

18th ACA Annual Cashew Conference & Expo



BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE AFRICAN CASHEW INDUSTRY



Sofitel Cotonou Marina Hotel & Spa
Cotonou, Benin
17 - 20 September 2024



FACTORS IN THE ADOPTION OF CASHEW CULTIVATION BY FARMERS IN THE BENOUE DEPARTMENT, NORTH CAMEROON REGION

ABOUBAKAR BINTOU, Guillaume FONGANG, Faylone MADEMGUIA KUISSU

Thursday, 19 September 2024



OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY**
- **METHODOLOGY**
- **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**
- **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**



INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

- In Cameroon, agriculture contributes more than 22.9% to GDP (INS, 2017)
- Today, among Cameroon's cash crops, cashew nuts play an important role in alleviating poverty in rural areas (Togou, 2006).
- In West Africa, Côte d'Ivoire is one of the leading cashew nut producers on the international market. These nuts represent the country's second largest export (PSRA, 2008).



- This is why the government has included a policy in the country's strategic development guidelines and growth strategy for poverty alleviation, which considers the agricultural sector to be a lever in the fight against poverty (Akakpo, 2009).
- In the northern part of Cameroon, more specifically in the northern region, cashew cultivation is adapted to regions with a warm climate, depending on the agro-ecological zones favourable to this crop,
- These include the Sudano-Sahelian zone (Far North, North, Adamaoua, East and part of the Centre), where the extension of this crop involves several producers, including individual growers and even development companies such as SODECOTON.



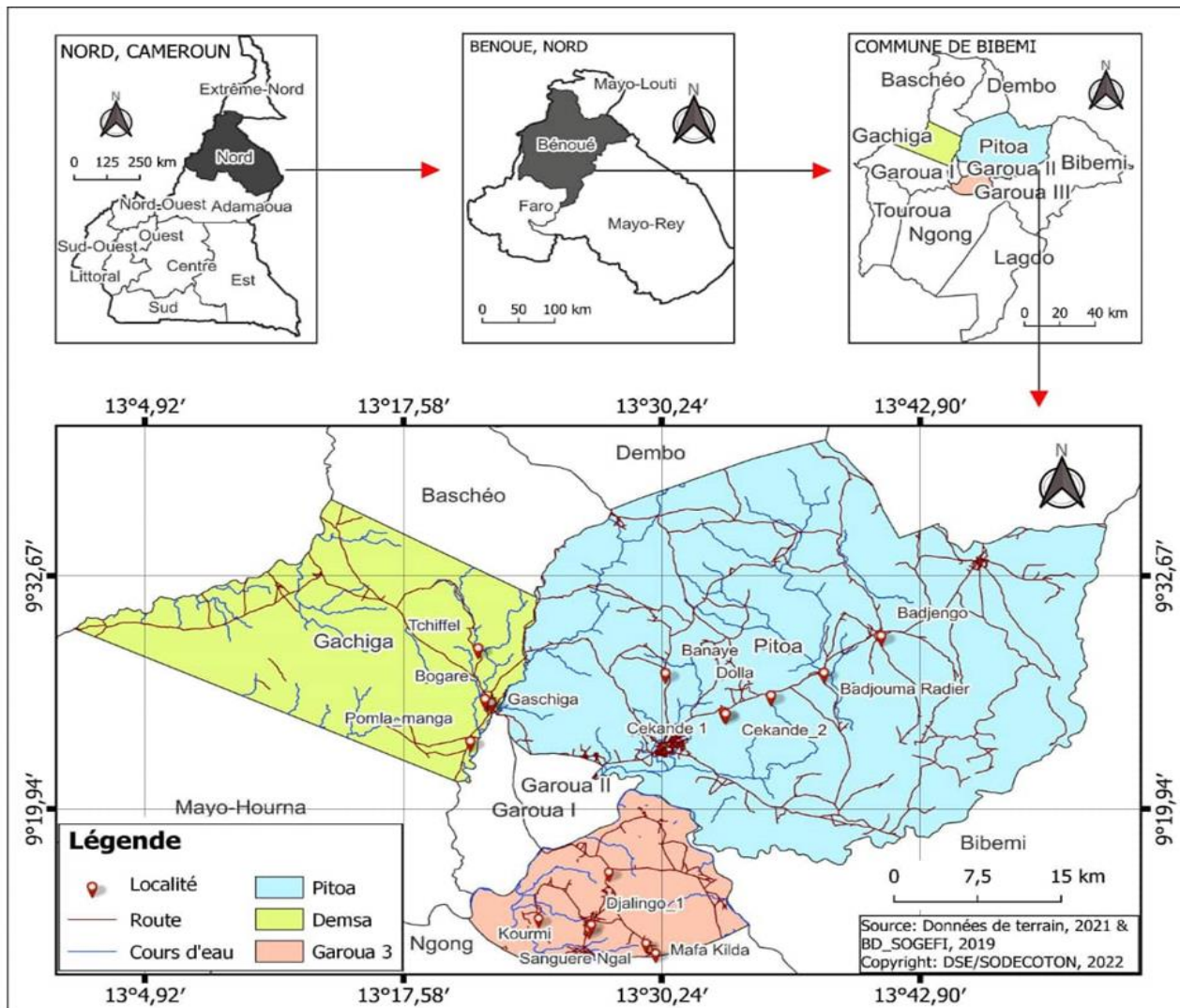
- Today, among cash crops in Cameroon, cashew nuts play an important role in alleviating poverty in rural areas (Togou, 2006),
- Through a project to promote cashew nut cultivation currently being implemented in Cameroon, the government is paving the way for the development of a second cash crop in the country's three northern regions, which have until now been the hub of cotton cultivation, and whose climate is also best suited to cashew nut cultivation, since it is adapted to dry areas.



