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Gaining Momentum in Empowering Cashew Farmers

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In partnership with Self Help Africa, ACA is addressing issues of gender equality and good agricultural practices through the “Empower Women Cashew Farmers” project in Ghana and Kenya.

This project, which started in June 2015 and is funded by the Walmart Foundation, aims to increase the income of smallholder households by training farmers on good farming practices. To ensure that the African market will be the final beneficiary of the intervention, the project will simultaneously train farmers and create linkages between farmer communities and processing facilities. The project focuses specifically on empowering women in the cashew value chain through further training on livelihood diversification.



During the training, participants were taught cashew value chain management skills relating to RCN commercialization, sourcing and interpretation of the market trends in order to reduce risks in market decision-making during the cashew season. During group work, the participants took on the role of recipients of market information services and subsequently use the guide to determine the periods to either sell their RCN or withhold their cashew.

In Ghana, ACA has partnered with Mim Cashew and Agricultural Products Ltd. to participate in a market information sharing system with farmer groups. The relationships formed will be the basis of market linkages between the farmers and the international market and allow for sustainable, competitive local industries. ACA will use an innovative supply chain management tool to facilitate direct linkages between processors and farming communities via financial institutions. The system aims to secure sound transactions between farmers and processors, allows farmers to access the banking system and strengthens commercial linkages between cashew processors and farmers.





Your partner for a sustainable African cashew sector



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cashews@intersnack-procurement.com
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Coming up on almost one year of implementation, ACA has engaged directly with the beneficiary communities to further progress and to understand key challenges. From April 16-21st, an ACA team comprised of the MD and other officers traveled to Kenya’s Kilifi County to undertake a monitoring visit of the Walmart funded project. In the company of seven representatives from the implementing partners, Self-Help Africa and Ustadi Foundation, the ACA team visited three farmer groups in Kilifi North and Malindi Sub Counties.

Together with the hosts, the team interacted with the groups on issues related to good agronomic practices, pricing and sale of raw cashew nuts, market linkages, access to land, access to credit as well as the challenges that they face. Interviews with beneficiaries highlighted the positive effects that the project has already had on the capacity of local stakeholders to improve cashew production and business.

In Ghana, ACA held a training workshop from April 13-15 in order to implement the key aspect of market information systems (MIS). The focus of this training was to establish linkages between the farmers and ACA’s registered cashew processing factories in Ghana. It sought to increase the capacity for farmers to understand MIS principles, which will have widespread benefits for the value chain as a whole in the long-term as farmers have more agency.



By the end of this project in 2017, ACA aims to contribute to sustainable improvements in the livelihood of 35,000 smallholder farmers in Ghana and Kenya who are currently engaged in cashew farming.

By empowering women farmers and contributing to the diversification of livelihoods, ACA is confident that the project will create sustainable and long-lasting impact in the farming communities.

ACA Promotes Sector Organization in Guinea-Bissau

ACA envisions an African cashew industry where each country has strong local institutions and an active platform for collaboration. In line with this vision, ACA hosted a National Stakeholders Dialogue in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau on April 12, 2016. The event was organized by ACA and co-sponsored by the World Bank project, PRSPDA.

The forum, themed “Promoting the cashew sector for sustainable value-addition in the national economy”, sought to bring together stakeholders from across the cashew value chain for a facilitated dialogue. Important participants included representatives from ANCA and the Ministry of Trade and Industry.



Industry experts from ACA, PRSPDA, and the Cashew Promotion Center in Bissau delivered presentations regarding the current state of the cashew industry in Guinea-Bissau and prospects for global competitiveness. As the second largest producer of cashew in Africa, Guinea-Bissau relies heavily on the product for its exports and economic development.

