

2026 ACA Annual Cashew Conference & Expo



SUSTAINABLE CASHEW SUPPLY THROUGH POLICY, INVESTMENT AND PARTNERSHIP



Ghana

La Palm Royal Beach Hotel, Accra

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Mitigating Pest and Disease in Cashew Cultivation for Sustainable Production: Farmer Capacity Building & Community IPDM

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IMPORTANCE OF FARMER CAPACITY BUILDING

- **IPDM (Integrated Pest and Disease Management)** is a holistic approach that combines various management strategies to keep both pests and diseases below the economic injury level (EIL) while reducing risks to producers, consumers, and the environment.
- **Effective IPDM** relies on the knowledge and skills acquired by the farmer through available information to control pests and diseases on the farm.
- **“A well-trained farmer is the first line of defense against crop pests and diseases.”**

TRAINING FARMERS (WOMEN AND YOUTH) IN PEST SCOUTING AND DISEASE DIAGNOSTICS

- **Regular field scouting to identify insect pests and distinguish them from beneficial insects.**
- **Early recognition of signs and symptoms of diseases on leaves, shoots, roots, inflorescences, nuts, apples, etc., is crucial for proper diagnosis and management.**
- **Training farmers on early insect pest and disease symptom identification enables timely intervention against insect pest and disease damage.**

“Early detection leads to timely action, reduced crop losses, and more sustainable pest and disease management.”

PROMOTION OF FARMER FIELD SCHOOL(FFS) AND DEMONSTRATIONS FOR HANDS-ON IPDM TRAINING

- **Field demonstration for practical exposure to applications of IPDM control measures.**
- **Hands-on training in disease identification and pest scouting.**
- **Demonstration on the use of IPDM control measures (cultural, biological, mechanical, botanical, and chemical).**
- **Field demonstration to compare IPDM and conventional practice.**
- **Encourage farmer-to-farmer learning, knowledge sharing, and collective problem-solving.**

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS FOR SYNCHRONIZED PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL (WOMEN & YOUTH PARTICIPATION)

- **Ensure collective and coordinated IPDM among farmers within the same production area (Pests and pathogens do not respect farm boundaries).**
- **Avoid individual management, especially during community outbreaks of pests and diseases.**
- **Promote pest and disease monitoring among farmers within the community**

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS FOR SYNCHRONIZED PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL (WOMEN & YOUTH PARTICIPATION) CONT..

- **Promote coordinated control activities such as pruning, removal of diseased materials, spraying, etc.**
- **Promote information sharing through extension officers, farmer groups, SMS alerts, and WhatsApp platforms.**
- **Encourage participation of women and youth**

STRENGTHENING EXTENSION SERVICES WITH ICT TOOLS (SMS ALERTS, WHATSAPP ADVISORY GROUPS)

- **Integrate digital tools with conventional extension**
- **SMS alerts for emerging insect pest and disease threats, and weather conditions.**
- **Create advisory groups platform such WhatsApp, etc., for rapid technical support (sharing of photos and videos by farmers).**

STRENGTHENING EXTENSION SERVICES WITH ICT TOOLS (SMS ALERTS, WHATSAPP ADVISORY GROUPS) CONT...

- **Develop short videos and voice messages for practical training.**
- **Facilitate rapid reporting of emerging pest and disease outbreaks to extension personnel.**
- **Strengthen coordination between farmers, extension staff and researchers.**