- However, enormous resources have been used to develop the cashew value chain. It turns out that the cashew value chain was set up in Cameroon by MINADER in order to raise the rural population's standard of living and agricultural income (Laurent, 2020).
- This situation puts at the heart of the debate the question of the adoption of cashew cultivation in the northern part of the country, more precisely in the Garoua 3 district. Hence the interest of this study, which is to analyse the factors involved in the adoption of cashew cultivation by producers in the Garoua 3 district.

METHODOLOGY

PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY AREA



The Bénéoué Department has 12 districts and cashew cultivation is practised in all of them. This figure shows the three areas targeted for this study: Garoua III District, Demsa and Pitoa



SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTED AND SAMPLE SIZE

Data from primary sources

Obtained via surveys using questionnaires with 137 cashew tree producers who have planted cashew trees or received the plants, and interviews using interview guides with 3 managers from SODECOTON, MINADER and GIZ in the Bénoué department.

Data from secondary sources

Collected in physical and digital libraries, in particular the FASA library, the Garoua 3 agricultural delegation office and the supervisor's library. These are mainly scientific articles, study reports, dissertations and theses.



SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

- Purposive sampling
- Snowball sampling

PROCESSING AND ANALYSING THE DATA COLLECTED

- Data from the questionnaire were entered manually before being coded and processed using SPSS and Excel software. Priority was given to descriptive statistics.
- Data from the interview guide were transcribed and analysed using the content analysis and thematic analysis methods.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



Socio-economic characteristics of cashew growers in the target areas

Profile of cashew growers 1/2

Variables	Categories	Percentages	Comments
Type	Men	94.20	Men are more involved in cash crops. Women have little access to land.
	Women	5.80	
Age	20-30	5.80	Men in this age group are landowners
	30-40	21.70	
	40-50	31.90	
	50-60	30.40	
	60 and over	10.10	
Level of education	Not enrolled	4.30	Schools in the area. The fact that they attend school gives them a better understanding of the different cashew tree training courses.
	Primary	37.70	
	Secondary	31.90	
	University	4.30	



