



Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)

Cashew Policy Implementation Plan (CPIP)

2019 - 2023

Cashew Policy Implementation Plan

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Ministry of Agriculture
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Acronym

Acronym	Description
ABC	Agricultural Business Centre
BAFS	Boosting Agriculture and Food Security
COOPI	Corprazione Internationale
CPIP	Cashew Policy Implementation Plan
ComCashew	Competitive Cashew Initiative
EU	European Union
FBO	Farmer Base Organisation
GIZ	German Cooperaton (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MTI	Ministry of Trades and Industry
NAT 2023	National Agriculture Transformation Plan 2023
NSADP	National Sustainable Agricultural Development plan
SLARI	Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute
SLeCAD	Sierra Leone Chamber of Agri-business Development
SLCCIA	Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture
SLPMB	Sierra Leone Produce Monitoring Board
SLPMC	Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company

1. Introduction

The present Cashew Policy Implementation Plan (CPIP) is based on the Cashew Policy for the Republic of Sierra Leone, elaborated in 2018. The Cashew Policy provides a strategic framework for the sustainable development of the cashew value chain in Sierra Leone, a promising but still under-exploited non-traditional tree crop in the country.

The Policy document provides an analysis of the cashew sector and presents the opportunities the value chain offers for the population of Sierra Leone. Nevertheless, numerous challenges are faced by the actors involved, such as weak organization and capacities of actors, insufficient access to finance, unavailability of improved planting material and inputs, risks related to land rights and climate change, absence of cashew related research and an overall unstructured value chain.

In order to address those challenges and to provide a framework for the promotion of the cashew sector in Sierra Leone, the cashew policy document presents a set of policy guidelines, focusing on Production, Research, Value addition, trade, access to finance, sector organization and cross-cutting issues.

The above-mentioned cashew policy has been elaborated on demand of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF), by the EU Boosting Agriculture and Food Security (BAFS) Programme with support of the GIZ Competitive Cashew Initiative. In June 2018 the document has been validated by a representative stakeholder committee and the central recommendation to MAF was to integrate the policy recommendations to the national agricultural policy and to elaborate an implementation plan. In this regards, present policy implementation plan can be understood as a continuation, a next step to operationalize the policy recommendations.

The Sierra Leone Cashew value chain policy and its implementation plan contribute to achieve the vision of MAF to ***“Make agriculture the ‘engine’ for socio-economic growth and development through commercial agriculture”***, which has been translated into the “National Sustainable Agriculture Development Plan 2010-2030” and the “National Agriculture Transformation Plan 2023” (NAT 2023). Promoting a sustainable cashew sector in Sierra Leone is one important step to achieve this vision for the country.

In this vain, the CPIP follows the structure of the Cashew Policy and presents a set of activities, a calendar of implementation, a propose budget, a communication plan and a monitoring and evaluation framework.

The Implementation plan has been elaborated with support of international development partners, such as the European Union (EU) and the German Cooperation (GIZ) and is in line with their support to the development of the cashew value chain in Sierra Leone.

The CPIP reaffirms the government commitment to promote a sustainable cashew value chain in Sierra Leone, under the lead of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Its implementation will be ensured by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, in close collaboration with other identified line Ministries and all stakeholders of the cashew value chain. Emphasis will be put on private actors and researchers, who are key for the successful implementation of the activities.

2. Background and rationale

2.1. Principles underpinning the Cashew Policy Implementation Plan

The CPIP has been elaborated in an inclusive and participatory process. The technical work has been led by a consultant (Aisie-nana Victoria Williams) of the BAFS project and with support of the GIZ ComCashew Initiative. Stakeholder consultations with public and private actors involved in the cashew value chain have been organized to define jointly the key activities and milestones for the implementation of the policy. These actors include MAF, MAF District Teams, cashew producers, processors, buying agents, traders, representatives of the cashew commodity association, Agricultural parliamentary chairpersons at district level, Paramount Chiefs, Town Chiefs, Council Administrators, Produce monitoring Board(PMB), Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company (SLPMC), Master Farmers, Private sector Companies, Women Representatives, Forth Estate, International development partners and Civil Society representatives.

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) commits to leadership and ownership of the cashew policy and the present implementation plan. Therefore the Tree Crops Division on national and on district level will include cashew in its mandate. A dedicated cashew desk within the tree crops division will coordinate all activities. This is particularly the case for all activities falling in the production segment of the value chain. Meanwhile, in other segments of the value chain, such as processing, value addition, commercialization and trade, Ministry of Trade and Industry and its subordinated agencies, play a crucial role in the implementation. Therefore, MAF will seek close collaboration with such public actors. In implementing the activities defined by CPIP, MAF will promote, support and empower private sector actors. The success of the policy implementation will be a shared success. Development Partner, such as the European Union, the German Cooperation or COOPI Cooperazione Internazionale who are already active in the cashew value chain, but also other potential development partners in the country are involved in the implementation by supporting MAF in its activities.

MAF and all the stakeholders in the cashew value chain will provide timely and disaggregated information on the advancement of the implementation. Attached to this implementation plan is a communication plan that will enable MAF its partners to ensure clear communication channels and will help to collect data, collate and record all internal and external activities, projects and programs in the cashew sector.

