



International Scientific Colloquium on Cashew (CIESA)

Theme

Agro-ecological intensification of cashew production and processing in Africa

Issues - Scientific and technological achievements - Perspectives

Abidjan, 26 – 28 September 2017

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

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1- Background and justification

The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF / WECARD), brings together the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) from 23 countries in West and Central Africa, and is one of four Sub-regional organizations of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). The latter, mandated by the African Union (AU) for the implementation of Pillar IV of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), has entrusted this task to CORAF / WECARD for the region of West and Central Africa (WCA). Pillar IV, which aims to improve agricultural research and systems to disseminate appropriate new technologies, is also in line with CORAF / WECARD's vision in its Strategic Plan (2007-2016) to respond to the challenges of agricultural Development in the sub region.

In the Second Operational Plan (PO2) (2014-2018) developed for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, non-food crops were considered as a sector that can make a significant contribution to the sustainable improvement of productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural markets in WCA by satisfying the main requests addressed to the research system of the sub-region by the target groups. The crop research program, which is one of the six priority programs of CORAF / WECARD, aims, with the contribution of all actors, to reach the objective of PO2 specifically at the level of cash crops, particularly that of cashew nuts in WCA.

In this regard, a call for proposals for projects following the competitive fund mechanism identified in the code CW / CGS / 06 / PCN / NSC / 01/2012 on improving productivity and competitiveness and access to Priority crops identified by all stakeholders during a validation and priority setting workshop of the Non-Vulnerable Cultures Program was launched in January 2012. Two projects on cashew submitted by several countries were improved by involving a broad category of stakeholders in order to develop a commissioned project for the Cashew Sector on the proposal of the Scientific and Technical Committee of CORAF / WECARD. This work was overseen by the African Cashew initiative /GIZ (ACi / GIZ) now Competitive Cashew Initiative (ComCashew), coordinated by the Regulatory, Monitoring and Development Board of the Cotton and Cashew nuts (Cotton and Cashew Council – CCA of Cote d'Ivoire), on the proposal of ComCashew/ GIZ after a fiduciary evaluation by an independent expert.

The CORAF Cashew project groups five countries in West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Senegal) and involves nearly a dozen research, training and development institutions. It lasts for three years. In Côte d'Ivoire, CORAF provides complementary funding for the research program on cashew nuts implemented by the CNRA and supports the technological research being carried out by the INPHB in order to make processing equipment and technologies available locally. This funding also enabled the INPHB to share with cashew stakeholders of other countries the results obtained on the Pest and Diseases mapping of West Africa - CashewHealth map - under the funding of the Competitive Cashew initiative

(ComCashew) in a workshop organized in Dassa, Benin. For other countries, it takes into account on-going and applied research and development programs.

A workshop to finalize and launch this project was organized by CORAF / WECARD and the CCA in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire from 26 to 30 January 2015. The objective of this workshop was to share the critical information of the project (Performance framework, mode of governance, trust management, methodology, etc.) to ensure its effective and efficient implementation. The recommendations made to various actors were achieved in the organization of a workshop in Dassa, Benin, from 6 to 10 December 2015. The objectives were to present the various projects and research programs under way in the various countries and their levels of Implementation; Identify research issues; Present the difficulties encountered; And above all to create a collaborative framework between researchers. To this end, eight projects under implementation, including seven research projects and one extension project, were presented.

The presentation of these projects showed that Ghana is well advanced in research developing improved cashew planting materials, because it is in the test phase of 11 clones, followed by Benin and Côte d'Ivoire that have ongoing programs and Senegal which is in the start-up stage of a varietal improvement project. At the level of technology transfer and capacity building of producers, Côte d'Ivoire has launched an extensive agricultural advisory program to train cashew producers over the period 2015-2018 and a pest and diseases monitoring system to control the level of severity and spread of diseases and pests in production areas. In addition, Benin is testing formulations and doses of mineral fertilizers to make recommendations to increase the productivity and yield of cashew plantations. In Côte d'Ivoire, several agricultural research and advisory activities were initiated by the CCA, its national financial partner (FIRCA) and other national and international partners to increase yields from 300-500 kg / ha to 1000-5000 kg / ha; They also want to increase value addition of cashew and its by-products, due to a strong involvement National Agricultural Research System (CNRA, universities, ANADER, etc.). In this context, eight researchers were trained to build their cashew capacity at the Naliendele Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) in Mtwara, Tanzania, and participated in the International Cashew Conference Dar-Es-Salaam on 17-18 November 2015. Following this training, the researchers proposed to develop a National Program of Cashew Research called the National Agricultural Research Program (PNRA). The development of the NARP is now at a very advanced stage and is expected to be implemented in the first quarter of 2017.

