



Issue 51
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ACA Annual Cashew Conference Returns to Benin

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The African Cashew Alliance has officially launched registration for the 11th ACA Annual Cashew Conference. This year's conference will be held in Cotonou, Benin from the 18th to the 21st of September 2017 with the theme "A New Vision for Partnerships and Investments".

Expected to attract more than 360 participants, this year's conference will focus on rebranding the cashew industry through a concentration and evolution of ACA's activities. Various actors of the cashew value chain will be in attendance and will participate in knowledge sharing forums, practical learning sessions, exhibition, and will have opportunities for business linkages.

Benin is the ideal host country for this year's conference due to the country's strategic positioning with greater interest from local government promoting investments in cashew sector while adapting to the evolving industry trends. In the cashew world, Benin is known for the quality of its raw cashew seeds (48-52 lbs.) and has doubled its production in less than a decade, now producing an estimated annual production of 110-130,000 MT. The country is the

fourth largest exporter of raw cashew nuts in Africa and exported more than 120, 000 MT in 2016. The cashew sector has taken an important role in the national economy, injecting about 196 million dollars as foreign exchange in the Beninese economy in 2016, which represents 18% of country export revenues. Cashew has subsequently become one of the priority crops for the government.

As always, sponsors, partners, and contributors as well as many others with a passion for the cashew industry make this conference possible. This platform provides an effective marketing tool as it gives access to a wide range of people, promotes companies, enhances visibility, and creates market linkages. ACA has particularly tailored this year's sponsorship opportunity to fit the unique needs of each sponsor and has provided exciting opportunities and benefits for all. Please visit our website for more details.

ACA Seal Receives Endorsement from Red River Food Inc.

ACA is excited to announce that the leading importer of nuts in the US, Red River Food Inc., has endorsed the ACA Quality and Sustainability Seal. The ACA Seal is an industry-accepted mark that represents compliance with internationally recognized quality, food safety, and social/labor standards. ACA established a strong relationship with Red River Food Inc. in 2009 due to the shared goal of increased quality and food safety standards. ACA hopes to uphold the quality and sustainability of the Seal program and entreats processors to become ACA Seal approved as international buyers aggregate towards quality.

For further information about how you can improve your processing facility, please contact Dorcas Amoh at damoh@afriacashewalliance.com



February 22, 2017

This letter is an endorsement of African Cashew Alliance's Seal Program.

RED RIVER FOODS is a leading U.S. importer of a wide variety of tree nuts, dried fruits, seeds, and specialty snack products. We supply the bakery, confectionery, cereal, dairy, and snack food industries with the finest quality product ingredients. Red River operates from offices strategically located near major ports on the east and west coasts of the United States. We enjoy a worldwide reach, serving a loyal and increasing customer base with approximately 50 product varieties from more than 20 countries across the globe.

In Africa we buy from several of the ACA Seal approved factories. We rely on the Seal Program to ensure that we will be getting quality cashew kernels from factories that have been certified with the ACA seal. We believe that the seal a good step in the right direction towards the Food Safety Modernization Act. Educating and instructing factories on food safety preventive controls such as having a food safety plan, understanding good manufacturing practices, and how to manage a recall plan are critical for factories to have in place if they want to export to the United States. The ACA Seal program can be the foundation on getting factories FSMA compliant.

Having established a relationship with ACA since 2009, and opening an office in Ghana in 2011, Red River Foods not only works to strengthen the processors but we are committed to improving farmer yields by educating farmers on best farming practices. RRF believes in strengthening the whole supply chain in Africa and the ACA seal is an integral part of the value chain.

We look forward to buying from more ACA Seal approved factories in the future.

Regards,

Wayne Yilton
Director of Operations, Africa
Red River Foods, Inc.

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ACA to Commence Project Implementation Under AfTra

The African Cashew Alliance is very excited to be implementing a project under the Africa Trade Fund (AfTra). For years, the African Development Bank (AfDB) through its executing fund, AfTra, has been assisting low income regional member countries of the bank in developing trade-related skills, regulatory regimes, and infrastructure that will enhance their trade performance and competitiveness in order for them to benefit from international trade and market opportunities. Now, AfDB is using this valuable resource to help the cashew sector.

The project aims to support African cashew industries in improving product quantity and quality, developing markets in line with international best practices, ensuring that cashew processing is undertaken in an environmentally sustainable manner across the targeted regions, enhancing the economic participation of women in the cashew processing sector, and reducing rural poverty by promoting increased rural incomes through enhanced competitiveness and incomes amongst cashew processors in East and West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mozambique, and Tanzania). The Fund is structured around four strategic pillars which include: (i) improving trade facilitation; (ii) enhancing market access by improving product quality and marketing development; (iii) strengthening country and regional trade-related institutions;

and (iv) providing trade advisory services to member countries of the AfDB.

The grant agreement was signed in 2015 and commencement of implementation will start in May 2017 after the completion of the bank's administrative procedures. The projects objectives are to:

- I. Improve product quality and marketing development in line with international best practices for poverty reduction
- II. Increase competitiveness, incomes, and employment for cashew processors in East and West Africa
- III. Promote the participation of women in cashew processing
- IV. Improve environmental standards and sustainability in African cashew processing

It is expected that by the end of the project at least 1,500 jobs will be created of which 70% will be for women, including supervisory and management roles in cashew processing. ACA also expects that the project will have a positive environmental impact through the implementation of environmentally sustainable practices by cashew processors following the project's promotion of these practices.