The cashew policy document has described the overall long-term orientation for a sustainable development of the cashew sector in Sierra Leone. The present implementation plan translates these orientations into activities and milestones to be achieved in the next four years. This duration, from 2019 to 2023, has been chosen in order to align the policy to the National Agricultural Transformation Plan – NAT2023, launched in March 2019. The policy and its implementation plan is designed on a national level and will be translated in the local legislation and therefore reflect in bylaws at district level. This will ensure its direct implementation in the targeted cashew growing areas. Local authorities will be familiar with the policy guidelines and the implementation targets and ensure its enforcement.

Reporting in the cashew sector promotes transparency and ensures that the policy implementation is inclusive at all level of the cashew value chain. Reporting will be done quarterly and on annual basis, according to the different activity lines identified.

There will be a comprehensive review of the Cashew Policy after the first four years of its implementation. This will be preceded by yearly review. It is no doubt that the Monitoring and Evaluation will be necessary to track all cashew and cashew related projects, contribute majorly in decision making of future cashew projects/programs in the country. The M&E System should be designed in such a way that it creates synergies in other existing database

systems from Research Institutions, Universities, Private sector, Civil societies, MAF and other partners already have other monitoring mechanism which will continue to monitor progress under the cashew policy implementation. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will have the primary responsibility for implementing the M&E Strategy with Line ministries and other stakeholders in the cashew sector.

2.2. Public and private actors involved in the implementation

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

The cashew policy has been elaborated for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry who will be the political lead in the implementation. The Ministry has developed a National Sustainable Agricultural Development plan (NSADP) for the period 2010 to 2030 and is charged with the specific mandate to formulate agricultural policies and promote selected crops and value chains, in order to achieve the vision of the NSADP. This includes traditional tree crops, such as coffee and cocoa and cashew has been identified recently as a potential crop to boost the agricultural sector of the country. The CPIP is in line with this National Plan and reflects the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone to promote a sustainable agricultural sector. The implementation of the policy will be realized under the lead of MAF, as cashew has been identified as one of the target crops of the Ministry. The Tree Crops Division on national and on district level will include cashew in its mandate.

Together with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, MAF will collaborate and advocate for Sierra Leone to join the new international governmental platform, the Consultative International Cashew Council (CICC).

Ministry of Trades and Industry (MTI)

The Ministry of Trade and Industry will play a role in the promotion of value addition, cashew processing and trade promotion. The Ministry will work in close collaboration with MAF and facilitate public and private partnerships on the cashew value. Two subordinated agencies of MTI will play a key role in this support: The Produce Monitoring Board and the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau.

- Sierra Leone Produce Monitoring Board

The Produce Monitoring Board will provide and facilitate Cashew Export Licenses and Business Operational License. PMB will address issues relating to quality standards for cashew produce and will work with the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau in order to be effective and efficient in following the established codes set by the Standards Bureau. Produce Monitoring Board will provide regular seasonal pricing of the International market to both the public and private sector (private sector buyers/Exporters, Farmers, Buying Agents, Govt). Produce Monitoring Board Produce inspectors will work in close collaboration with MAF and Customs at the Koindu, Yenga and Kambia borders to ensure that there is no illegal trading of cashew in those areas. PMB ensures that a Cashew exporter meets the export requirements for export or trade in the cashew sector

- Sierra Leone Standards Bureau

The Standards Bureau establishes codes and standards for all agricultural produce including cashew, and provides testing and certification of all agricultural produce including cashew products that are both processed and unprocessed. More so the Standards Bureau in collaboration with the Produce Monitoring Board and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, provides trainings for staff of partners institutions, on Quality control, Certification, and export quality requirement. The Standards Bureau ensures that the

standard codes and regulations relating to food safety and hygiene are enforced by the Produce Monitoring Board and MAF.

Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institution (SLARI)

Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI) is the sole government agricultural research and agricultural technology generating body, for the benefit of the farming, fishing and forestry sectors in Sierra Leone. SLARI will build knowledge and conduct research on improved cashew varieties, reproduction and distribution of improved planting material, unproductive orchards rehabilitation techniques, and climate smart agriculture practices in Sierra Leone. Thus the institute will develop a national cashew plan supported by the Boosting Agriculture and Food Security (BAFS) project and integrate cashew research and development network in Africa-REDAA .

Private Sector

Private actors, such as farmers, processors, traders, exporters, investors and financial institutions are the main actors targeted by the policy. In collaboration with MAF they will build and strengthen their capacities in terms of cashew production and value addition. The policy will encourage private sector investment and facilitate access to finance for all actors in the value chain. Private actors will contribute to data collection, by providing the necessary information. Farmer Organizations and Cashew Commodity Associations will be empowered to play an active role in representing the interest of cashew producers and strengthen the supply chain linkages to national and international processors and buyers. The involvement of private sectors in all activities is key to ensure sustainable economic growth of the sector.

