



MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE,
DE L'ÉLEVAGE ET DE LA PÊCHE
RÉPUBLIQUE DU BÉNIN



15th Annual Conference of the African Cashew Alliance
online from 15 to 17 September 2021

Remarks by Mr Dossa AGUEMON, Director of Cabinet
Representative of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of
Benin



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- Distinguished Director General of the African Cashew Alliance (ACA)
- Your Excellency the Minister of Trade, Industry and Handicrafts of Burkina Faso, President of the International Cashew Advisory Council,
- Your Excellency the Minister of Food and Agriculture of Ghana,
- Your Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Cameroon,
- Distinguished Representative of the USAID

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear participants,

It is with great pleasure that I am taking part (even though it is unfortunately online) in this 15th Annual Conference of the African Cashew Alliance (ACA). I take this opportunity to commend the ACA whose constant commitment to the sustainable development of this sector, and whose importance in socio-economic, environmental and health terms are growing by the day.

In Benin, the cashew sector is the second major sector after cotton in terms of contribution to GDP. Because of its importance, the Government of my country has taken strong measures to ensure the sustainable development of the sector, namely

- The establishment of the sector as a highly strategic one in terms of wealth creation and decent and sustainable employment, particularly for young people and women;



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- The provision of the sector with a National Development Programme comprising eight (8) major areas of intervention, namely
 - Area 1: Improvement of orchard productivity;
 - Area 2: Improvement of local processing capacities for cashew products;
 - Area 3: Organisation of the marketing chain of cashew products;
 - Area 4: Research in the cashew nut sector;
 - Area 5: Organisation of the stakeholders of the sector;
 - Area 6: Financing the sector;
 - Area 7: Regulation and legal framework for the development of the cashew nut sector in Benin;
 - Area 8: Gender, Environment, Climate Change, and Public-Private Partnership

Day after day, the necessary funds are mobilised, both from the State's own resources and from external resources, to finance the actions that must contribute to the achievement of the results in each of the areas listed above.

The State has also dedicated to the sector a territorial Development Agency covering all the zones conducive to its development for the coordination of all the actions that contribute to it.

If we have one wish for the actors of all cashew producing and even importing countries, it is



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Improved governance, particularly in marketing, which in addition to the shock it brought to all countries in 2018, has been suffering the full force of COVID 19 since the advent of this pandemic.

I also hope that more countries will join the CICC so that it can become a representative body capable of helping to promote the sustainable development of the sector through cooperation and consultation amongst member countries in the areas of cashew research and development, technological innovation, production, processing, marketing, and consumption.

I cannot end my remarks without saying a big thank you to the African Cashew Alliance for all the support it provides to our countries so that the sustainable development of the sector becomes a reality, through the increase in the continent's local processing capacities.

My sincere thanks to the Technical and Financial Partners for their constant support.

I wish the 15th Annual Conference of the African Cashew Alliance fruitful and successful deliberations,

Long live the cashew nut industry at the service of people's development,
Long live African agriculture,

Thank you.