

Central project evaluation – at a glance

Promotion of the African Cashew Value Chain III (ComCashew)

Country/region/global	Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique, Sierra Leone		
Sector and creditor reporting system code	31162 - Industrial crops/export crops		
Project number	2015.2165.7		
Commissioning party	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development		
Lead executing agency /implementing partner	Benin: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Burkina Faso: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Water Resources, Côte d'Ivoire: Cotton and Cashew Council, Ghana: Ministry of Food and Agriculture; Mozambique: National Cashew Institute; Sierra Leone: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security; Regional partner: African Cashew Alliance		
Project value	EUR 36,190,000 (including cofinancing by Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the European Union (EU) EUR 12,040,000)		
Project term	May 2016 –December 2021		
Reporting year CPE	2021	Sample year CPE	2017

Objectives and implementation of the project

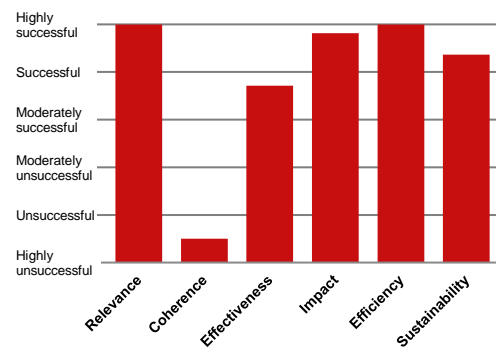
The project's objective was to increase the competitiveness of the cashew value chain in selected African countries. The project facilitated both the training of cashew farmers and research into and the distribution of improved planting material. The aim of both activities was to increase the quality and quantity of farmers' yields. The project also provided technical advice and training to cashew processing companies and their staff, to government institutions and sector associations. Those activities aimed to increase processors' competitiveness and to help governments create an enabling regulatory environment for the cashew value chain.

Key findings

Although the project needs to improve the quality of the Theory of Change, the indicators and the monitoring data, the evaluation team concludes that it performed well against DAC criteria.

- All target groups see the content of the training and support they received as highly relevant to their needs and requirements.
- The results hypotheses of the project were largely confirmed.
- The project has achieved positive developmental results (impact) in terms of the creation of jobs and the generation of income in cashew production and processing. It has also contributed to a reduction in the carbon footprint of cashew nuts through increased in-country processing.

Overall rating: successful
(89/100)



Conclusions

- With advice and technical support from the project, local governments were able to establish cashew departments and develop cashew sector strategies.
- Stakeholders and Farmer Based Organizations are convinced that the training of 700,000 farmers in Good Agricultural Practices has contributed to an increase in yield and income.
- The distribution of improved planting material shows great potential for further upscaling in the future.
- While the national volume of processed cashew has increased tremendously, many processors still struggle with volatile price developments and with access to finance and technology.

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