The event attracted over 60 participants, representing producer associations, processing companies, exporters, traders, policy makers, and commercial service providers. The forum emphasized constructive dialogue through in-depth discussions and the creation of action plans by each sector of the cashew industry. As a follow-up to the forum, the

Coordinator of PRSPDA will lead representatives chosen from each sector to form a committee that will serve as a national platform, which will continue to identify areas for collaboration for the development of the industry in Guinea-Bissau.

The forum was an important step in promoting sector organization within the country. The issues raised during the forum will also be used to strengthen ACA’s approach to policy advocacy and public sector engagement.

ACA aims to work with all cashew-producing countries to ensure a healthy national dialogue and an environment that emphasizes partnership. ACA will continue to work with stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau during the planning of the 2016 World Cashew Festival & Expo and the implementation of a joint project with PRSPDA.



ACA Engages with Government Institutions in Ghana

The cashew industry in Ghana has recently been in the news regarding a new controversial export directive from the Ministry of Trade and Industry. In response, ACA has engaged directly with the government ministry and local press for policies that equally support all actors of the cashew value chain.

The Executive Committee and Advisory Board of the African Cashew Alliance (ACA) led by the Vice President Edgar Majogo, acting President of the EC, on Monday 21st March 2016, paid a courtesy visit to Ghana Minister of Trade and Industry, Hon. Ekwow Spio-Garbrah. This visit was made in regards to ACA’s policy of recognizing the importance of public-private partnership and support for the development of the African cashew industry.



The ACA reiterated its commitment to provide the necessary support and assistance to the various stakeholders in the cashew industry through public and private partnerships. ACA will continue to advocate for government support to the cashew industry in Africa through enabling investment environment, policy and regulatory measures that will enhance the production and processing of cashew in Africa.

On March 22nd, the ACA’s Executive Committee and Advisory Board held a press conference in Accra in order to state the need for government support and enabling policies. ACA also emphasized that the importance of local value addition through pre-export processing of the raw cashew, as well as an increase in production of the cashew that meets international best practices and standards.

ACA believes that should there be favorable policies put in place that will benefit stakeholders across the value chain. The cashew industry in Africa undoubtedly has the potential to attract international recognition as cashew has proven to be a non-traditional foreign exchange earner for the economy.

After thorough study by the government, it was observed the timing of this directive was not appropriate and thus the government called for a withdrawal. The President of the Republic of Ghana has since announced an outright withdrawal of the policy banning the export of raw cashew, and outlined other measures to boost the emerging industry. ACA continues to advocate for collaborative public-private partnerships to ensure that the cashew value chain is well supported by the regulatory environment.

Source: <http://www.myjoyonline.com/business/2016/March-24th/african-cashew-alliance-push-for-govt-policy-to-regulate-cashew-industry.php>

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Dear Cashew Stakeholders and Valued Members,

With the opening of registration for the 2016 ACA World Cashew Festival & Expo, the stage is now set for members and prospective participants to register for the Conference on our website: <http://www.africancashewalliance.com/en/world-cashew-festival>

All ACA members will benefit from reduced conference fees, while further discounts are available for participants who pay before June 30, 2016. This 10th Anniversary conference will be held in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau at the Ledger Hotel & Conference Center from September 19-22, 2016.

The theme of the conference – “A Decade of Transformation” – will focus on the contributions of ACA to the development of the cashew sector over the past 10 years and the future evolution of the industry. ACA, formed in Guinea-Bissau in 2006, will celebrate its 10th Anniversary during the conference and reflect upon the progress of the African cashew industry, from farming to processing to international trade and competitiveness. The four-day program will engage various local and international stakeholders in the industry that have contributed and are committed to the successes and challenges within the past 10 years of the African cashew industry.

To celebrate the 10th year of the ACA Conference, this year’s program will also feature an Awards Ceremony where we will recognize

founding ACA members, industry stars and other stakeholders for their significant contributions to the development of the African cashew industry. This is in addition to the learning and leisure trips designed to make participants discover the rich culture and vast opportunities in the cashew sector of Guinea Bissau, the second largest African producer of the crop.

