



EXPORT TRADING CO. LTD

Plot No. 8087, Chinika, Mumbwa Road,
P. O. Box 30090, Lusaka, Zambia.

Tel: +260 974 772 838

Website: www.etgworld.com

CaRE: Cashew nut tree Rejuvenation and Rehabilitation Project in Zambia

- ▶ Primary goal is to improve landscape management and increase environmental, economic and social benefits for targeted rural communities in Western and Eastern Province, Zambia through Nature Positive Intervention: Cashew Nut Tree Crop value chain development
- ▶ Why Cashew? Global cashew production more than doubled between 2000-2018 to meet booming demand.
- ▶ Africa accounted for 52% of global raw cashew nut production in 2018.
- ▶ Only 7% of Africa's raw cashew nuts are processed on the continent.

Key strategies:

- ▶ To introduce cashew tree crop as: forest cover to mitigate environmental degradation; a valuable greenhouse component; and a *bio agent for sustainable agriculture development under climate smart agriculture component*
- ▶ To stimulate long term sustainable economic benefit from cashew value chain development in Zambia
- ▶ The benefits of the crop accrue from fourth year onwards, over the next three decades, Planting Cashew under the inter-cropping system ensures income for farmers while trees mature over the initial 4 years
- ▶ Promoting Intercropping with food security and leguminous crops
- ▶ Creating market linkage for legumes and cereal crops for smallholder farming communities

Environmental Benefits of Cashew Planting

Cashew trees are well known for their:

- ▶ Ideal plantation bridging agriculture and agroforestry
- ▶ Potential to grow and perform well even in less endowed environments
- ▶ Help in controlling soil erosion
- ▶ *Ability to improve soils through conservations (roots 60 cm deep) and regeneration*
- ▶ Contribution to reforestation
- ▶ Reduction of GHG emissions and improving agricultural productivity
- ▶ Planting Cashew trees allow for increased forest cover while providing income to the smallholder farmers and also enhancing the soil quality

Socio- Economic Benefits of Cashew Value Chain Development



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- ▶ Cashew is well known in Cashew nut producing countries amongst smallholder farmers as a poor man's crop, a grey gold, a dollar earner, a hardy tree, a bio agent for soil conservation and Eco-reforestation agent
 - ▶ Contribution to country's economic growth
 - ▶ Contribution to poverty reduction by income generation at household level
 - ▶ Creates employment opportunity for women along various nodes of cashew value chain
 - ▶ Cashew nut and cashew apple has health and nutritional benefits suitable for adults and children
- Cashew is a nutrient-rich source of plant protein and fibre, containing unsaturated fats and important minerals. It is, therefore, a nutritious food and, when processed properly, is free from foodborne diseases and zoonoses.

- ▶ Boosting incomes
- ▶ Over three billion people cannot afford even the cheapest healthy diet which costs 60% more than diets that only have essential nutrients (FAO, 2020). Cashew is an income-earner for coastal smallholder farmers. If they are paid fair market prices for their commodity, they can diversify their diet and avoid malnutrition.
- ▶ A driver against urbanization
- ▶ Boosting cashew production in rural areas works against rural-urban migration (estimated at 68% by 2050*) through the creation of employment along the value chain, thereby managing effects such as proportion of producers to consumers, land take and extra pressure on soil resources.

CaRE: Cashew nut Rejuvenation and Rehabilitation Project in Zambia

- Western Province: Feasibility and project design phase began in 2017 -2018
- 2019 to 2021 implementation in collaboration with AfDB funded CIDP –
- Cashew Infrastructure Development Project 2016-2021
- 2022 on going ETG and EFF continuation of the project under Sustainability Initiative
- Further Expansion of Cashew Value chain in Eastern Province 2020-Ongoing

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project covered 10 cashew hub districts in Western Province of Zambia. In two years (2019 and 2020), as part of project implementation, ETG was contracted to conduct thematic areas of the project which are (i) Sensitization of communities, (ii) Rehabilitation of existing cashew plantations, (iii) Re-establishment of the canopies of existing cashew plantations through top working, (iv) Replanting of bare areas in the existing old cashew plantations and (v) Facilitation of establishment of new plantations.



