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ACA Celebrates 10 Years at Annual World Cashew Festival and Expo 2016

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From September 19th to 22nd diverse actors of the cashew value chain came together for the 10th Annual ACA World Cashew Festival and Expo in Bissau, Guinea Bissau, which was themed “A Decade of Transformation”. Over 300 participants from all over the globe attended the conference.

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the ACA, this year’s conference was certainly a special event. It featured 12 exhibitors, 4 plenary sessions, 6 World Cashew Forum sessions, and over 360 official business-to-business meetings. As a unique opportunity, this year ACA also offered two World Cashew Forum sessions titled “Making Cashews Work” that served as training sessions on Market Systems and were run by Mr. Jim Fitzpatrick. From the opening ceremony to the gala dinner, each event looked at how the African cashew industry can move forward and improve in this next decade.

Topics discussed during the event included the past decade with ACA, the turning point for the industry, global competitiveness, access to finance, and more. ACA was honored to host seasoned guest speakers from various stakeholder institutions including responsAbility, the World Bank, Red River Foods, Caronut, IPL Ltd., and more.

On the evening of the 20th, the Alliance welcomed four new members to the Executive Committee after an election conducted and led by the Secretariat. These new members are Mrs. Minata Kone, Mr. Charles Muigui, Mrs. Kate Kamba, and Mr. Florentino Nanque. The Executive Committee also officially welcomed Ms. Johanna Adotevi who will serve the remaining tenure of Mr. Ashak from Casa Cote d’Ivoire. The new Executive Committee, with newly elected President Florentino Nanque at the helm, chose to start a new initiative of having three vice presidents. Those voted in for this position were Madam Kate Kamba as the first vice president, Mrs. Kone Minata, the second vice president, and Mr. Lars Wallevik as the third vice president to represent the international partners



The conference wrapped up on the 21st of September with an award ceremony and gala dinner, which featured the cutting of the anniversary cake and unveiling of the anniversary video. The night also included live performances and was graced by the Honorable Prime Minister of Guinea Bissau, Baciro Dia.

ACA greatly appreciates all the support received during and leading up to the conference. As an industry alliance, ACA greatly depends on all of our members and we could not have reached ten years without all of you!



ACA Participates at ECOWAS Technical Meeting on Cashew Processing in West Africa

From 17 and 18 August, 2016, the Managing Director of ACA, Dr. Babafemi Oyewole and the Chief Finance Officer, Mr. Akwasi Adom-Dankwa participated at a technical meeting of the ECOWAS held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The initiative is part of the implementation strategy of the Industrial Policy of ECOWAS Common Industrial Policy which was presented at the meeting of Ministers of Industry and Quality that took place in Accra in April, 2015. The objective of the technical meeting was to bring together cashew experts to find regional synergies that can help accelerate the industrialisation of the cashew sector in West Africa. A total of 14 countries were represented. Also represented were the African Development Bank and the French Development Agency, AFD. Babafemi made a presentation to the meeting on the activities of the ACA in promoting a globally competitive African cashew industry from farmer to the consumer by outlining the various capacity building and cashew industry focused technical assistance services that are being delivered to the stakeholders in the industry. At the end of the meeting, a resolution was made calling on the government of the various countries to support institutions like the African Cashew Alliance for sustainable development and increase in value addition to ca-

shew in West Africa. After the meeting, Babafemi discussed with Mr. Kalilou Traore, the ECOWAS Commissioner for Industry and Private Sector Promotion, on the way forward for both institutions on the implementation of the resolution taken during the meeting. They both agreed that they will build on this meeting through an MOU between ACA and the ECOWAS Commission in the spirit of public private partnership for the benefit of the cashew stakeholders in West Africa.



ACA Hosts Successful Workshop in Banjul Under USAID WATIH Project

Under its partnership with USAID West Africa Trade & Investment Hub, ACA concluded the last session of the Cashew Processing Business Management & Market Information Systems Training Workshop Series in Banjul, the Gambia from 23rd to 24th August, 2016. The Honorable Minister of Trade, Industry and Employment of the Gambia declared the workshop open after the welcome remarks from the president of the Cashew Alliance of Gambia (CAG) Mr. Momodou Ceesay, the Managing Director of the ACA Dr. Babafemi Oyewole, the country director for the IRD Mr. Boubacarr Sow, and the representative from ComAfrique Mr. Ram Mohan. This sub-regional training workshop was attended by 30 cashew processors, market analysts and other stakeholders coming from four countries: Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, The Gambia, and Senegal. The session focused on cashew business management and marketing information system technologies. Such workshops help to significantly increase managerial capacity building via technical and markets knowledge and understanding of cashew business dynamics in the West African cashew value chain.



