

Building Stronger Roots: Cultivating Prosperity in the Cashew Sector



In many parts of Nigeria, cashew farming is a way of life. But for a long time, farmers faced hard times. Their cashew trees were not producing well. They didn't know the right way to prune, manage pests, or even how to dry and store their nuts properly. Because of this, their harvests were small, and the little they got often spoiled before they could sell it.

That all started to change when MOVE-ComCashew and its partners, including the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), the Federal and State Ministries of Agriculture, and the Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC), started a cashew technical training program. The goal was simple: to help cashew farmers learn better ways to grow and take care of their trees.

Over four days in different sessions, farmers across many states were trained on the different topics ranging from production to value addition. They learned how to prepare nurseries, graft cashew seedlings, manage pests and harvest and store their nuts the right way. Everything was hands-on. Farmers were shown exactly what to do, and they practiced it too.

Overview of the 6 Training Blocks:

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| <p>1 Program Orientation & Adult Training</p> <p>Program Overview (expectations, concerns, agreements) Adult Training Principles (training design, attitude, facilitation skills)</p> | <p>2 Cashew Value Chain & Market Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cashew Market and Value Chain Concept Sector Organisation (Overview & Analysis) Marketing, Consumption, and Nutrition Gender Transformative Action (GTA) in Cashew VC |
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| <p>3 Cashew Plantation Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved Planting Materials & Development Nursery Management New Plantation Establishment & Management Pests and Diseases Management | <p>4 Field Practicals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field Trips (nurseries, plantations, processing units) Hands-on Learning (field observation, technical demonstrations) |
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| <p>5 Post Harvest, Processing & Value Addition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvest and Postharvest Management & Warehousing Food Safety & Quality Standards in Processing Processing Operations Machine selection, operation, and maintenance Processing economics Cashew Apple Processing (Practical) Cashew Processing & Value Addition (nuts, apples, shells) | <p>6 Certification, Evaluation & Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certification Schemes for Cashew KOR Evaluation (Practical) Experience Sharing & Take-home Messages Evaluation & Closure Steps |
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168 lead farmers empower 7,000 others through MOVE- ComCashew Initiative



From Training to Transformation

The training didn't stop with just a few people. MOVE-ComCashew has trained 168 lead farmers and processors since 2024, who then helped more than 7,000 others in over 40 communities. Demonstration farms were also set up as learning plots where others could come and see the new methods in action. For instance, 30 young cashew farmers and nursery managers from Oyo state were trained in grafting which helped reform their operations. They now produce high-yielding, disease-resistant varieties, leading to healthier trees and higher-quality nuts.

Qosim Babatunde Omoyegbe, a farmer from Iwo, Osun State, used to call his farm "cursed" because of how poor the harvest was.

“After the training, I started pruning my trees and controlling the pests. The nuts became bigger, and my harvest doubled, sometimes even tripled!”

Dr. (Mrs.) Odekunbi Adeola Olanike from Ogbomoso, Oyo State, faced another problem; most of her cashews would spoil before she could sell them.

“I didn't know how to dry or store them properly. But after learning about drying mats, sorting, and storage, I can keep my nuts fresh. Buyers now pay me more because the quality is better.”



These farmers' stories show that with the right support, things can change. The MOVE-ComCashew project is helping people help themselves. By teaching skills and building confidence, we are creating real and lasting change.

Today, farmers like Baba Qosim, and Adeola are no longer stuck in the same struggles. They are growing better cashew, earning more money, and looking forward to brighter futures.

This is just the beginning. With more support from the government, better tools, and continued training, even more farmers can benefit. Cashew is not just a tree it's a path to prosperity.