Development Partners

International Development Partner are supporting the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in its vision to *“Make agriculture the ‘engine’ for socio-economic growth and development through commercial agriculture”* in Sierra Leone. This support is aligned to bilateral arrangements with the Government of Sierra Leone. Interventions and nature of development partners are multiple and their interest in the cashew sector is recently increasing. The present CPIP has been elaborated with strong support of the EU Boosting Agriculture and Food Security Project (BAFS). The BAFS project is a follow up of the Agriculture for Development (A4D) and ProAct 2015 projects funded by the European Union and is being implemented for 4 years (2017 -2021), by the German Cooperation and WARC (West African Rice Company), and it is committed to support selected areas of the implementation of the policy. In addition to that, other development partners, such as GIZ ComCashew and COOPI are already implementing activities targeting the cashew value chain that are in line with the present cashew policy and reflect in the implementation plan. Furthermore, the CPIP will guide potential interventions and support of other development partner. This support can be realized in form of financial support, technical assistance, direct implementation or co-funding of activities, capacity strengthening and development and many more. Therefore under the coordination of MAF, the formalization of a cashew development partner group will be realized for intensification of information exchange between different projects and activities, where possible joint implementation of activities.

2.3 Potential constraints in the implementation

In order to implement the following plan successfully a strong commitment and ownership by MAF is necessary. Therefore, the Ministry needs to focus on the defined priorities and contribute to its implementation. This demands a strong political will. In this regards a first constraint could be a insufficient commitment or a changing political

priority in the next four years. In order to reduce this risk, the policy needs to be presented to cabinet and translated into a national policy priority.

A popularization of the policy guidelines and its implementation plan is necessary nationwide. This needs to be done on district level to ensure that all actors involved in the cashew sector are aware of the policy objectives and are able to align their activities to it. Such dissemination needs to be proactively supported, in order to avoid the risk of it to be stagnant on national level.

An additional challenge is in the multi-actor orientation of the policy. Numerous actors are involved and there will be a strong need for coordination. This task remains at the level of MAF, who will have to ensure transparent communication and coordination of all actors and activities. This concerns the coordination between national and district level, between ministries and state agencies, between public and private sector and between development partners.

To successfully implement the activities of the CPIP access to funding needs to be ensured. It is crucial to mobilize and sustain resources to enable all actors to implement the priority activities. Development partners and private sector investors should be encouraged to contribute to make funding available, nevertheless it is necessary to foresee dedicated funding for the cashew sector in the national agriculture budget.

On a technical level, access to planting material, to inputs and to processing technology can represent a constraint in Sierra Leone, given the fact that the country's cashew sector is not yet well developed. In order to address this potential constraint, it is important to establish exchanges and reach out to other cashew producing countries in the sub-region. Regional learning and knowledge exchange should be promoted, especially in the area of research, production practices and value addition.

Finally, there is not yet sufficient data and information available on the cashew sector in Sierra Leone. There is a need for further consultations and data analysis, in order to design realistic, measurable and sustainable indicators for the implementation of the CPIP. This will help to set up a functional monitoring and evaluation system for the sector.

3. Cashew action plan

This chapter of the CPIP will give an overview of the objectives and activities planned for the implementation of the cashew policy recommendations.

It follows the logic of the policy recommendations and will present actions for the following thematic fields along the value chain:

- Production
- Research
- Value addition through processing of cashew and its by-products
- Trade and export promotion
- Access to finance
- Organization of the sector
- Cross-cutting issues

The activities are non-exhaustive and shall serve as a first priority for the implementation period 2019-2023. They will be in a later stage translated into concrete projects and interventions and further developed into Key Performance Indicators.

Furthermore, the list of potential partners is based on a first assessment of the development partners already active in the sector and can be understood as a first indication of areas of support. Future consultations among Development Partners and with MAF will contribute to expand this list.

3.1. Cashew Production:

Cashew production in Sierra Leone is still at an emerging state and the volumes produced have not yet attained a competitive level. The country disposes of available arable land and perfect climatic conditions for cashew production. The interest is nationwide growing, nevertheless smallholder farmers are facing several challenges, resulting in low yields and an under-exploited potential of the cashew sector in Sierra Leone.

The Objective is **to ensure that a competitive and sustainable cashew production is practiced nationwide.**

Objective	Activities	Milestone	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential partner
3.1.1 To ensure the practice of a sustainable and competitive cashew production nationwide.	3.1.1.2. Mass sensitization on the relevance of cashew to the national economy and the livelihood of farming households	3.1.1.2.1. Sensitization campaigns for farmers in all 16 districts conducted	2019-2021	MAF – Tree Crops Division	BAFS/COOPI
	3.1.1.3. Analyze and evaluate existing cashews plantations and assess the need for rehabilitation	3.1.1.3.1. Information is available in all districts, plan for focus areas for rehabilitation is elaborated	2019-2020	MAF – Tree Crops Division	BAFS, NGOs
	3.1.1.4. Grant scheme provided for rehabilitation of cashew plantations	3.1.1.4.1. Grants provided to cashew producers for rehabilitation of old plantations	2019-2023	MAF	BAFS, COOPI, GIZ
	3.1.1.5. Build and strengthen capacities of MAF Extension staff on cashew production	3.1.1.5.1. At least 16 MAF Staff trained – 10 per district	2019-2023	MAF Extension Services and Tree Crops Division	BAFS, GIZ/COOPI and others
	3.1.1.6. Establish a network and develop a monitoring mechanism for cashew production	3.1.1.6.1. At least 100 Community mobilisers/advisors trained to provide support services, follow up, for	2019-2021	MAF	BAFS, COOPI

		cashew producers			
	3.1.1.7 Increase the dissemination of improved planting materials to farmers	3.1.1.7.1. New plantations use only improved varieties	2019-2023	MAF, SLARI	BAFS, GIZ-ComCashew

