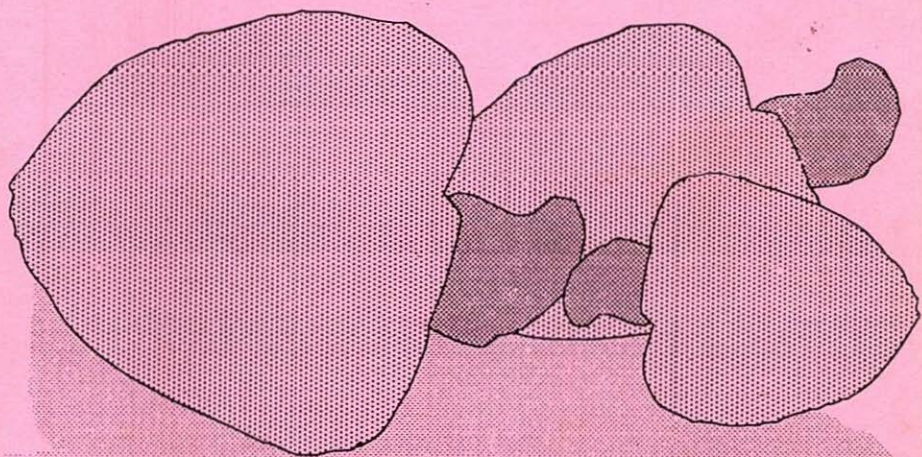




PRODUCTION OF CASHEW



EXTENSION GUIDE

23

GUIDE ON
CASHEW PRODUCTION
IN NIGERIA

Introduction

Cashew is one of the crops selected for the National Accelerated Industrial Crop Production Programme (NAICPP). The NAICPP is a Federal Government's programme designed to boost the production of industrial and cash crops in the country. Cashew is a food crop; cashew is a cash crop and an industrial crop. This *Guide* is prepared to enable you grow the tree crop successfully and profitably.

Uses:

Cashew is a multipurpose crop. It contains minerals and vitamins such as vitamin C, riboflavin and sugar. The apple is consumed directly as fruit or processed into various drinks. The nuts are roasted and eaten as desert; and used in confectionery and bakery goods.

The nuts can also be made into butter, cooking oil while the husk is used as livestock feeds. Both the apple and the extract from the back of the tree are used for treating stomach and uterine disorder and for other various medicinal purposes. The cashew nut shell liquid (CNSL) is used as wood and fabric preservations in the manufacture of paints plastic, printing ink, water proof compounds and synthetic resins.

Site Selection

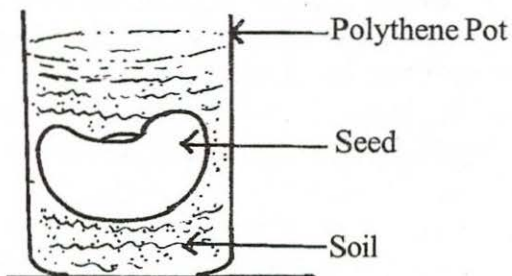
Cashew will grow in soils that are unsuitable for some other crops including sandy or hilly land and poor lateritic soils. It should not be grown in heavy clay and ill-drained soils. Cashew will produce well in area where rainfall is as low as 400mm to as high as 1,200mm per annum.

Planting Materials

- a. **Source of seed:** - Viable and high yielding seed can be obtained from Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria, Ibadan and its substations throughout the country (see Appendix 1).
- b. **Seedlings** - Seedlings can be obtained from Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria and other Agencies indicated in Appendix 1.

Planting Methods

- a. **Direct Sowing:** Plant viable seeds at beginning of the rain. Viable seeds are selected by floatation method, where seeds are soaked in water and the non-viable floated seeds are discarded. The seed should lie with the convex side towards the bottom and 5cm below the surface, as shown in the Diagram.



Planting Position

Cashew seeds germinate in two weeks and if after four weeks some do not sprout, these should be replanted with fresh seeds.

- b. **Nursery Practices:** Make a seed bed and plant seeds at 30cm x 30cm apart between November and February. Apply mulch and

ensure that the bed is watered regularly. You can also plant in a special polythene bag around November/February and transplant between April and August. The polythene bags can be obtained from CRIN Ibadan or any state ADP.

FIELD ESTABLISHMENT

Prepare your field well before transplanting the seedling from the nursery. After field preparation, hole at 60 x 60 x 60cm. Spacing for low canopy type should be 6.2 x 6.2m while for dense canopy should be 9 x 9m. Transplant vigorous seedling at the age of 3 to 4 months. Transplanting should be done early in the morning or late in the evening to avoid "transplanting shock".

a. Intercropping

Intercrop your cashew with other food crops like, cassava, cocoayam, and yam. Intercropping enables you to gain additional income before canopy closure of the crop, promote efficient use of land and suppresses weeds in the plantation.

b. Fertilizer application

Cashew can grow with little or no fertilizer. For optimum production apply 500g Urea, 1,200g single super phosphate and 200g muriate of Potash per tree per annum.

c. Pruning

This should be done routinely to discourage low spreading branches and canopy. This should be done at least once a year.

d. Weed, Pest and Disease Control

Weed control and farm hygiene will help to reduce any build-up of pests and diseases.

i. Pests control

Common pests of cashew include Stem girdler, fruit scraper, rodents and large animals.

