

2026 ACA Annual Cashew Conference & Expo



**SUSTAINABLE CASHEW NUT
SUPPLY THROUGH POLICY
INVESTMENT
AND
PARTNERSHIP**



Ghana

La Palm Royal Beach Hotel, Accra

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Transforming the Cashew Industry in Tomorrow's Africa

Ouedraogo P. Christian

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Technological developments in cashew processing

The future of cashew processing will involve a combination of Mechanisation, automation, data analytics and improvement of processes.

We are now seeing the emergence of equipment that enables greater automation of operations.

This automation process has seen growth of over 60 per cent between 2020 and 2026.

These systems facilitate processing that is currently around 80 per cent automated and 20 per cent manual.

Machine vision and optical sorting systems can also help to improve the consistency and quality of the kernels.



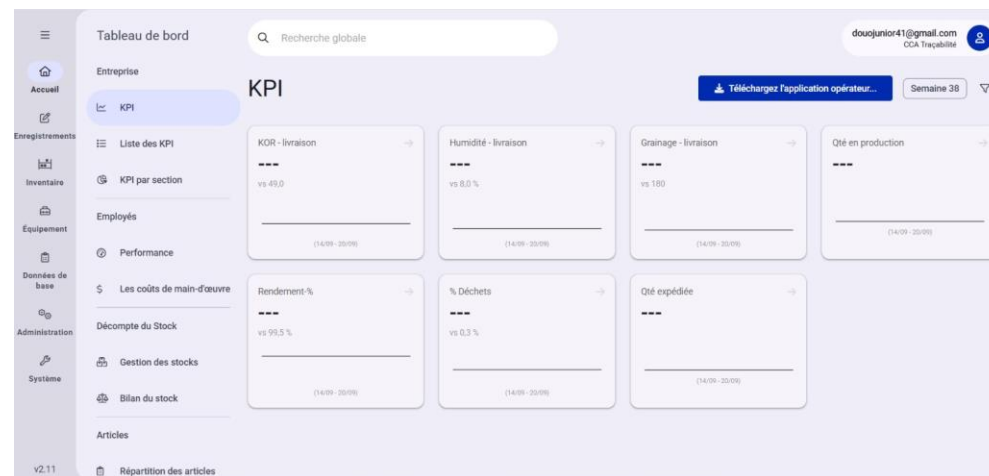
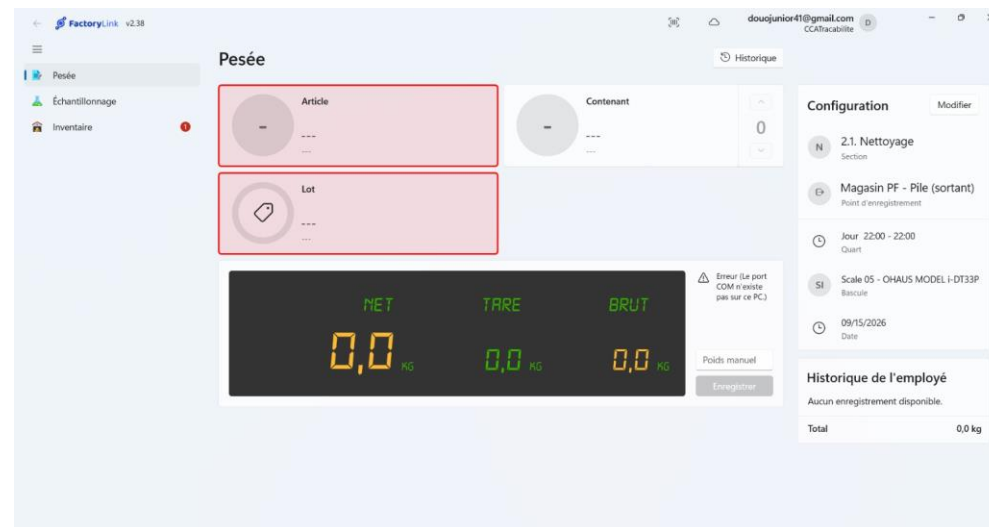
Automation, digitalisation and industrial performance

Digital automation enables, above all, the management of production data. This data should allow managers to monitor the performance of each piece of equipment in real time.

Digital solutions are becoming increasingly important for organisation and management in modern factories.

However, I would like to emphasise one point: automating a poorly organised operation will not result in a well-run factory. Before automating, it is essential to master the processes, train the teams, standardise operations and implement a proper maintenance policy.

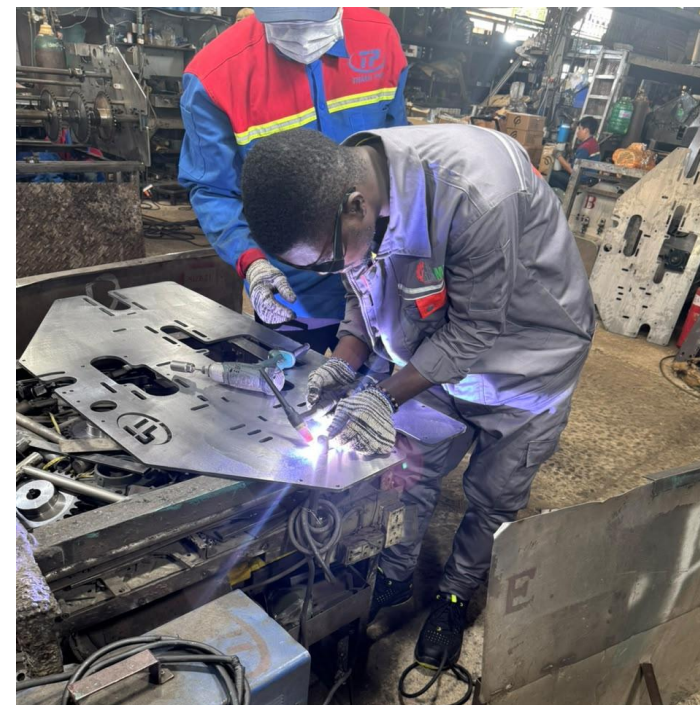
Automation must therefore go hand in hand with the development of human capital.



Human capital at the heart of industrial modernisation

The issue of technology must always be considered alongside that of human skills. We can invest in the most modern equipment, automate our production lines and digitise our factories. But if we do not have young people capable of operating, adjusting, monitoring, diagnosing and maintaining this equipment, we will not be able to fully exploit its potential.

It is therefore essential to include the training of young people in the operation of production equipment within modernisation strategies. Nowadays, the proportion of young people trained in modern factories is relatively low (around 20 per cent).



The main challenges facing the industrialisation of the cashew sector

The first challenge remains that of infrastructure: a stable electricity supply, water, roads, industrial buildings, storage and logistics.

The second challenge is that of technical skills. We can purchase an excellent machine, but if we do not have technicians capable of installing, operating, maintaining and repairing it, its output will remain low.

The third challenge concerns compliance and quality. To gain access to international markets, our products must meet increasingly stringent requirements regarding hygiene, traceability and safety.



A path towards African mastery of technology

We must gradually move away from a model where Africa simply buys equipment towards one where Africa masters the technologies, trains its own technicians, manufactures certain parts, carries out maintenance and develops its own solutions.

The establishment of training centres and companies providing services, the strengthening of collaboration with suppliers, and the integration of trained young people into production and maintenance operations represent opportunities for industrial development in Africa's cashew sector.

This is an opportunity to develop industry, youth employment, engineering, maintenance, digitalisation and the creation of local value.