It appears that many cashew producing countries in West and Central Africa have initiated research for development of cashew, which implies the availability of significant mass of results. However, the effectiveness and the relevance of the work in progress is not fully understood. Moreover, the enormous amount of research results would require pooling together, reflections on implications and knowledge exchange not only through gathering all the information together but also through discussions and exchanges.

At the last scientific exchange workshop held in Bassam from 18 to 22 January 2017 in the framework of the implementation of the activities of the CORAF-funded project to strengthen the capacities of actors in the cashew value chain, the principle of the organization of a scientific exchange or symposium, meeting the standards of the scientific community with the

possibility of publication of the proceedings in international journals and recognized by CAMES was approved.

It is in this context that CCA took the initiative to organize the present International colloquium on the scientific exchange on cashew (CIESA) on the theme: <<**Agro-ecological intensification of cashew production and processing in Africa: Issues - Scientific and technological achievements – Perspectives**>>. The Scientific Component of this symposium scheduled to take place from 26 to 28 September 2017 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire will be led by a Scientific Committee (SC), assisted by a Scientific Secretariat (SS) composed of eight lecturers and researchers.

The communications and publications of relevant research will focus on six sub-themes:

- Sub-theme 1: Genetic Resources Management and Varietal Improvement
- Sub-theme 2: Agronomy
- Sub-theme 3: Crop Protection (Pest and Diseases Management)
- Sub-theme 4: Biotechnology
- Sub-theme 5: Processing, Value Addition and Equipment
- Sub-theme 6: Innovations and technology transfer

2- Objective of the colloquium

The key objective of the CIESA is to contribute to the sharing and dissemination of results of research programs and projects on cashew in AOC and even outside the region in order to facilitate cross-learning and value addition in the scientific community (scientific and socio-economic) as well as increase the relevance and performance of future initiatives. This colloquium will be the occasion to launch the platform of sharing experiences between the actors of the cashew nut sector with the aim of improving the productivity, the processing and the value addition in the various member countries of the network of research and development on the cashew in Africa (REDAA).

Specifically, participants will be expected to:

- Present the results of research on cashew;
- To identify research projects on cashew and its by- products at short, medium and long terms and to explore the possibilities of articulation and pooling at regional and sub-regional level the available results and data;
- Identify the priority activities constituting the outlook for the cashew CORAF project and plan the development of a regional technical offer to seek funding;
- Create synergies and a collaborative framework between researchers from different countries involved in cashew research;
- Adopt the REDAA regulatory texts to designate focal points;
- Set up the foundations for sub-regional cooperation in research, training and development around strategic themes for the cashew sector under REDAA.

3- Expected results

The expected results at the end of the symposium are:

- 1- Completed and ongoing research methodologies on cashew, results and perspectives are synthesized and presented in a structured way;
- 2- Research projects on cashew products and their derivatives in the short, medium and long term are known and described;
- 3- Research and development activities to consolidate and capitalize the achievements of the cashew CORAF project are identified;
- 4- The bases for sub regional collaboration in research, training and development around strategic themes for the cashew channel under the REDAA are established;
- 5- Intra and interdisciplinary networks between researchers and REDAA stakeholders are established and the conditions of their functionality defined;
- 6- The regulatory texts of the REDAA are analyzed and adopted and the focal points are designated.

4- Technical modalities of organization and conduct of the symposium

4.1 – Methodology

The meeting will be organized in the form of structured plenaries, in addition to the opening and closing ceremonies, in three sessions:

1. First session: presentation of scientific papers/communications;
2. Second session: analysis of the outputs of the symposium and adoption of documents;
3. Third session: presentation of the summary report of the workshop;

The opening ceremony will be devoted to opening speeches. It will be moderated by the Regional Coordinator of the cashew CORAF project, the Director-General of the CSF, the Executive Director of FIRCA, the Representative of ComCashew/ GIZ, the Coordinator of PSAC, and the representatives of CORAF and MINADER.

