



African Cashew Alliance (ACA)

PROMOTING AFRICAN CASHEWS AT HOME AND ABROAD

2006, Issue 2

Newsletter November 2006

1st Country Meeting in Benin

Dear ACA members,

ACA's first country-level meeting was held in Benin September 13th. The objective, to build ties between African cashew players within and beyond national lines, enabling them to share information and resources, was achieved. More than 75 participants discussed and presented steps to improve the industry in Benin.

Next, ACA will help organize a national consultative committee for Benin with representatives from all links of the value chain, to promote the national cashew sector and develop strategies to improve its value.

Organization of similar country-level meetings for Nigeria, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique are underway.

On September 12th, Executive Committee members **Carlos Costa** (ACA President and Chairman of the Mozambique cashew association AiCaju), **Robert Yapo** (ACA Vice President and Country Director of the Sustainable Tree Crop Program in Cote d'Ivoire), **Massogbe Toure** (ACA Vice President, and director of cashew processor SITA in Cote d'Ivoire), **Kees Blokland** (director of nut trading agent Global Trading) and **Amit Khirbat** (responsible for cashew activities of Olam International in Africa) met with the ACA Secretariat, USAID and TechnoServe in Cotonou to further outline the governing structure of the ACA and set priorities up to the next General Assembly meeting in March 2008.

More info and reports are available at our website www.africancashewalliance.org

Cilia de Cock, ACA Secretariat



Executive Committee

Next ACA Country-Level Meetings in Senegal & Guinea-Bissau

With support of economic growth project SAGIC in Senegal and SNV, a Dutch development organization in Guinea Bissau, the ACA is organizing its next country level meetings in February 2007. Exact dates will be published on our website.

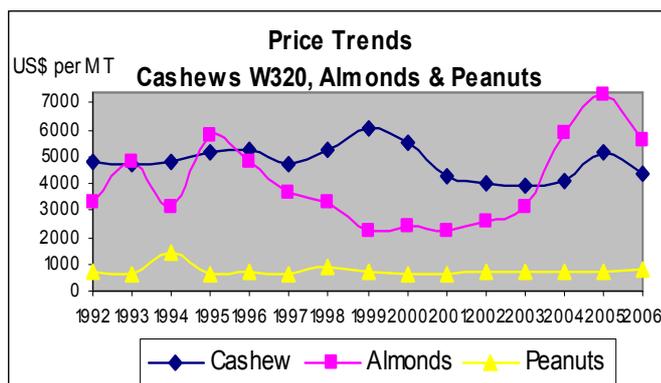
ACA Founding Members Sign MOU Multi-national organizations like Kraft Foods, Olam and Ahold have signed the Memorandum of Understanding in partnership with donors like USAID to support the ACA. With the signatures and commitment of 15 founding members, the ACA is in full swing, organizing a platform to increase farmer income, expand cashew processing capacity and capitalize on the potential of the African cashew sector.



Price Trends Relatively low cashew prices currently prevail in the USA buyer market. In 1978 for example, cashews were traded at the same value as today, around \$ 2.15/lb. Taking inflation and other factors into account, this means that cashew prices were at least twice as much then, as now. Almonds, historically priced lower than cashews, realize higher prices today, around \$ 2.50/lb. Increasing almond consumption and value have been prompted by recent international research and recognition that almonds have a variety of health benefits. Similar promotion should be done for cashews, which are a significant source of protein, iron and other essential minerals. These include phosphorus to build bones, zinc to aid digestion and selenium which contains vital antioxidants.

Tanzanian Leads the Way in Increasing Cashew Producer Income

Throughout Africa, cashew producers face low profits because of low yields. This is a result of aging plantations, poor planting material, and lack of farm management knowledge. In Tanzania, annual farmer 'profit' was only around US\$180 in the relatively high price season 2004/05, according to a survey by Techno-Serve and research institute ARI Naliende. Tanzania has now found a way to address this problem. A joint stakeholder effort is underway to improve this situation. Within the program, farmers with an average plantation of 2-3 ha, form cohesive groups with transparent governance structures. Group members receive training, services, planting material and credit, paying back the credit within a contract arrangement with cashew processor Olam International. Equally important is that farmers are trained on post-harvest handling to improve the quality and price of their crop. This multi-stakeholder program while still in the pilot stage represents a new and sustainable approach for cashew farmer assistance that can be replicated in other countries as well. The program is a joint effort of the Cashewnut Board of Tanzania, ARI Naliende, Government extension staff, TechnoServe, Olam International and input supplier Syngenta/MUKPAR. More info: contact David Williams of TechnoServe Tanzania david.williams@instanzania.org



Upcoming Events

- **ACA COUNTRY LEVEL MEETINGS :**
- SENEGAL: FEBRUARY 2007
- GUINEA BISSAU: FEBRUARY 2007
- **PEANUT & TREE NUT PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION, JAN 13-16 2007 ARIZONA, USA**
(WWW.PTNPA.ORG)

News

- **PAMRAD (BENIN) HAS DEVELOPED A CASHEW WEBSITE GIVING ACCESS TO A MAJOR DATABASE OF RESEARCH**
WWW.TOUVA.BE/PAMRAD (AND SOON: WWW.ANACARDIUM.INFO)

ACA Governing Structure

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** ELECTED FOR 2 YEARS BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY; DECISION MAKING COMMITTEE, DEFINES STRATEGY
- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** MAJOR FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS; HAVE VOTING RIGHTS REGARDING USE OF FUNDS
- **ACA SECRETARIAT:** MANAGES ACA FUNDS, DEVELOPMENT, ACTIVITIES, COMMUNICATION AND MEMBERSHIP
- **STEERING COMMITTEE:** PROVIDES INPUT AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESENTING PROPOSALS & INFORMATION TO EC; MEMBERS ARE ELECTED COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES FOR 3 YEARS; REPRESENTATIVES PROMOTE ACA AND RELAY INFORMATION BACK INTO THEIR COUNTRIES
- **NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES:** INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES RESPONSIBLE TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES EITHER TO HAVE A NATIONAL ACA BODY, OR TO USE EXISTING STRUCTURES TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION AND TO ORGANIZE ELECTIONS OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
- **MEMBERS:** INDIVIDUALS, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN THE CASHEW SECTOR; PARTICIPATE IN **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** HELD EVERY 2 YEARS, ELECT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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