INC Press Release: Nut Consumption is Associated with a Lower Risk of Cardiovascular Disease, Cancer, and All-Cause Mortality

March 2017. In a systematic review and dose-response meta-analysis of prospective studies published in BMC Medicine¹, researchers looked at the association of nut consumption and risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD), total cancer, and all-cause and cause-specific mortality in adults. Higher nut intake (15-20 g/day or 5-6 servings/week) was associated with reduced risk of CVD, total cancer and all-cause mortality. Both tree nut and peanut consumption resulted in similar findings.

An international team from Norway, UK and USA analyzed twenty studies through a meta-analysis, providing the most up-to-date summary estimates of the association between nut intake and CVD, cancer, and all-cause and cause-specific mortality. The findings were consistent with previous published reviews and meta-analyses.

The results provide further evidence that higher nut intake may help reduce the risk of CVD, total cancer and all-cause mortality.

More recently, in a clinical trial published in Metabolic Syndrome and Related Disorders², a team of researchers from India examined the effects of daily consumption of almonds for 24 weeks among type-2 diabetes patients. The incorporation of almonds in a well-balanced diet was associated with multiple beneficial effects on glycemic and CVD risk factors. The study found significant improvement in mean values of waist circumference, waist-to-height ratio, serum triglycerides and low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, among other parameters.

According to the World Health Organization, CVD was the leading cause of noncommunicable disease (NCD) deaths in 2012 and was responsible for 17.5 million deaths, or 46% of NCD deaths³.

About the International Nut & Dried Fruit Council

INC members include more than 700 nut and dried fruit sector companies from over 70 countries. INC is the leading international organization regarding nuts and dried fruits health, nutrition, statistics, food safety, international standards and regulations.

1 Aune, D., Keum, N., Giovannucci, E., Fadnes, L. T., Boffetta, P., Greenwood, D. C., ... & Norat, T. (2016). Nut consumption and risk of cardiovascular disease, total cancer, all-cause and cause-specific mortality: a systematic review and dose-response meta-analysis of prospective studies. BMC medicine, 14(1), 207.

2 Gulati, S., Misra, A., & Pandey, R. M. (2017). Effect of Almond Supplementation on Glycemia and Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Asian Indians in North India with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: A 24-Week Study. Metabolic Syndrome and Related Disorders.

3 Global status report on noncommunicable diseases 2014. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2014.



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A Vision for the Cashew Industry in Africa

On the 29th of March 2017, African Cashew Alliance (ACA), with the support of the Competitive Cashew Initiative (ComCashew) and US-AID West Africa Trade and Investment Hub(WATI)H organized a one-day cashew stakeholder forum . Stakeholders from the entire cashew value chain, gathered together on this platform to learn, share ideas and most importantly, brainstorm for the development of a common vision for the African cashew industry over the next ten years.

Gracing and participating in this all important forum was Dr. Seth Akoto, Director of Crop Services from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Ghana (MoFA), Dr. Adama Coulibaly, Director General of the Cashew and Cotton Council (CCA) of Côte d'Ivoire, also representing CICC, the inter-ministerial council for Cashew producing countries in Africa as well as Mr. Florentino Nanque, ACA President and Madam Rita Weidinger, Executive Director of Comcashew.

After a series of roundtable discussions and brainstorming exercises, participants at the forum created and agreed on a common vision to use

from 2017 – 2027. The vision is **“To create wealth for all actors in the value chain by locally transforming all African cashew competitively and sustainably as well as supplying traceable cashew kernels and by-products for both the domestic market and export”**. This vision, along with key strategic objectives is to henceforth guide all activities as well as interventions aimed at developing the African cashew industry for the next 10 years and is expected to evolve with the industry.



CCA to allow and facilitate in land exportation of Ivorian RCN destined for processing in neighboring countries

To help achieve the vision of the African Cashew Sector and increase the level of in-country value addition in Africa, the Director General of CCA, Dr. Adama Coulibaly has accepted the request of the African Cashew Alliance (ACA) to allow its members to export raw cashew nuts across land borders.

Specifically, Dr. Coulibaly stated, "... for the supply of raw nuts to processing units installed in neighboring countries, the Cotton and Cashew

Council at the request of the ACA and under certain conditions could authorize the transport of raw cashew nuts to ACA members by land".

As a result, ACA has developed a concept note which would be submitted to the CCA wherein proposing the operational procedures for the supply of RCN to processing units through official corridors linking Côte d'Ivoire to the neighboring countries.

The Recipe Room: Curry Spiced Cashews



INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups salted cashews
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 teaspoons curry powder
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a large nonstick skillet, cook cashews over medium heat until toasted, about 4 minutes.
2. Add the oil, curry powder, garlic, Worcestershire sauce, cumin, and cayenne.
3. Cook and stir for 2 to 4 minutes or until cashews are well coated.
4. Spread on foil to cool completely
6. Stir in cranberries; store in airtight container. Yield: 2 to 2 1/2 cups.

Source: <http://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/curry-spiced-cashews>

Upcoming ACA Activities

March

26th-7th ACA visits to Valency International and FoodPro in Nigeria

April

19th-28th ACA training in Cote d'Ivoire under GDA2



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THE VOICE OF AFRICAN CASHEW

LA VOIX DE CACAO AFRICAINE

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