

Connecting Links: Innovation and Partnerships for Nigeria's Farming Future

“The sense of community I felt encouraged me to start a WhatsApp group of cashew farmers in my LGA to share knowledge regularly.”

~ Ngozi Okafor (Enugu State)

Africa is the world's leading cashew producer, supplying around 60% of the global demand for nuts. West Africa alone contributes roughly 80% of this share. In Nigeria, Cashew, which was first introduced for afforestation purposes, has become a major cash crop over the past three decades. Today the country ranks among the top ten producers, with an annual production of around 300,000 metric tons (MT). Nevertheless, since 2022, there has been a consistent decline in the production volume of raw cashew nuts (RCN).

One of the main reasons for this decline is the gap between agricultural research and farming practices, which limit productivity. Although Nigerian and regional research institutions have generated valuable knowledge and recommendations, most informations do not reach farmers. As a result, innovations often fail to translate into real impact on the ground. This is a common challenge in many countries. For instance, the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) has developed early-maturing, high-yielding cashew varieties. These varieties can increase yield and reduce the time for commercial harvest from 5–7 years to 3–4 years. However, the uptake among smallholder farmers remains low due to limited awareness.

Where Science Meets Farm: Linking Knowledge, Policy, and Practice

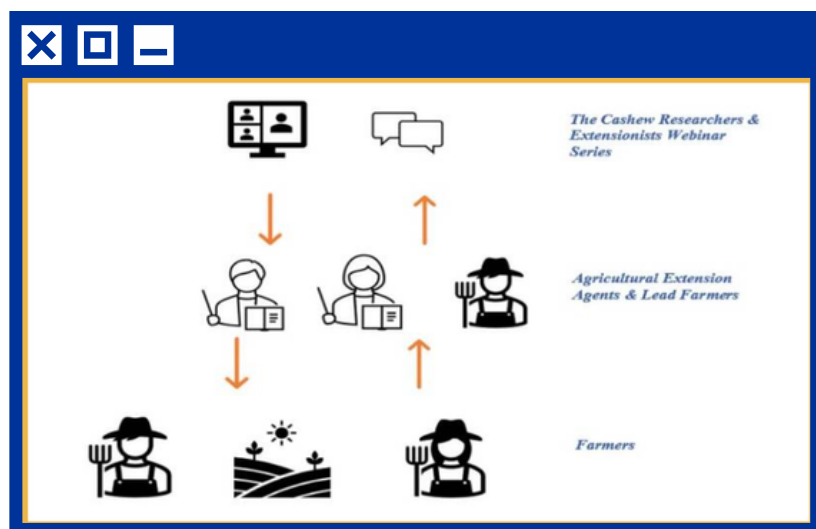
To bridge the gap between research and action, collaboration between researchers, policymakers, and farmers is essential for achieving climate resilience, sector growth, and inclusive agricultural transformation. In its quest to translate scientific findings into real-world impact boosting yields and improving farmer incomes, the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (GRIN) in collaboration with MOVE-ComCashew have introduced initiatives such as the Cashew Researchers & Extensionists Webinar Series.



The Cashew Researchers & Extensionists Webinar Series allows actors related to cashew across Africa to share research generated knowledge, exchange technologies, and collaborate on research projects. Additional to the presentation of scientific research findings, the platform allows agricultural extension agents to share field observations, feedback from the application of new technologies, and production-related challenges.

Over **70 participants** in the Nigeria Cashew Researchers & Extensionist Webinar Series

The Webinar Series features quarterly, with two-hour sessions designed to be fully participatory with an average of 70 participants per event. Experts and resource persons for the webinars are drawn from Cashew Research Institute, Nigeria (CRIN), other Nigerian research institutions, and the network of cashew research scientists in International Consultative Cashew Council's Scientific Commission. As a digital meeting, it offers the advantages of cost-effectiveness, convenience and broader participation opportunities for all stakeholders.



Inspired by the presentations, I approached a microfinance bank for support. I am currently processing a loan to scale up my cashew wine business.

~ Bukola Adeyemi (Oyo State)

OUR SPEAKERS

Dr. Patrick O. Adebola
Executive Director,
Cocoa Research
Institute of Nigeria
(CRIN)
Host

Dr. Olayinka Jayeola
Director, Value Addition
Research
Cocoa Research Institute of
Nigeria (CRIN)
Topic: Cashew Apple
Utilization and
Processing: Market
creation and investment
opportunities

Mr. Daniel Gemana
MD Vertex Agro
Limited
Topic: Kernel Processing
and its Economics.

The Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria present the: NIGERIA CASHEW RESEARCHERS & EXTENSIONIST WEBINAR SERIES II

Webinar facilitator
Dr. Dele Adeniyi
Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria

28th May, 2025
10 am WAT Time

Virtual meeting

The detailed breakdown of kernel processing helped me redesign my sorting line. I now get more whole kernels instead of broken ones.

~ Kolawole Adebayo (Osun State)

Although still in its infancy, initiatives like Nigeria's Cashew Researchers and Extensionists Webinar Series hold strong potential as a replicable model for driving sector transformation through knowledge sharing. It fosters collaboration between researchers, extension agents, and farmers, and has the capacity to create the necessary foundational knowledge for a better performance of production. The knowledge and best practices shared in the webinars, from climate-smart techniques to improved planting materials are the very tools being adopted in the field.