3.2 Improved Planting Materials

Cashew production in Sierra Leone is characterized by very low yield levels and the use of poor quality inputs. Seedling production and supply to farmers is weakly organized. The objective is that **quality inputs and improved materials are used and available in all cashew producing areas.**

Objective	Activities	Milestone	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential partner
3.2.1 To ensure that quality inputs and improved planting materials are made available and used in cashew growing areas.	3.2.1.1. Improve the quality of planting materials in the country	3.2.1.1.1 Planting materials used for cashew production is grafted or polyclonal seedling in all districts	2019-2023	MAF, SLARI	BAFS, GIZ ComCashew
	3.2.1.2. Assess the number of existing mother trees in all district	3.2.1.2.1. The number of existing mother trees is well documented and the number has increased	2019-2023	MAF , SLARI	BAFS, GIZ ComCashew
	3.2.1.3. Establishment of Nurseries and scion gardens as close as possible to the farmer communities to facilitate seedling distribution	3.2.1.3.1. Nurseries are established at block level, in the first period of implementation at least every district has one nursery (16)	2019-2023	MAF, SLARI	BAFS, GIZ, COOPI, NGOs
	3.2.1.4. Training of grafters and nursery operators	3.2.1.4.1. At least 10 nursery operators and grafters are trained for each nursery	2019-2023	MAF	BAFS, COOPI
	3.2.1.5. Ensure that	3.2.1.5.1. Seed Certification	2019-2023	MAF – Seed	BAFS

	improved Planting Material used in the country are certified by the Seed Certification Agency of Sierra Leone	Agency has integrated cashew planting material in their register. A list of certified improved planting material is established and actively used		Certification Agency	
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3.3. Farm Management Practice

Private owned cashew farms are generally poorly managed and not competitive. This is due to lack of knowledge in good agricultural practices and efficient farm maintenance. Farmers have difficulties in mobilizing resources to maintain their farms and have little knowledge of cashew specific agricultural practices. The objective is that **Farmers adopt good management systems and agricultural practices to increase productivity in their cashew plantation.**

Objective	Activities	Milestones	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential partner
3.3.1 To provide training services to farmers on general cashew production management	3.3.1.1. Training of MAF Extension staff and community mobilisers on Cashew Good Agricultural Practices	3.3.1.1.2. At least 100 Community Mobilisers and Extension staff are recruited to give support to Cashew producers by 2021	2019-2021	MAF Extension Services	BAFS, COOPI, Private companies
	3.3.1.2. Develop a training programme for youth entrepreneurs who can train farmers on GAP - new farm establishment, maintenance and improvement of cashew orchards; pruning; harvesting; post-harvest storage and quality control; pest and disease management...)	3.3.1.2.1. One programme training at least 50 young entrepreneurs providing cashew production knowledge is carried out	2019-2023	MAF	Development Partner
	3.3.1.3. Provide MAF Extension, and community mobilisers with equipment, tools (motorbikes, training equipment)	3.3.1.3.1. At least all 100 motorbikes and training Kits for farmer trainings by 2021	2019-2021	MAF	BAFS, COOPI, Private companies
	3.3.1.4. Development of a Cashew Production manual	3.3.1.4.1. At least 2 manuals on GAPs and Post-Harvest Handling are developed	2019-2020	MAF Tree Crops Division	BAFS, GIZ-ComCashew, NGOs, Private Sector
	3.3.1.5. Train Cashew producers on	3.3.1.5.1. At least 6,000	2019-2023	MAF , PMB,	BAFS, GIZ, COOPI

	Cashew Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)	Cashew farmers are trained on GAPs		Private Sector	
	3.3.1.6. Development of Farmer Field School (FFS) Manuals on cashew	3.3.1.6.1. A comprehensive FFS is developed and adjusted to suit the local conditions	2019	MAF	BAFS
	3.3.1.7. Establishment of cashew FFS in all regions of the country	3.3.1.7.1. At least 5 cashew FFS are established	2019 – 2023	MAF	BAFS, NGOs
	3.3.1.8. Identify areas and establish cashew demonstration sites for GAPs trainings	3.3.1.8.1. A minimum 16 demonstration plot are established nationwide	2019-2023	MAF	BAFS, GIZ, NGOs

3.4. Agricultural Diversification

Cashew can be intercropped and diversified with food crops, such as maize, yam, pineapple, ginger or groundnut, especially in the early stages of the plantation, before the canopies close. The practice of intercropping provides additional food and income, especially in the hungry season and contributes to fight the high food insecurity in the cashew producing areas. Nevertheless, intercropping is not sufficiently practiced in cashew plantations.

