

## Building a strong cashew foundation with improved planting materials

The use of improved planting materials in the establishment of cashew plantations contributes significantly to increased productivity.

The Fédération Nationale des Producteurs d'Anacarde du Bénin (FENAPAB) together with the Institut National des Recherches Agricoles du Bénin (INRAB) in Benin through the cashew Matching Fund seeks to make available high-quality grafted seedlings by creating a pool of skilled nursery operators and grafters including pools of women grafters to improve women's incomes.

Some of the measures implemented by FENAPAB to achieve their goal include:

- Creating a pool of professional nursery operators and grafters.
- Training of 60 nursery operators and professional grafters in modern grafting techniques and in business management.
- Supporting nursery operators in the development and implementation of 60 business plans towards the expansion and/or creation of nurseries.
- Provision of grafting and nursery management equipment.
- Setting up of scion banks close to 10 nurseries for easy access to high quality scions.

FENAPAB has so far succeeded in organising nursery operators from the grassroots, Coopérative des Pépiniéristes d'Anacardiéristes Greffés (CoPAG), to the national level Fédération Nationale des Pépiniéristes d'Anacardiéristes Certifiés du Bénin (FeNaPAC). This way, nursery operators and grafters can access the resources to improve their activities. Farmers are also assured of high-quality grafted seedlings.

In addition, 69 nursery operators trained and monitored have produced over 1,000,000 rootstocks of which over 400,000 have been grafted and 30,000 polyclonal plants produced.

79 female grafters have also been trained in 16 communities of the project intervention zone to create jobs for women and to increase the quantity of production.



*Cashew nursery Source: FENAPAB*

### Competitive Cashew initiative

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The Competitive Cashew initiative is a private-public partnership project under the implementation of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.



### **A network of expert nursery operators and grafters**

Mr. AKAKPO Goudégnon, a member of the cooperative of nursery operators and a beneficiary of the Matching Fund project, shares with us the impact of the project:

*“We can now tell if someone is truly a nursery operator. With this cooperative that we have set up, we, nursery operators and grafters, now have the legal backing to prohibit anyone from intervening in any way as a nursery worker if they are not qualified to do so. Together with our Board of Directors, we will make available to members lists of trees and/or banks of elite tree grafts to produce quality plant material to be made available to cashew nut producers.*”

Mr. SOUNLIN Ernest, a nursery operator From Atacora-Donga:

*“Thanks to the business plan workshop, I am now aware of the conditions for running a successful nursery business. Moreover, the opportunities that we nursery workers fail to seize I will now be able to seize them with my well-established business plan. For more than 3 years, I have been unsuccessful in finding a loan to expand my business but with the knowledge I have gained this is possible and I will be able to use it wisely in order to make repayments on time.”*

### **The Cashew Matching Fund**

The Cashew Matching Fund was launched in September 2012 to leverage contributions from processors, FBOs and buyers and/or retailers, as well as public research institutions, for the implementation of specific interventions towards the development of the cashew sector in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Mozambique and recently in Sierra Leone. The fund, a unique public private partnership model is the first of its kind and so far, the only such fund in the cashew sector.

**(status: July 2020)**

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