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On the sensitization of the communities ETG focused on the objectives of the project, how various activities were to be implemented and ultimate benefits. To that regard 1,535 meetings were achieved involving a total of 47, 093 beneficiaries. This is 78.48% achievement out of 60,000 beneficiaries the project had targeted.

Rehabilitation of old cashew plantation was executed through spraying of old cashew trees for control of disease and insect pests. The period to undertake the activity was much more determined by the phenology of cashew trees (Annex I) in Western Province. In total 484,900 trees were sprayed out of which 239,140 were trees planted prior to 2017/18 and 245,760 planted in 2017/18 season, (within the project period) which equates to 2,391.4 Ha and 2,457.6 Ha respectively at a spacing of 10m x 10m. The project target was estimated to rehabilitate 10,000 Ha, however, what was available on the ground is 4,849 Ha which is about 48.49% of the projected target. This short fall can be accounted by the fact that large private plantations were not involved in the implementation due to ownership challenges. The value of the balance 51.51% was realigned to cater for more impactful sectors of the contract which was farmer outreach organization through trainings.

Re-establishment of the canopies of existing cashew plantations through top working. This activity was estimated to involve 2000 Ha of old cashew plantation. However, it was not implemented due to the fact that during tendering it was not budgeted for.

Replanting/gap filling of old cashew plantation 7,000 Ha and establishment of new plantation 43,000 Ha were implemented through production and distribution of cashew seedlings to beneficiaries. In 2 years (2019 and 2020) a total of 5,330,245 seedlings were distributed out of which 4,123,727 and 228,767 seedlings were registered under new plantation and replanting respectively, whereas 977,751 were registered under gap filling. While new plantation has exceeded the project target by 16,764 Ha (38.9%) at a spacing of 12m x 12m; replanting fell short of the project target by 4,712.3 Ha (67.32%) this can be due to nonexistence of estimated plantations owned by small holder farmers and exclusion of abandoned plantations.

Training and sensitization of farmers was conducted in all 10 cashew hub districts reaching out to a total of 47,093 farmers. The training and sensitization meetings were conducted through farmer groups

In Eastern Province of Zambia:

- Cashew Seedling distribution and transplanting was flagged off in the first week of February 2021 with a total of 1,040,289 seedlings being distributed to the farmers and some schools. 15,122.1 hectares were planted in total.



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- EFF also managed to reach out to the Chiefs in the districts where appointments were confirmed and the Chiefs that were visited were sensitized about the cashew intervention. Following the sensitization, 09 Chiefs led by example by planting a total of 26 hectares of cashew.
- In addition to the farming community, EFF also engaged schools through the District Education Board Secretaries (DEBS) across the province on the importance of planting cashew trees on their Production Units/premises. In total, 84 schools received 12,488 seedlings which is equivalent to 181 hectares. The strategy to involve schools was aimed at reaching out to the community, especially youths.
- A total of 13,074 farmers were trained on market-linkage and cashew management, out of which only 42% were women

Way forward for sustainability and expansion of cashew value chain

Creating Enabling Environment:

Working to build stronger Public Private partnership

Government should consider scaling-up and continuously investing in sustaining the cashew value chain for the next 7-10 years

Better Public Policies:

- to support private sector investment
- Policies related to growth of cashew chain that increase participation from women and youth; better policy that enable private investments
- Sustained capacity building and knowledge transfer interventions to ensure successful survival of cashew trees

ETG Sustainability in collaboration with Empowering Farmers Foundation are working with the farming communities, government ministries, traditional leadership, school systems and research institutions To ensure effective growth and optimum environmental and socio-economic benefits to all the value chain actors.