

Factsheet final findings Applied Research Fund Call 1



Cashew Nuts for Income Security for the Rural Poor Farmers in Northern Uganda

Summary

Rural people in Northern and Eastern Uganda face food insecurity. Integration of the cashew nut tree as a perennial cash crop seems to be an opportunity to increase farmer income. The 3-year project “Cashew Nuts for Income Security for the Rural Poor Farmers in Northern Uganda” was initiated in 2014. Parties involved came to a common goal to promote the introduction of cashew nuts for income security for the rural poor farmers in North and East Uganda by: 1) increasing overall cashew production in both quantities as well as quality, 2) improving market access for producers; and 3) developing and sustaining transfer of knowledge on cashew production. This approach involved participatory research on the introduction of high yielding and adapted cashew varieties and transfer of knowledge on multiplication and production technologies. The project succeeded in disseminating new cashew varieties among 3.200 producers, resulting in more than 164.000 new trees. A value chain analysis, a base line, a price policy and business models were developed for nursery operators and processing. The government at different levels has shown interest in cashew as a tree to promote. A sourcing system has been developed as a joint venture between a local processor UCPL and Away4Africa, resulting in purchasing 20% of the local production in 2017 sold in local markets.

Research Findings

On the basis of observations of local cashew varieties, production parameters of cashew nuts have been established. An estimated Raw Cashew Nut (RCN) yield of 360 kg/ha (density of 80 trees/ha and yield of 4,5 kg/tree) is currently realized, with a gross margin of 53 USD/ha. New varieties can yield between 8-15 kg/ tree, with gross margins up to 272 USD/ha.

For the production sector, once the total estimated number of cashew trees in Uganda enter into full production, well maintained (with an estimation of 4,5 kg/tree), a total estimated yield of 51 Mtons RCN can be harvested, with a gross revenue of 130 million UGX.

Although the grafting of cashew seedlings was successful, scarce grafting materials and the availability of only one nursery operator provided limitations. Approximately 2,000 seedlings were grafted from old cashew tree varieties. Additionally, selected farmers planted up to 6,000 pre-germinated seeds, resulting in a survival rate of only 45%.

Outcomes achieved

Through the applied research on identification and multiplication of cashew varieties for raising yield of nuts, increase earliness of bearing, and increasing tolerance to pest and diseases, 25 demonstration centres have been established as well as one multiplication centre. The project succeeded in disseminating new cashew varieties among 3.200 producers, resulting in more than 164.000 new trees. At least 4 high yielding varieties have been identified and used for multiplication

The identification of national and international market opportunity showed that there was a high demand from the supermarkets for either the white cashew kernel as well as the roasted cashew kernel. Before the start of the project, supermarkets were supplied by processors from Kenya

and Tanzania which caused for high prices. A procurement organization on raw nut buying has been set up with local agents. A sourcing system has been developed as a joint venture between a local processor UCPL and Away4Africa, resulting in purchasing 20% of the local production in 2017 sold in local markets.

In order to strengthen and sustain the cashew production knowledge in the extension services and in the civil society organizations, a training of partner staff was conducted on cashew production technology, pest and disease control, as well as pre and post-harvest handling. Furthermore, information from field visits compiled data on practices of 3,500 farmers registered this period. The government at different levels has shown interest in cashew as a tree to promote.

Project messages to

A) Actors from private sector:

- The private sector should recognize Ugandan cashews as an economic opportunity in terms of income growth, increased employment opportunities, and as a substitute for imported kernels.

B) Civil society and practitioners organizations:

- Development of the cashew sector in Uganda provides real potential, if it is well organised; as it is in an early stage, this is still possible.

C) Policy makers:

- Interventions in the cashew value chain must be organised in a balanced vision where the policy makers take into consideration cashew development as a priority in Uganda.

Knowledge products

- [Cashew value chain in Uganda: a diagnostic way](#). Presentation. January 2017
- ["Trust in the Cashewnut Tree"](#). Project flyer. 2017
- [Project PowerPoint presentation](#). ARF country workshop Uganda. January 2017
- [Project poster](#). September 2015

Knowledge networks

[Food & Business Knowledge Platform](#)
[Africa Agribusiness Academy](#)
[AgriProFocus](#)

Co-creation

Even though the management of the multi-stakeholder process, in terms of organization of common meetings, common planning, reporting and reflection proved some challenges, the collaboration between the involved private sector partners, NGOs and research partners created a fruitful dynamic in this project. The private sector's focus on market demand was a relatively new dimension for the other partners which, combined with farmers' rationale and interests, as well as the more detailed knowledge about cashew varieties from research, resulting in new insights and colourful debate.

Consortium Partners

- North East Chilli Producers Association Uganda Ltd.
- [Away4Africa B.V.](#)
- Agency for sustainable Rural Transformation (AFSRT)
- [NABUIN Zonal Agricultural Research Development Institute \(NABUIN ZARDI\)](#)

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Project website

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