- Establishment of steering committees at country level
  - Confirm and support national ownership
  - Definition of mechanisms for data collection/making data available
  - Development of sustainability plans
- Progressive demonstration of the technical iterations of Cashew-In
  - Feedback and collection of additional needs
- Iterative development of the platform
- Local capacity building
  - Training of Trainers & Continuing Education
- Transfer of skills

Thank you!

Questions?