The objective is that **intercropping cashew farms is encouraged with food crops nationwide to contribute to food security, employment creation and income generation.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential partner
3.4.1. To promote intercropping cashew farms with food crops and bee keeping to diversify income	3.4.1.1 Carry out communication campaign on intercropping	3.4.1.1.1 An information campaign has been carried out in every cashew producing region and farmers are aware of the importance of intercropping	2019-2023	MAF	BAFS, COOPI
	3.4.1.2. Incorporate intercropping in GAPs training by Extension staff	3.4.1.2.1. At least 6,000 farmers are trained on GAPs including intercropping practices	2019-2023	PMB, Private Sector	BAFS, GIZ, COOPI
	3.4.1.3. Train farmers on	3.4.1.3.1. At least 5,000	2019-2023	MAF, NGO	COOPI, BAFS

	bee keeping	farmers are trained on bee keeping			
	3.4.1.4. Identify areas and establish cashew demonstration sites on crop diversification	3.4.1.4.1. All 16 demonstration sites for GAP also include crop diversification	2019-2023	MAF	BAFS, GIZ, COOPI, NGOs

3.5. Pest and Disease Management

Specific cashew pests and diseases have been one of the major challenges of cashew cultivation in Sierra Leone. Farmers mostly lack of knowledge in identifying those threats and treating them sustainably.

The objective is that **Pest and diseases that affect cashew production are successful prevented and controlled.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential partner
3.5.1. To ensure that pest and diseases that affect the cashew production in Sierra Leone are successfully prevented or controlled.	3.5.1.1. Inclusion of cashew in the MAF Crop protection Program and national crop protection plan	3.5.1.1.1. Cashew is included in the MAF Crop Protection Unit Program and the national crop protection plan by 2020	2019-2020	MAF Pest Division	
	3.5.1.2. SLARI to undertake research on the pest and diseases that affect cashew in Sierra Leone	3.5.1.2.1. Increase in amount allocated for cashew pest and diseases research	2019-2023	MAF, SLARI	BAFS
	3.5.1.3. rain MAF Extension Staff and SLARI staff on pest control measures	3.5.1.3.1. 320 MAF Extension and 25 SLARI staff are trained on cashew pest and diseases management	2019-2023	MAF, SLARI	BAFS
	3.5.1.4. Training of cashew producers on pest and disease control and management	3.5.1.4.1. At least 10,000 cashew producers are trained on pest and disease management	2019-2024	MAF, SLARI	BAFS, GIZ, NGOs

3.6. Infrastructure for Cashew Production

Functional infrastructures are necessary for the development of the cashew sector. This is especially important for farmers whose cashew farms are very far from main roads and urban sites. Most of the producers do not have proper storage capacities and thus encounter difficulties during the harvest period. With improper storage facilities, farmers run the risk of having their produce been infected by pest and diseases and might be forced to sell their raw cashew nuts at low prices.

The objective is that **functional infrastructures are available to ensure quality production of cashew production**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential partner
3.6.1. To ensure infrastructure is available for ease of cashew production and post-harvest handling	3.6.1.1. Establish a network of private sector investors in the cashew sector	3.6.1.1.1 A database of private sector investors compiled and registered with MAF by 2019	2019	MAF, SLCCIA, MTI	Private Sector
	3.6.1.2 Assess availability and possibility to include cashew to existing ABC warehouses	3.6.1.2.1 Out of the 60 ABC warehouses available, a majority include cashew to their existing product	2019-2023	MAF	BAFS
	3.6.1.3 Rehabilitate existing warehouses and build new warehouses in districts not yet equipped	3.6.1.3.1 All cashew producing districts dispose of at least one functioning and operational warehouse	2019-2023	MAF, private sector	
	3.6.1.4 Establishment of formal transportation service centres in cashew districts with the private sector	3.6.1.4.1 At least 1 transportation service center is established in each cashew growing district	2019-2023	MAF, Ministry of Transport	Private Sector Companies

3.7 Climate Smart Agriculture

This component set a framework for collaboration between MAF, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) for implementing climate smart agricultural activities for cashew farmers.

Land degradation and other climate change effects have adversely affected agricultural production in Sierra Leone. Cashew plantation could be used to reclaim the degraded lands and to mitigate the effect of deforestation and desertification. In addition to that, cashew adaptable to the ongoing climatic change and offers a potential for agricultural adaptation.

The objective is to **promote and practice climate smart agriculture in all cashew growing districts.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential partner
3.7.1 To ensure that climate smart agriculture is practiced and promoted in all cashew producing districts.	3.7.1.1 Research conducted to streamline all climate sensitive agricultural practices in collaboration with EPA	3.7.1.1.1 At least one document detailing all climate smart practices is produced by 2020	2019-2020	MAF, EPA,	NPAA, SLARI, BAFS, ComCashew
	3.7.1.2 Updating of training materials to capture climate smart agricultural practices	3.7.1.2.1 All training manuals on GAPs are updated to include climate smart agriculture	2019-2023	MAF	BAFS, ComCashew
	3.7.1.3 Training of MAF Extension staff and community mobilisers on climate smart agriculture	3.7.1.3.1 At least all 100 MAF Extension staff and community mobilisers are trained on climate smart agricultural practices	2019-2021	MAF	BAFS, COOPI, GIZ-ComCashew
	3.7.1.4 Train cashew producers on climate smart agricultural practices	3.7.1.4.1 At least 6000 cashew farmers who are trained in GAP are also familiar with climate smart agricultural practices	2019-2024	MAF	BAFS, COOPI, GIZ-ComCashew

3.8 Research

All cashew Research will be conducted and or addressed by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Collaboration with Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI), and other research Universities.