Every year, generous and business-orientated sponsors who are passionate about sustainable cashew sourcing and processing make this conference possible. Sponsorship provides an excellent avenue to promote your company to cashew stakeholders from Africa and globally. The benefits of sponsorship are correlated with different categories and include targeted advertisements and branding on conference banners, bags and brochures, sponsored coffee breaks or sessions, and the opportunity to be a speaker. More information can be found on our website.

I urge you to take advantage of this important early bird opportunity to register for the ACA World Cashew Festival & Expo! We look forward to see you all in Bissau.

Sincerely,

Babafemi Oyewole
ACA Managing Director/CEO

Join us at the 10th Anniversary of the ACA Conference!

Discounted rates apply until June 30, 2016



ACA

AFRICAN
CASHEW
ALLIANCE



A DECADE OF TRANSFORMATION

ACA World Cashew Festival & Expo 2016



Bissau, Guinea-Bissau

September 19-22, 2016

<http://www.africancashewalliance.com/en/world-cashew-festival>

The Recipe Room: Cashew Chicken and Noodle Stir-Fry



INGREDIENTS

- 1/3 cup roasted cashews
- 440g egg noodles (packet Wokka thin egg style shelf fresh noodles specified)
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 tablespoon reduced sodium soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice (freshly squeezed)
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 500g chicken breast fillets (lean trimmed of fat and cut into thin strips)
- 1 red onion (cut into thin slivers)
- 250g snow peas (halved diagonally)
- 1 red capsicum (large cut into strips, bell pepper)
- 1 green capsicum (large cut into strips, bell pepper)
- 2 carrots (large cut into short thin sticks, julienned)
- 2 garlic cloves (minced)
- 2 tablespoons water

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Put the noodles in a medium heatproof bowl and cover with boiling water and set aside for 2 minutes and then drain and separate the noodles and set aside.
2. Put the honey, soy sauce and lemon juice in a small bowl and whisk to combine and set aside.
3. Brush a little oil over a large wok and heat on high until the wok is hot and then add half the chicken and stir fry for 2 minutes or until the chicken is almost cooked and transfer to a plate.
4. Brush the wok with a little more oil and reheat the wok on high and repeat with remaining chicken and then remove chicken from the wok.
5. Brush the wok with the remaining oil and heat on medium high and add the vegetables and garlic and stir-fry for 2 minutes and then add the water and cook covered tossing twice for 2 minutes until the vegetables are just tender.
6. Add the noodles and chicken to the wok and toss well to combine and the sauce mixture and toss to combine and heat through and then top with the cashews to serve (personally in this case I would just add the cashews once plated up).

Source: <http://www.food.com/recipe/chicken-cashew-and-noodle-stir-fry-460415>
<http://www.couponclippingcook.com/chicken-cashew-stir-fry-with-whole-wheat-pasta/>

Upcoming ACA Activities

May

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| 11-12 | Cashew Market Training Workshop, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau |
| 16-21 | ACA & USAID WATIH Workshop, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire |
| 15-28 | ACA Quality & Sustainability Seal Audit Mission, Ghana, Togo and Benin |
| 29 | ACA International Partners Forum, San Diego, USA |
| 31 | ACA Presentation at the Global Inter-Board Cooperation Summit, San Diego, USA |

June

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| 4-13 | Business Advisory & Training Field Mission, Senegal |
| 12-19 | ACA Quality & Sustainability Seal Audit Mission, Nigeria |

Cashew Calendar 2016

May

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| 4-7 | FoodAfrica, Cairo, Egypt |
| 19-22 | Azerbaijan International Food Industry Exhibition, Azerbaijan |
| 30-June 1 | INC XXXV World Nut and Dried Fruit Congress, San Diego, USA |

June

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| 26-28 | Summer Fancy Food Show, New York, USA |
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Contact us
aca@africancashewalliance.com
 or call +233 302 78 16 08