



Video-Conferencing

14th African Cashew Alliance (ACA) Annual Cashew Conference

Theme:
**Building a Viable Cashew Value Chain to Withstand
Market Disruptions**

9 to 11 September 2020

Statement By
***Mr Harouna KABORE, Hon. Minister of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts of Burkina
Faso***
President of the Consultative International Cashew Council

The Honourable Minister of Food and Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana;

The President of the African Cashew Alliance;

Distinguished Guest Speaker for the 14th African Cashew Alliance Annual Conference;

Director General of the African Cashew Alliance;

Representatives of International Organisations and Institutions;

Cashew Industry Stakeholders;

Experts from the Cashew Industry-Wide Sector;

Distinguished Delegates and Participants;

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It gives me great pleasure to take the floor this Wednesday, 9 September 2020, on behalf of the Consultative International Cashew Council, to address the participants of the 14th African Cashew Alliance Conference, which opens its doors today in a virtual format different from previous editions.

I would first of all like to extend my greetings to my colleague, Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto, Minister of Food and Agriculture of Ghana for his leadership in supporting the conference and for his efforts towards agricultural development in general, and the cashew sector, in particular. I would also like to pay tribute to Mr. Florentino Nanque, President of the African Cashew Alliance for the actions that he and his team are carrying out regarding the major development issues of the cashew industry's private sector in the Alliance's partner countries.

The event that brings us together today, for three days, is of critical importance for the promotion of cashew in that it will allow industry participants from around the world to share experiences, learn from each other, deliberate on measures to enhance the efficiency of the global industry and do business between buyers and sellers of products and services. The 14th Conference which is under the theme "***Building a viable cashew value chain to withstand market disruptions***" further justifies the importance of this year's event insofar as the rules of the cashew market and its consequences on the redistribution of profits generated by the sector remain unfair to certain stakeholders.

Distinguished Guests;

Building a viable value chain is essentially based on taking into account the motivational interests of all stakeholders so that they support each other in the event of market contingencies, such as, for instance, the critical situation observed in the current 2020 season.

This conference is being held against the background of a very difficult time for direct and indirect players involved in the global cashew industry due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic which started at the end of 2019 spread rapidly and intensified at the beginning of 2020 with social and economic consequences on all sectors, including cashew, which is the subject matter of our discussions this week. Thus, in 2020, producers, processing units, traders, exporters and retailers of products and by-products have witnessed a negative impact on their activities and incomes. The threat is still great for countries and stakeholders involved in the cashew industry around the world. This is why the exchanges and discussions throughout this annual meeting would not have overshadowed this situation, which requires short-, medium- and long-term impact mitigation measures.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The African Cashew Alliance is a strategic partner for the Consultative International Cashew Council. It represents an ideal platform for the Organization to capture the motivations, opinions, orientations and recommendations from the private sector for better decision-making for the sustainable promotion of the cashew sector by governments in the Community.

The topics for discussion during these meetings are undoubtedly issues of major interest to which my institution will pay keen attention. Indeed, the CICC is an inter-governmental organisation of cashew producing countries that was established in November 2016 in Abidjan. Its objective is to provide a cashew sector consultative and development promotion framework in the Community through policy coordination and cooperation among member states. With its 11 member countries, the CICC holds about 42% of the world production with, unfortunately, approximately 10% of the share of this production processed in the Community. As you are well aware, this weakness of added value in this

community space stems, among other things, from the weakness of technology and innovation, the not very optimal managerial management of the processing units, the lack of know-how well sustained over time, the low attractiveness of industrial policies to secure private investment and weak market regulation.

Similarly, in this community space, the consumption of cashew products and by-products remains marginal despite their nutritional potential and well-known health benefits. However, despite the small benefits derived from the cashew sector in the CICC countries, it remains a major source of wealth creation opportunities and employment for young people and women in rural areas, in production, processing, trade, and various services.

Honourable Minister,

Distinguished Speakers at this Conference

Dear Participants

It is based on the current context and the opportunities or challenges I have just mentioned that I would like to hope that the exchanges and discussions that will take place over these three days will lay more emphasis on issues of efficiency along cashew value chains for more added value and profits in producing countries. Already, I can assure you that the CICC member states will examine with the greatest attention the conclusions that will emerge from our discussions with a view to capitalizing on them and aligning them with those resulting from the videoconference organized by the institution on July 6, 2020 under the theme **"The Covid-19 pandemic highlights the opportunities, challenges and needs of public supervision in the Cashew Nut Sector"**.

Honourable Minister

Distinguished Speakers;

I cannot conclude my remarks without reiterating my sincere thanks to the ACA and all the technical and financial partners involved in the CICC's community space for all the efforts and initiatives undertaken or to be undertaken for the promotion and development of cashew.

Finally, for each and every one of the participants in this Virtual Conference coming from all horizons and all continents, from the private or the public sector, I wish you an excellent participation in the different working sessions and hope that you will draw on your exceptional and diversified knowledge and expertise to make this meeting a great success.

Long live the partnership between the CICC and ACA

Long live the African Cashew

Thank you for your kind attention.