

Data & Digital Solutions

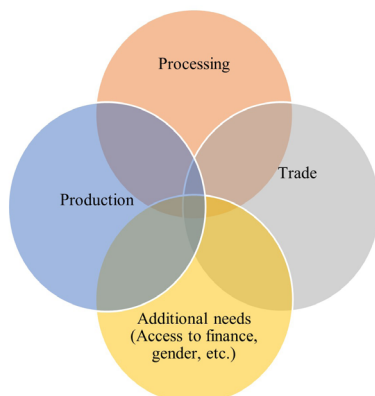
The Cashew-IN Program

The Cashew-IN platform will improve decision-making in the cashew sector of five West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria.

Development Gateway: An IREX Venture (DG) has partnered with Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA) as part of the USDA PRO-Cashew project for West Africa to develop the Cashew-IN platform, a system for collecting, managing, and analyzing cashew sector data. The platform is being developed in five West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria, and it will also include a regional page that will display International Cashew Advisory Council's (CICC) indicators for all cashew-producing countries. The tool is also intended to facilitate access and use of data in decision-making to improve farmers incomes and increase opportunities for stakeholders in the sector.

Utility of Cashew-IN in the Cashew Value Chain

The Cashew-IN platform allows for the collection, analysis, visualization and sharing of reliable data for better decision-making for three main links of the cashew value chain: production, trade, and processing. Cross-cutting themes such as access to financing and gender will also be added. All of these themes of interest were expressed and validated by the actors of the five implementing countries during the various activities conducted prior to developing the platform.



At the production level

The analysis and presentation of production-related data is organized around several sub-themes such as good agricultural practices and their level of implementation; production costs; access to land; access to agro-processing supplies; phytosanitary treatments; and the impact of climate change on crops. The platform will also include statistics at the individual farm level including: total production volume, yield, stock volume; and other information related to producer organizations and research.

At the trade level

This theme will be addressed through the publication of import-export statistics of international markets; information on national and international demand; customs statistics of processing countries; good practices of different producing countries; and standards in force within the different cashew markets.

At the processing level

The sub-themes selected are related to the processing of cashew products, knowledge of almond grades, technological innovations in processing, mapping of factories, and conditions of access to international markets.

Other stakeholders' needs

Other needs identified by stakeholders include a national directory of service providers involved in the value chain; information related to access to finance; presentation of the organization of the sector in each country of implementation; and representation of women in the sector.



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DG Intervention Strategy

DG's participatory approach in the implementation of this project and in the development of the Cashew-IN platform has favored the establishment of steering committees in each country as well as at the regional level. The steering committees are composed of key stakeholders in the cashew sector.

Each country will have a private database, which will be fed and managed exclusively by the users designated by the steering committee. Each committee will also decide on the type of data and information that will be made available to the public via the Cashew-IN platform.

The platform integrates a data privacy policy, elaborated by the actors of the steering committees of each country and adapted to their respective context.

In order to ensure the institutional anchoring and sustainability of this tool, the Cashew-IN application server will be hosted by the International Cashew Advisory Council (ICAC). Access to country data will be strictly reserved to the country holding the data.

Capacity building and skills transfer

Several capacity building activities for the tool's managers (steering committee and/or any other relevant actor in the system) will be conducted to support the appropriation of the platform at the level of each country. This capacity building will start as soon as the administrator and the country focal points are appointed.

Partners

This project is carried out with the following partners:



Interested in learning more about our Cashew-IN Program? Reach out to Aminata Camara, Cashew-IN Program Manager, at acamara@developmentgateway.org.