Profile of Cashew Growers 2/2

Variables	Categories	Percentages	Comments
Household size	An average of 10 people per household		
Farm labour	Family workforce	82.60	Family and survival farms. Most farms (71.01%) are less than one hectare in size (0.25 hectares).
	Salaried workforce	17.40	
Main activity	Farming	71	
	Agriculture	29	
Membership of a FO	Yes	71.02	GICs, cooperatives and associations. Most of the players involved in cashew dissemination work more with producers belonging to a FO.
	Name	28.98	
Ground access mode	Acquisition (first occupant)	18.80	After the death of a parent and the extension of growing areas
	Inheritance	40.60	
	Buy	40.60	



Actors involved in the extension of cashew cultivation to producers in the Bénoué department and methods used



Actors involved in extension	Methods used	Services offered
MINADER SODECOTON	Advice on technical production itinerary	Raising awareness, training nurserymen, supplying cashew seedlings
GIZ	Training and visits	Raising awareness, training growers and nurserymen, monitoring cultivated lands



Factors influencing the adoption of cashew cultivation by farmers in the Bénoué Department

Categories	Variables	Comments
Economic factors (36.49%)	Increasing producers' income through diversification	Cashew tree by-products (cashew nuts and cashew apples) sold raw or processed into almonds or peanuts, the fruit can be made into juice, wine, whisky and jam.
Social factors (56.95%)	Organoleptic quality and Medicinal properties	Fruit that is pleasant to eat and used by naturopaths to treat certain illnesses
Ecological factors (6.56%)	Providing shade and fertilising the soil	Used for soil protection because cashew trees fix carbon in the soil.



Problems of stakeholders involved in cashew production and extension in the Bénoué Department

- 1. Agro-pastoral conflicts:** these are caused by animal damage to agricultural lands. These conflicts between livestock farmers and producers are mainly the result of poor behaviour on the part of livestock farmers when grazing and watering their animals;
- 2. Difficulties in accessing water and irrigation equipment:** especially for irrigating farm lands during the long periods of drought that occur in these areas.
- 3. Lack of financial resources:** Low financial capacity of producers, lack of subsidies, difficult access to credit.
- 4. Delays in supplying cashew seedlings to growers:** undermines the planting season, affects the value chain and causes growers to lose money.
- 5. Low processing capacity:** Processing is done in the traditional way and this limits added value and opportunities.



Farmers' adaptation strategies implemented to boost cashew nut adoption

1. Organising producers into Farmers' Organisations to pool ideas, share experiences and help each other out in the face of difficulties;
2. Introduction of live hedgerows or construction of traditional thorn fences to limit the destruction of plants by animals;
3. Development of traditional wells for irrigation during periods of drought;
4. Small local nurseries set up by growers to cope with delays in seed supply



• VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS 1/2

1. CONCLUSION

The extension of cashew nut cultivation in the Bénoué department involves a diversity of stakeholders, each of whom contributes according to his or her status and field of intervention. Analysis of the profile of farmers who have adopted cashew nut cultivation, as well as the factors likely to influence the adoption process, has shown that gender and level of education are determining factors, on the one hand, and economic, social and environmental factors have an influence on the cashew nut adoption process, on the other.

Even though these producers face a number of difficulties, the extension and adoption of cashew cultivation is helping to transform the agricultural landscape, given that cashew is increasingly positioning itself as the second cash crop in the Bénoué department.



2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Government

- Support the creation of a multi-stakeholder platform to promote and develop cashew nut cultivation;
- Create a research centre or service to improve awareness of cashew cultivation and access to cashew innovations;
- Strengthen funding mechanisms for initiatives aimed at developing the sector in the long term.

To Service Providers

- Increase the number of training courses and seminars to build producers' capacities on technical production itineraries;
- Improved extension techniques to raise awareness of cashew cultivation.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION!!!