An introductory conference whose theme is to be determined will mark the start of the first session. Communications/papers for each sub-theme will be preceded by a 15-minute presentation by the moderator or a resource person.

4.2 - Provisional program

The Scientific Committee is considering selecting 24 papers/presentations from the (4) each sub-themes. Each successful participant will make an oral presentation of 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes of discussion to make contributions to the methodology and results and seek clarification. On this basis, the provisional program below is adopted.

Day 1: September 26, 2017

Morning

- Opening ceremony
- Introduction of the Conference

Afternoon

- Presentation of papers/publications on sub-theme 1
- Presentation of papers/publications on sub-theme 2

Day 2: September 27, 2017

Morning

- Presentation of papers/publications on sub-theme 3
- Presentation of papers/publications on sub-theme 4

Afternoon

- Communications on sub-theme 5
- Visit of posters
- Communications on sub-theme 6

Day 3: September 28, 2017

Morning

- Presentation of research results of cashew value link actors (producers, processors, traders) and consideration of their expectations.

Afternoon

- Determination of a regional research framework on cashew and cross-cutting themes
- Adoption of REDAA regulations
- Reading and adoption of the general report of the symposium
- Closing ceremony

The colloquium is open to all actors in the cashew sector. Three types of participants are expected:

- The structures and resource persons invited and supported by the organization;
- Individual registered structures and resource persons whose participation has been accepted by the organization;
- Actors in the cashew sector offering scientific communications/papers and publications.

In order to capitalize all skills, scientific and technological achievements in the field of cashew, both at the African level and elsewhere, a call for submission of papers will be launched to actors of the cashew sector at the beginning of March 2017. Thus, potential contributors will be invited to submit to the Scientific Committee an abstract in English or French of not more than **3000 characters** (including spaces) including the problem statement, methodology, main results, conclusion and perspectives.

The abstract will be preceded by the title of the communication, the list of authors and their addresses, followed by five key words.

Registration for the CESA and submission of abstracts will be made on the REDAA website: www.redaa.org.

The authors of the abstracts will be invited to submit a complete manuscript presented following the instructions of the international journal recognized by CAMES, which will be responsible for publishing the communications after their evaluation. In all cases, the manuscripts will be written in single-sided, double-spaced, fonts times new Roman 11, with a margin of 2.5 cm around the printed range. They will have a maximum of 20 pages of text (including the cover page, tables and figures).

Manuscripts submitted in electronic form will be studied by high-level specialists in the fields concerned. The evaluation of the abstracts would take into account as a priority:

- The contribution of the article to the advancement of knowledge in the field concerned and / or the development of one or more levels of the cashew value chain;
- The overall originality of the problem studied and the approach followed;
- The relevance of the methodological approach;
- The consistency of the organization of the text
- The clarity and conciseness of the language.

All manuscripts will be subjected to a plagiarism test before being transmitted to the readers.

6-Publication and communication

The manuscripts selected by the scientific committee of the symposium will be returned to their authors after evaluation of the references for correctness in accordance with the instructions the publication guidelines in order to comply with it in the presentation of the texts.

Important

- By submitting the article, the different authors associated with the selected journal give the authorization, not exclusive, of their diffusion in free access. The author retains his copyright.
- To ensure the originality of the manuscript and the agreement of its publication by the authors' supervisory bodies, the principal author will be asked to sign a sworn statement.

7 –Participants

- CCA (Côte d'Ivoire)
- FIRCA (Côte d'Ivoire)
- ComCashew/GIZ
- MINADER (Côte d'Ivoire)

Researchers of the CORAF project (six countries)

- Researchers of the PNRA (Côte d'Ivoire)
- Agricultural Council structures of the member countries of the CORAF project (Five countries)
- Experienced cashew resource people (Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya, India, Vietnam, Australia, etc.)

The participation of the author or a co-author of each accepted paper will be partially or fully supported by the organization, depending on the context in which the research was conducted and the budgetary requirements.