

Announcement for the 7th Call of the Cashew Matching Grants Fund from 21st June to 5th July 2019

The Cashew Matching Grant Fund

Adopting Good Agricultural Practices results in a better quality of raw cashew nuts; stable, reliable linkages between farmers, processors and buyers is extremely essential for the competitiveness of African cashews. These are the lessons the GIZ/Competitive Cashew initiative (GIZ/ComCashew) and the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) have learned from years of implementing cashew sector interventions.

The ComCashew Matching Fund was launched in September 2012 to leverage contributions from Processors, Farmer Based Organisations (FBOs) and Buyers and/or Retailers, as well as Public Research Institutions, to enable them to implement specific interventions or actions that lead to desirable outcomes for the cashew sector. The GIZ/ComCashew Matching Fund is a unique public private partnership model and the only fund for cashew worldwide.

The Cashew Matching Fund is managed by the GIZ/ComCashew. The current call is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)–. The ComCashew Matching Fund supports activities in either Improved Cashew Planting Material development or Strengthening the Supply Chain of African Cashew. So far, there have been Six Matching Fund calls with Forty five matching grant projects at €15 million; Thirty two Matching Fund Grant projects implemented in the first five calls, have contributed in increasing nut quality and ensuring sustainable growth in production and consequently in promoting sustainability in the cashew supply chain. Thirteen projects approved in the sixth call are currently in the implementation stage.

Through the Fund, over 150,000 cashew farmers have been supported in six countries – Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Kenya, and Mozambique.

Plan for 7th Call

Call for Concepts start from the 21st June, 2019 to 5th July, 2019, followed by review and decision making by the Matching Fund Board by the 17th July, 2019. Successful applicants would receive the go ahead to develop full proposals between the 17th July and the 7th August 2019. Contracting of successful projects will be done thereafter. Project implementation should commence by end of October 2019.

Expected results

This call is being financed by two organisations with expected results as follows:

BMZ and SECO Funding for All Countries

- I. Improved planting material multiplied, distributed and planted by smallholder farmers
- II. Enhanced knowledge transfer to cashew farmers
- III. Strong linkages and ties between processors/buyers and farmers (Effective Business linkages with farmers)
- IV. Improved market access (access to price and production information, etc.)
Improved cashew value/supply chain

- V. Diversification
- VI. Climate smart Agriculture

Additionally, SECO funds the following projects specifically for Ghana

- VII. Fostering of business linkages among cashew actors along the value chain
- VIII. Business models for supply chain linkages,
- IX. Enhancement of cashew processing (nut, apples, shells and other by-products comprised)

Key activities and Lead Funder

| Overall Objective | Beneficiary | Sample activities eligible for match funding | Lead in funding |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Improvement of Quality and Quantity | farmers | Box 1: Input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to nurseries (multiplication), farmer seedling purchase and seedling distribution centers (CDN). • Training of seedling distribution enterprises in environmentally sustainable business operations • Distribution of improved seedlings • Use of 3S traceability system (installation, training and data management) | BMZ & SECO (Ghana Specific) |
| | farmer aggregations/processor | Box 2: Farmer organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of FBO/farmerAggregation • Establishment of new FBO/farmer aggregation | BMZ & SECO (Ghana specific) |
| | farmer aggregations/processor | Box 3: Farming practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on GAP for nuts and apples • Training on establishment of new cashew plantations • Facilitating improvement quality/harvest • Development of training material/good practices • Extension services using media | BMZ & SECO (Ghana specific) |
| | Farmers/ Farmer Aggregations/processor | Box 4: Diversification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of other crops and animals for income generation, through | BMZ |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | improved productivity and quality. E.g. bee-keeping; | & SECO (Ghana specific) |
| | Farmers/ Farmer Aggregations/ processor | Box 5: Climate Smart Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of farming systems that are protective of the environment | BMZ & SECO (Ghana specific) |
| | processor | Box 6: Quality in processing of nuts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of 3S traceability system (installation, training and data management) | SECO (Ghana specific) |
| | processor | Box 7: Entrepreneurial skills in processing of nuts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Assistance for processing Business Development Services Development of entrepreneurial skills | SECO (Ghana specific) |

ComCashew workstream that evolved in SNI:

During the last 5 years, a traceability system was developed under the Sustainable Nut initiative with endorsement of the Competitive Cashew Initiative (GIZ/ComCashew). The system is called 3S and stands for Sustainable Supply System - www.supply3s.com/about-3s It is currently being implemented by front running processors in Africa.