Unlike other cash crops such as cocoa and coffee, no cashew related research activities have been undertaken in the country so far. The objective is that **Results of research from cashew be disseminated nationwide to all stakeholders in the cashew value chain.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential partner
3.8.1 To promote agricultural research activities and to disseminate the results of these research activities in all cashew producing districts	3.8.1.1 Set-up, design of a cashew breeding programme	3.8.1.1.1 A comprehensive strategic document on the establishment of a breeding center produced by 2019	2019	SLARI	BAFS
	3.8.1.2 Acquisition clones of high yielding characteristics from different genetic resource centers	3.8.1.2.1 At least 5 clones each acquired from different genetic resources especially Ghana and Ivory Coast by 2019	2019	SLARI	BAFS, GIZ ComCashew
	3.8.1.3 Establishment of cashew clonal seed gardens	3.8.1.3.1 At least 2 clonal garden established by 2021	2019-2021	SLARI	MAF, Njala University,
	3.8.1.4 Resource allocation to cashew research	3.8.1.4.1 Increase in the amount devoted to cashew research and researcher's capacity building	2019-2023	MAF, SLARI	BAFS
	3.8.1.5 Capacity building of SLARI staff through Exchange/ training in Ghana (CRIG) or participation in international event on cashew	3.8.1.5.1 A minimum of 1 exchange/training program attended by SLARI staff every year Participation of at least 2 SLARI researchers in the next CIESA	2019-2023	SLARI	BAFS, GIZ- ComCashew
	3.8.1.6 Involvement of Universities and National Research Centers in cashew	3.8.1.6.1 At least one forum of SLARI staff and University staff undertaken once a year on cashew research needs	2019-2023	SLARI, Njala University and UNIMAK	BAFS

	research				
	3.8.1.7 Ensure research on cashew and cashew by product using new technology and science innovation	3.8.1.7.1 At least 5 student from Njala University conduct research project and receives support	2019-2023	SLARI, Njala University	BAFS

3.9 Value addition and Processing

This component will be implemented in collaboration with MAF and the Ministry of Trades and Industry. and its agencies (Produce Monitoring Board and Sierra Leone Investment and Export promotion).

Processing has been the missing link in the cashew value chain in Sierra Leone. Even though few actors are doing artisanal processing of the kernel for domestic consumption, this remains on a small and insignificant level.

Objective	Activities	Milestone/Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential partner
3.9.1 Cashew nuts and cashew by products (apple, shell) are transformed locally	3.9.1.1 Promote and introduce private sector actors to cashew processing and attract international private sector businesses into cashew processing	3.9.1.1.1. At least 3 incubation centers are established as pilots in selected strategic districts to inform local population on the potential of cashew processing and encourage small-scale processing businesses – target: rural youth	2019-2023	MAF, MTI	EU-BAFS/COOPI
	3.9.1.2 Encourage private enterprises to processing of cashew apples into variety of cashew byproducts	3.9.1.2.1 Incubation centers include cashew apple value addition in their activities	2019-2023	MAF, MTI	BAFS, GIZ
	3.9.1.3 Conduct studies on cashew by products and its potential use in Sierra Leone (cashew nut shell, CNSL, apple)	3.9.1.3.1 At least one study is published by 2021 and results are disseminated; existing suitable business models from other studies are taken into consideration	2019-2021	SLARI/Njala University/M AF	EU-BAFS, ComCashew

	3.9.1.4 Inform on potential of cashew processing and by products, ongoing projects and available support, funding schemes etc.	3.9.1.4.1 A cashew information centre is fully established through the MAF cashew coordinating Unit/Desk and includes advise and support on cashew value addition	2019-2023	MAF	EU-BAFS ComCashew/COOPI
	3.9.1.5 Facilitate the creation of cashew buying agent groups/clusters to ensure sustainable supply of raw material to processing units and promote supply chain linkages between processors and buyers with farmers	3.9.1.5.1 At least 10 functional buying agent groups are fully operational	2019-2024	MAF	EU-BAFS.COOPI

3.10 Trade and Commercialization

3.10.1. Quality Control and Certification

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) will implement this component of the policy with Ministry of Trades and Industries and its agencies (Sierra Leone Produce Monitoring Board (SLPMB), Standards Bureau Sierra Leone (SBSL) and Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agencies (SLIEPA).

Quality control issues along the cashew value chain have become a grave concern nationwide and have seriously impede the quality of cashew products. This has affected the price of the product and reduced the chances of being competitive in the international market. Quality control mechanisms and certification schemes are almost nonexistent, in the cashew sector.

