

2026 ACA Annual Cashew Conference & Expo



SUSTAINABLE CASHEW SUPPLY THROUGH POLICY, INVESTMENT AND PARTNERSHIP



Ghana

La Palm Royal Beach Hotel, Accra

15 - 18 September 2026



GHANA CASHEW POLICY OUTLOOK

A policy pathway towards a productive, competitive, traceable and resilient cashew economy

Hon Andy Osei Okrah (PhD)

Chief Executive Officer- TCDA

Outline of Presentation



Where Ghana stands

The Policy Outlook at a Glance

Policies

Sustainability (Research, Deforestation and inclusion as a mainstream policies)

Ghana's Agenda With African Cashew-producing Countries

Where Ghana Stands

260k MT

2024/25 RCN production

234k ha

Estimated cashew area

250,000

Estimated Cashew farmer population

\$290m

RCN export value

- RCN production for the 2025/2026 season is likely to be lower (around 230k MT) compared to last season because of climate related issues as well as an emerging threat of powdery mildew disease.
- 2030 ambition: at least 400,000 MT RCN, supported by a major planting and productivity drive.
- Current productivity remains at between 615 – 950 kg/ha (0.615-0.95mt/ha) with some areas still recording as low as between 452 – 600 kg/ha(0.452– 0.60 mt/ha), far below the 1.5–2.0 t/ha potential targeted for a transformed sector.
- Ghana has an emerging processing base. About 26 Processing Facilities registered under ACPG. Current Installed Processing Capacity is around 65,000 MT, yet less than 50% is being utilized .
- Current Policy is to connect production, processing, trade, finance, regulations, and sustainability backed by research and inclusivity.

"The Policy Outlook at a Glance"



Produce (Production)

Produce more & enhance quality: Raise productivity, strengthen planting material systems, improve RCN quality and build climate and disease resilience.



Accelerate (Processing)

Capture more value: Accelerate processing, local value addition, market diversification, responsible investment and transparent trade.



Regulate (Enforcement and Traceability)

Strengthen Regulation: Move from registration and licensing alone to, end-to-end compliance, traceability and credible enforcement.

Policy priority 1 — Production (Raise productivity, not just acreage)

Productivity package

- High-yielding and disease-resilient planting material. Targeting 16 million improved seedlings to establish 160,000 hectares of new farms.
- Deploy a modern extension system (AEAs, digital platforms, community advisors)
- Rehabilitation of old/low-yield farms (GAPs, pruning, thinning and top-working)
- Soil fertility and integrated pest management
- Farmer Field Schools + practical extension

Planting material system

- Certified nurseries
- Seed gardens and varietal integrity
- Stronger nursery inspection
- Post-distribution monitoring
- Survival and establishment tracking
- Digital beneficiary/farm records (Use of ArcGIS)

Policy outcome

A shift from just “seedling distribution” to “established productive hectares” ,with measurable survival, yield and farmer-income outcomes.

Achieve a productivity (yield per Ha) of 1.5–2.0 mt/ha and production ambition to reach 400,000k MT by 2030 and beyond.

Policy priority 2 -Strong and Competitive Processing Industry (1/2)



Two new cashew processing plants to be financed under the President's Accelerated Export Development initiative to enhance value addition. (Proposed sites identified Bono and Bono regions and committee to oversee establishment inaugurated)



Enforce **Tree Crops Regulations, 2023 (L.I. 2471) (Regulation 50)** to ensure reliable RCN supply to processors



Support processors through **TCDP structured co-financing schemes**



Provide technical assistance, capital support, and credit risk guarantees

Policy priority 2 -Strong and Competitive Processing Industry (2/2)



Crowd in both **public (proposed tax on RCN)** and **private finance** and build **bankable processing enterprises**



Strengthen structured linkages between **farmers, FBOs, and processors**



Promote **cashew apple utilization** (juice, wine, vinegar, bioethanol, feed, fertilizers). It started with a Regional Cashew apple conference in April 2026 and to be followed by a Cashew Apple fair in March 2027 to promote the consumption of cashew apple product.



Enhance market access through **trade expos, fairs, and targeted promotion**

Policy priority 3. Strengthen Regulation: Orderly, Transparent, and Traceable Trade



Formalize	Formalize the cashew market through registration and licensing of all actors (end-to-end compliance, traceability and credible enforcement.)
Enforce	Enforce end-to-end compliance right from farm to export points as well as enforcing the export permits regime for raw cashew nuts
Require	Require payment of statutory levies before phytosanitary certification
Use	Use digital traceability systems to curb smuggling and improve quality
Regulate	Regulate exports without banning trade
Build	Build investor confidence through a rules-based trading system

Sustainability.

Research, Deforestation and inclusion as a mainstream policies

1. Research, Pest & Disease Surveillance

- Strengthen **research into improved varieties, pest and disease surveillance, early-warning and rapid-response systems** to detect, diagnose, contain and manage emerging threats.

2. Climate Resilience

- Promote **climate-smart production practices**, resilient planting materials, and sustainable soil and water management.

3. Deforestation & Traceability

- Strengthen **farm-level traceability and land-use monitoring** to prevent deforestation and meet emerging sustainability requirements.

4. ESG, Inclusion & Responsible Investment

- Mainstream **women and youth participation, decent work, safe chemical use, grievance mechanisms and responsible investment standards** across the value chain.

Ghana's Agenda With African Cashew- producing Countries



African Cashew Research Network: shared germplasm, agronomy, pest/disease intelligence and regional trials.

Continental cashew biosecurity alert system: rapid notification and coordinated containment of emerging pests and diseases.

Common RCN quality and grading reference: improve transparency and reduce avoidable disputes in regional trade.

Coordinated market intelligence: production forecasts, prices, processing capacity, stocks and export flows.

Joint processing and investment promotion: position Africa as a competitive processing destination, not only an RCN supplier.

Shared sustainability/traceability standards and interoperable digital systems to meet major-market requirements.

Promote regional RCN trade to support cross-border processing.

THE JOURNEY HAS BEGUN WITH A VISIT TO CCAK OF IVC

THANK YOU ...