Control measures include spraying of the trunk and branches with Rogor or Basudin 60EC at the rate of 30ml or 20mls per 4.2 litres of water respectively. For rodents and large animals, spraying should start right away in the nursery and in the plantation with insecticide mentioned above. In addition, local trap could be used to trap rodents.

ii. Disease Control:

Common diseases of cashew include inflorescence blight disease, leaf spot and cashew nut and apple rots.

Application or combination of Benlate and Rogor at the rate of 1.5gm/1 and 1.0gm a.i.1/ha. before full bloom will give good control. Prompt harvesting will also reduce the incidence of diseases.

iii. Weed Control:

Weeding is crucial most especially at the early stage of the crop. Poor weed control can lead to loss of seedlings stand. About 5 to 7 slashes are required per year to keep the weeds under check. Paraquat at a rate of 0.56 to 0.60kg a.i. 1/ha. (about 300ml/20 litres of water) can also be used to control

weed in cashew. Intercropping also reduce weed.

e. **Harvesting**

Cashew trees will begin to produce fruits in the fourth year. To harvest for the nuts, make sure the ground below the trees is well slashed so that it will be easy to pick. Allow the fruits to drop from the trees and gather them from the ground. Remove the "apple" (the fleshy juicy part) from the seed or nut. Take the nuts and spread them out in the sun to dry. This takes three or four days. Test for dryness by shaking the nuts in the hands. Well dried ones will make a sharp rattle noise and a dull rattling noise indicates the need for further drying. The nuts are ready for sale when they are well dried. For apple, harvest at ripened stage to avoid sour taste.

Appendix I: Agencies For Seedling Production And Distribution

| STATE | AGENCY | TOWN |
|---------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Oyo | Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) | Ibadan |
| Benue | Efugo Nigerian Limited | Makurdi |
| Anambra | Small holder Management Units (SMU) | Awka |
| Abia | Small holder Management Units (SMU) | Umuahia |
| Edo | Tree Crops Unit (TCU) | Benin |
| Enugu | Small holder Management (SMU) | Enugu |
| Imo | Small holder Management (SMU) | Owerri |
| F.C.T. | ADP | Gwagwalada |
| Ogun | Cocoa Development Units (CDU) | Abeokuta |
| Ondo | Tree Crops Units (TCU) | Akure |
| Osun | Tree Crops Units (TCU) | Osogbo |
| Oyo | Cocoa Development Units (CDU) | Ibadan |
| Lagos | MACRD, | Lagos |
| Taraba | Min. of Agric. and Natural Resources MANR | Jalingo |
| Kogi | CRIN Sub-station | Ochaja |
| Adamawa | - do - | Kusuku on the Mambila Plateau. |

Note: Farmers are advised to go to the Ministry of Agriculture or the Forestry Department of their States to obtain their seedlings -where there is no Agency around to provide them with seedlings.

Yield:

Yield of cashew nut is about 1.5 tonnes per hectare which is estimated at naira value of thirty thousand naira (30,000). Each tree can yield up to N245 per annum of nuts.

Marketing and Processing Factories:

Cashew apples are either marketed raw or processed and canned into various drinks. There are at present five popular cashew processing factories that buy cashew nuts. Information about these factories are contained in Table 2.

Table 2: Names of cashew processing factories and capacity in Nigeria.

1. Premier Cashew Processing Ltd.,
Akama, Ogbe, Enugu State.
Capacity: 1500 Tonne/Annum
2. Cashew Nut Processing Industries Ltd.,
Eleyele, Ibadan.
Capacity: 800 Tonne/Annum
3. Reliance Factory Ltd., Agege, Lagos.
Capacity: 750 Tonne/Annum
4. Asafra International (Nig) Ltd., Owerri, Imo State.
Capacity: 1000 Tonne/Annum
5. JOF Ideal Family Farm Ltd.,
Plots 6 & 8 Light Independent Estate,
Owo - Ondo State.
Capacity: 750 Tonne/Annum.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS

- * SELECT SUITABLE SITE
- * SELECT GOOD SEED
- * RAISE YOUR NURSERY OR BUY SEEDLING FROM REPUTABLE AGENCIES
- * PREPARE YOUR FIELD WELL
- * TRANSPLANT EARLY IN THE MORNING OR LATE IN THE EVENING
- * PRUNE, CONTROL WEED, PEST AND DISEASES
- * HARVEST PROMPTLY.