The objective is **to ensure cashew product is of high quality, traceable and international standards are met.**

Objective	Activities	Milestone/Indicators	Timeline	Responsible	Potential partner
3.10.1.1 To promote standards codes, quality control and certification nationwide	3.10.1.1.1 Establish standard codes and certification scheme for cashew and its byproducts	3.10.1.1.1.1 One comprehensive Standard code and certification scheme establish and distributed nationwide	2019-2020	SBSL,MAF,MTI	EU-BAFS
	3.10.1.1.2 Promote and popularize stand codes and certification scheme for cashew nationwide through radio, Television and group discussion	3.10.1.1.2 1 Standard codes popularized in 4 (SLBC/AYV/STAR/FTN) key media houses in Sierra Leone	2019-2021	SBSL, MAF,MTI	EU-BAFS/GIZ
	3.10.1.1.3 A network of stakeholders comprising of MAF/MTI/Private sector/ NGO is established for the promotion of cashew certification scheme	3.10.1.1.3 .1 At least one viable cashew network is establish with an increase of 15 satellite clusters in each District by 2021	2019-2021	SBSL,MAF,MTI, PS	EU-BAFS/GIZ
	3.10.1.1.4 Training of Produce Monitoring Board Field staff nationwide on quality and standards for cashew production	3.10.1.1.4 .1 45 PMB staff trained on quality control, standards and certification of cashew produced for both domestic market and export	2019-2021	MAF/MTI/PS	EU-BAFS
	3.10.1.1.5 Producer Organisations are encourage to register their	3.10.1.1.5.1 40% of cashew producer and processing	2019-2021	MAF/MTI/PS	GOSL/EU-BAFS/UNIDO/UNFAO

	membership with international certification bodies	organisations are registered with international certification scheme			
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3.10.2. Price and Market Information

Standard pricing systems do not yet exist in Sierra Leone in the cashew sector. Traders sell as the situation deemed fit and there are no market information systems.

The objective is to ensure market and price information of cashew products are available to all actors in the cashew value chain.

Objective	Activities	Milestone/Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential Partner
3.10.2.1 To ensure market and price information of cashew products are available to all actors in the cashew value chain	3.10.2.1.1. A memorandum of understanding is established between MAF and PMB in ensuring that price regulations is closely monitored and jointly implemented	3.10.2.1.1. 1. A signed MOU stating the terms of the partnership between MAF and PMB established for the implementation of price regulation	2019	PMB/MAF	EU-BAFS/GIZ
	3.10.2.1.1.2 Information on market development and prices are provided by MAF and are regularly circulated through PMB	3.10.2.1.1.2.1. One (1) market information system is established , prices are announced nationwide at beginning of season and are regularly updated	2019-2023	PMB/PMSD/Statistics Sierra Leone (S SL)	EU-BAFS /GIZ/SCADEP

3.11. Trade Regulations

Cashew trade is not yet regulated in Sierra Leone. Private actors involved in trade and export are mostly not formally registered or licensed. This leads to a very open and unregulated market, where farm gate buying happens often to the disadvantage of the farmer or in very savage competition.

The objective is to **establish a formalized and well-structured cashew market that is functional and enables all actors to buy and sell profitably.**

Objective	Activities	Milestone/Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential Partner
3.11.1 To establish a formalized and well-structured cashew market that is functional and enables all actors to buy and sell profitably	3.11.1.1 Develop cashew trade regulation framework that will cover a wider range of production standards and commercialization	3.11.1.1 A structured cashew regulation framework is established and communicated	2019- 2020	MAF, MTI, PMB, SLIEPA, Private sector	EU-BAFS/GIZ
	3.11.1.2. Ensure that all cashew producers in Sierra Leone are registered formally with MAF	3.11.1.2.1 By 2024, all cashew producers are formally registered and have business cards	2019-2024	MAF	BAFS, COOPI

3.12 Sector Organisation

Objective	Activities	Milestone/Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential Partner
3.12.1 An enabling environment for the cashew sector is created and all actors are structured and organized	3.12.1.1 The Ministry of agriculture takes the lead in promoting a sustainable cashew sector and coordinates activities with all involved stakeholders	3.12.1.1.1 A cashew desk within the Tree Crop Division of MAF is established, functional and connected to all stakeholders involved	2019-2023	MAF	EU-BAFS
	3.12.1.2 Translate cashew policy and implementation targets in local bylaws and ensure its implementation	3.12.1.2.1 All cashew producing districts have incorporated the cashew policy in their local legislation	2019	MAF	
	3.12.1.3 Strong collaboration with all line Ministries concerned by the value chain	3.12.1.3.1 An inter - ministerial committee on cashew is functional and ensures regular exchange on the value chain	2019-2023	MAF, MTI, Ministry Transport, EPA	
	3.12.1.4 Development Partner exchange and coordinate their interventions under the lead of MAF	3.12.1.4.1 One development partner Round Table on cashew is organized at least every year, information is exchanged on a regular basis (quarterly)	2019-2023	MAF	All Development Partner in the sector
	3.12.1.5 Public private relations in cashew sector are enhanced and actively promoted by MAF and MTI	3.12.1.5.1 The existing Cocoa – Coffee Working Group will include cashew as part of the public-private dialogue	2019	MAF, MTI	GIZ

3.12.2 Farmer Based organizations

The sector is characterized by a low degree of organization of the cashew farming community. Cooperatives and farmer groups are existing, but these bodies are inactive and semi functional. Members do not have overall understanding of the purpose of their organizations and lack clear roles and responsibilities.

