

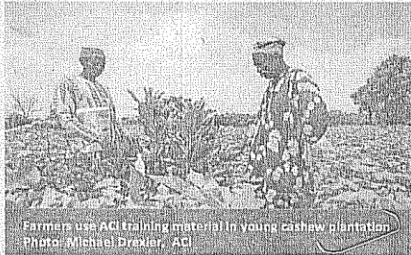


## African Cashew initiative (ACI) Press Release

*For immediate release*  
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### A Master Training Program to promote the African Cashew Value Chain



From 9<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> December, the first session of the Master Training Program takes place at IBA Hotel in Bobo-Dioulasso, the regional capital of Houet Province, situated in the main cashew growing area of Burkina Faso. All together 62 participants from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Sierra-Leone and Togo take part in this unique learning event. The program aims at developing a pool of certified West African cashew experts with in-depth knowledge on the cashew value chain. After completing the seven months training, the cashew experts are able to train farmers, and advice companies, organizations and institutions in their home countries.

#### Linking theoretical knowledge to practical experiences.

The Master Training Program is divided into three successive sessions held in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. During the first session, participants learn about a functioning cashew value chain and market dynamics. A highlight of this session is the cashew factory visit of ANATRANS. The second training deals with the application of good agricultural practices and its implication on the cashew processing industry. The third session covers topics such as supply chain management, finances, investments and business ethics. In between the trainings, participants return to their host institutions/organizations to conduct "homework", either individually or in groups, to deepen knowledge on a selected topic. All training and homework activities consider cross-cutting issues such as gender, policy development, sector regulations and nutrition value.

#### Get to know partners. Share knowledge. Discuss practical experiences.

The African Cashew initiative (ACI) developed an online forum to link all participants of the Master Training Program. "This learning platform is accessible at all times from anywhere, either via mobile phone or the computer. Real time exchange across national borders ensures regional exchange, learning and innovation. It enhances the quality of the training significantly" said Andre Tandjiekpon, Manager of the Master Training Program at ACI. "In the beginning of next year, the online cashew community will be accessible for all actors in the cashew sector. It is a place to discuss

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