

WELCOME ADDRESS BY BABATOLA FASERU
(President, Board of Directors, African Cashew Alliance [ACA])
Opening Ceremony of the African Cashew Alliance
At the 15th ACA ANNUAL CASHEW CONFERENCE–FULLY ONLINE
September 15, 2021

The Honourable Minister of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts, Burkina Faso
The Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Cameroon
The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Benin
The Honourable Minister of Food and Agriculture, Ghana
Fellow Government officials and representatives
Development and Financial Corporations and Agencies
The President of the African Cashew Alliance and Board Members
Cashew stakeholders
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is my honour to welcome all of you to the 2021 African Cashew Alliance Annual Cashew Conference. Since its founding in 2006, the Alliance has put on this conference, which has become recognized as the largest event devoted to showcasing the vast potential of the African cashew industry in the world. While each year the conference has been a momentous occasion where we gather in a physical location, the coronavirus pandemic has made this impossible after the 13th edition in Tanzania. Again, this year as we did last year, we are all convening online.
2. At this point, I would like to appreciate every one of you who has stood with us at the Alliance to ensure our services are continually being provided to the sector. You made a point to attend our learning events and the conference last year. Thank you for your commitment. This year we are bringing your way, “A Sustainable Cashew Supply Chain for the Future” which we have belief is the ideal issue to be addressed having thoroughly consulted stakeholders.
3. Over the next few days, we will have the important opportunity to join online as stakeholders of the cashew industry and review the past as well as the present as we discuss sustainability for the future. We at ACA believe it is during events like this that the vision for the industry’s future comes together. During the forums and meetings, I entreat us all to think about the “sustainable supply chain” and what it means for us. Also, during these three days, we are introducing the ACA B2B virtual platform. B2B has always been an integral part of the ACA Conference, an advantage on its own considering that the conference brings together diverse stakeholders together to network and if applicable now, close deal. We are making

this possible for stakeholders, this time, virtually. Interested participants are asked to contact Blessing Okam at bokam@africacashewalliance.com and reserve a safe and confidential space where you can schedule your meetings during the conference. This service is also available upon request from an organisation or a group of stakeholders desiring to network online. Not forgetting the virtual exhibition stands ongoing—be sure to visit and meet stakeholders. We hope that all of you would take full advantage of the exceptional opportunities available to you during this conference.

4. I would like to thank all of you for joining ACA at this conference which is the 15th edition. It is truly an honour to host such a tremendous group. I hope that you will take much away from the next few days of learning, community building, and celebrating. Soon we will be hosting you again in a physical location. Until then, mask up and stay safe!
5. Thank you!