The 3S traceability system is a pre-competitive system that is governed by a separate foundation called the Sustainable Nut Initiative (SNI), in which all participants are represented. It is still closely linked to GIZ/ComCashew.

3S is a secure, online software platform to manage and share product, process and supplier information, from raw material to finished product. 3S helps monitor and manage value chains by linking data from all actors. Benchmarking and impact analysis in the entire supply chain provides essential management information. Depending on agreements among the partners in the chain, information is made available to one another. This type of information is key to steer productivity and to improve quality (see <http://www.supply3s.com/>).

Eligible countries

All activities related to Expected Results I – VI are eligible to applicants operating in all GIZ/ComCashew countries namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Mozambique and Sierra

Leone. Activities related to Expected Result VII - is eligible to applicants operating in Ghana only. Applicants from Ghana therefore can apply through both financiers

| Result | Countries | Funder |
|--|---|---|
| I- Improved planting material multiplied, distributed and planted by smallholder farmers | Benin Burkina Faso Ivory Coast Ghana Mozambique and Sierra Leone | BMZ & SECO (Ghana Specific) |
| II- Enhanced knowledge transfer to cashew farmers | Benin Burkina Faso Ivory Coast Ghana Mozambique and Sierra Leone | BMZ & SECO (Ghana Specific) |
| III- Strong linkages and ties between processors/buyers and farmers (Effective Business linkages with farmers) | Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique and Sierra Leone | BMZ & SECO (Ghana Specific) |
| IV- Improved market access (access to price and production information, etc.) Improved cashew value/supply chain | Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique and Sierra Leone | BMZ & SECO (Ghana Specific) |
| V- Diversification Improved market access (access to price and production information, etc.) Improved cashew value/supply chain | Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique and Sierra Leone | BMZ & SECO (Ghana Specific) |
| VI- Climate Smart Agriculture Diversification | Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique and Sierra Leone | BMZ & SECO (Ghana Specific) |
| VII- Foster business linkages among cashew actors along the value chain | Ghana | SECO – Ghana only |
| I. Enhancement of cashew processing (nut, apples, shells and other by-products comprised) | Ghana | SECO |

Requirements:

- Eligible entities that can partner to apply for the Cashew Matching Grants Fund are:
 - i) Processors for cashew nuts and apples
 - ii) Farmer based organizations
 - iii) Buyers/traders who purchase cashew kernels or apple produced from Africa
 - iv) International kernel retailers
 - v) Private sector foundations
 - vi) Research organizations
 - vii) National extension organisations
- The partnering entities must have existing operations in cashew processing in Africa or in buying/retailing kernels from Africa at the time of their application
- Funding ratio:
 - **For both GIZ and SECO offered grants**
 - Grants with Private Partners:**
 - Maximum matching fund ratio of € 1 public funds (40%=maximum from our side) to
 - € 1.5 private funding (60%) for projects from private partners.
 - Grants with Public Partners**
 - With regards to public institutions, we target a ratio of 50% - 50% contributions from funder and applicant
- Maximum grant to be requested from the matching grant fund for this call is €200.000
- Processors who apply should meet at least AFI standards, and should report on progress moving beyond
- Private companies participating in the Matching Fund need to pay membership to ACA
- Project duration of maximum 12months are planned for this call
- An application for a specific project shall be made by at least two entities if they are both private (e.g. a processor partners with a buyer or retailer)
- Research or national extension agencies can apply alone, and are however also encouraged to work jointly with a private entity.

How to Apply

Please download and complete Application Forms from www.comcashew.org and submit electronically with all attachments to cashewfund@giz.de. In case of any questions please contact us through same email-address.