The session for processors was facilitated by Sunil Dahiya, ACA Chief Business Officer, and included topics such as technological innovation trends, global competitiveness and economics, procurement, production quality assurance, waste management & value addition, and business expansion planning. Mr. Ger Bal, an independent waste management scientist from Wasecoal, Holland, also shared his innovations on bio-charcoal extraction from cashew shells. The sessions for Market Information System (MIS) professionals was facilitated by Olivier Kabre, ACA Chief of MIS & Partnerships Development and Isaac Brou, ACA ICT Consultant. The MIS session focused on the usage of a new ACA SMS technology, which allows market information to be sent directly to farmers and stakeholders in the field to enable them to be regularly informed about market developments.

The event was a great success with active local support from the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Employment of The Gambia, the Cashew Alliance of Gambia, ComAfrique, and the cashew business community.

ACA used the opportunity of the workshop to organize a press conference on the forthcoming ACA World Cashew Festival and Expo taking place in Guinea Bissau. The press conference was used to sensitize the participants and the Gambian cashew industry on the need to participate in the conference, which also marks the 10th year anniversary of the establishment of the ACA.

President Conde of Guinea Recieves ACA

The African Cashew Alliance Managing Director, Babafemi Oyewole paid a visit to the His Excellency Prof. Alpha Condé, the President of the Republic of Guinea, on Wednesday September 14th 2016. ACA's Chief Officer in charge of Partnership Development accompanied him in order to look for opportunities in establishing an information and technical knowledge platform along the discussions.

The president launched a vast program to revitalize the cashew sector value chain in Guinea. This year, ANPROCA, the agency responsible for agribusiness promotion in the rural areas, managed by M. Condé Aly, who is also the Général Director, reported an achievement of about 220,000 hectares of cashew planted in rural communities. Processing is also to be considered in the upcoming years. The government wants to facilitate the establishment of two semi-mechanized processing plants to also add value to the production. Mr. Sekou Sangaré, Rural Development Advisor to the Presidency, explained the implementation plan for the program.

With the recommendation of the Agriculture Advisor, the President requested ACA to provide its technical advisory services and assistance to the program specifically in production by linking them to well advanced research institutes in the cashew sector in Africa, such as Ghana. The president also requested that ACA provide advisory services to establish

two semi-mechanized processing plants and develop partnership with the ministers in charge to establish a national cashew dialogue platform. Mr. Sekou Sangaré, urged ACA to advise in processing equipment technologies. ACA will also organize a country cashew dialogue during the coming month.



Introducing ACA's New Executive Committee



Charles Muigai



Florentino Nanque,
President



Minata Kone,
Second Vice President



Kate Kamba,
First Vice President

The Recipe Room: Tropical Pineapple Cashew Rice



INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cups of uncooked long grained rice, rinsed until water runs clear
- 1 20 oz. can of crushed pineapple in pineapple juice
- 1 13.5 oz. can of unsweetened coconut milk
- 3 Tbsp. sweetened coconut flakes
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. onion powder
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper

For the Garnish:

- 3 Tbsp. lime juice, or to taste
- 1/2 cup salted roasted cashews
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Drain the can of crushed pineapple, reserving the juice into a large measuring cup. Add enough coconut milk to equal a total liquid amount of 3 cups. If there's not enough coconut milk, add water to reach the cup line.
2. Pour into a saucepan and bring to a simmer.
3. Stir in the crushed pineapple and all remaining ingredients (except garnishes). Bring to a boil, cover, and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes, until rice is cook and no extra liquid remains.
4. Keep covered and let rest for 5 minutes.
5. Fluff rice with a fork, and right before serving stir in the garnishes.

Source: <http://www.thechunkychef.com/tropical-coconut-pineapple-cashew-rice/>

Upcoming ACA Activities

November

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| 10-12 | Vinacas Golden Cashew Rendezvous, Da Nang, Vietnam |
| 16-17 | ACA MIS Workshop in Kilifi, Kenya under Walmart Project |



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