The objective is that **FBO'S are strengthened to actively represent the interest of farmers in cashew production.**

Objective	Activities	Milestone/Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential Partner
3.12.2.1 Existing Farmer groups are empowered and dispose of the necessary capacities to play an active role in representing the interests of cashew farmers.	3.12.2.1.1 Provide technical support to effectively empower FBOs, governance structure and functions (functional constitution and Bylaws)	3.12.2.1.1.1 Formal constitution/Bylaws for Farmer Based Organisations in the cashew sector established	2019-2023	MAF/PMB	EU-BAFS/GIZ, COOPI
	3.12.2.1.2 Promote the organization of cashew FBOs and their member network	3.12.2.1.2 .1 A database of Farmer Based Organisations and its members established	2019-2020	MAF	BAFS, COOPI .
	3.12.2.1.3 Strengthen FBOs operational and business development capacities to provide Services to their members	3.12.2.1.3.1 FBOs are operational and trained, providing services to their members such as RCN bull selling, access to credit for pruning, weeding operations)	2019-2023	MAF	EU-BAFS/GIZ, COOPI

3.12.3. Cashew Commodity Association

Cashew Commodity associations have been created to represent all actors involved in the cashew sector (farmers, traders, processors, exporters and NGOs) on district level. Those associations are existing in some cashew producing districts, but not functional. In order to address the weak organisations of the sector, to improve its governance and to ensure that the private actor’s needs are articulated to government, these associations should play a central role.

The objective is that **CCA represent and articulate private sector interest and contribute actively to the governance of the cashew sector.**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will recognize the advocacy role of the Cashew Commodity Association and promote public-private dialogue and Include Cashew Commodity Association to the existing Cocoa Coffee Working Group of MAF and MTI.

Objective	Activities	Milestone/Indicator	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential Partner
3.12.3.1 CCA Represent and articulate private sector interest and contribute actively to the governance of the cashew sector	3.12.3.1.1 Support Cashew commodity associations to play their role as an advocacy body for the cashew value chain	6 existing CCA are re-structured and operational	2019-2023	MAF and private sector	EU-BAFS/GIZ.COOPi
	3.12.3.1.2 Include the CCA into the existing Cocoa, Coffee Working group	CCA is officially included to the CC Working Group	2019	MAF	GIZ
	3.12.3.1.3 Build and strengthen capacities of CCA executives in advocacy, negotiation skills and governance	At least 160 CCA Executive members trained	2019-2023	MAF	

3.12.4 International Platforms

Cashew being an emerging crop in Sierra Leone, the country has not yet integrated sufficiently the international cashew sector. Exchange and learning from other cashew producing countries, especially in the sub region will be beneficial for the country and specifically the cashew sector.

The objective is that **Sierra Leonean cashew actors are integrated in international cashew networks and benefit of exchange and learning opportunities.**

Objective	Activities	Milestone/Indicator	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential Partner
3.12.4.1 Sierra Leonean cashew actors are integrated in international cashew networks and benefit of exchange and learning opportunities.	3.12.4.1 .1 Sierra Leone joins the Consultative International Cashew Council (CICC) as member state	3.12.4.1 .1 .1 GOSL has signed and ratified the convention of the CICC and is an active member	2019-2020	MAF.	GIZ ComCashew
	3.12.4.1 .2 Increase exchange with other cashew producing countries in the sub region	3.12.4.1 .2 .1 Exchange visits, participation in cashew events in the sub region and training of MAF staff and its partners	2019-2023	MAF	BAFS, GIZ ComCahsew

3.13 Access to Finance

The cashew sector, especially production related activities, suffers from insufficient access to finance. Commercial banks and financial institutes do not offer adapted financial products and are often unaware of the potential of the cashew sector. Especially farmers do not have access to loans and other financial support, because of stringent collateral requirements, high interest rates and inflexible loan repayment schemes (not adapted to seasonal realities). This hinders the maintenance of existing plantations and often discourages them to pursue or expand their activities.

The objective is that **Adapted and flexible financial frameworks, that enable cashew actors to develop their business sustainably, are available.**

Objective	Activities	Milestone/Indicator	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential Partner
3.13.1 Adapted and flexible financial frameworks, that enable cashew actors to develop their business sustainably, are available.	3.13.1.1. Sensitize and promote the importance and financial benefit of the cashew sector to financial institutions nationwide	3.13.1.1.1 Nationwide sensitization to Financial houses in the Sixteen (16) Districts on the importance and financial benefit of cashew sector	2019-2023	MAF	EU-BAFS/GIZ
	3.13.1.2 Advocate with financial institutions to restructure their loan scheme to fit cashew actors and target especially women and youth in the sector	3.13.1 .2.1 Financial institutions provide loan schemes targeting cashew farmers, processors and traders		MAF/Commercial and IFAD Banks	
	3.13.1.3 Provide financial management and record keeping training for cashew farmers	3.13.1 .3.1 15,000 cashew farmers trained on financial management and record keeping		MAF/	EU-BAFS/ComCashew/S CADEP

3.14. Data and Statistics

Currently only limited data on the cashew sector is available. Only few individual initiatives (yield studies, mapping of farms, household surveys etc.), mainly driven by development partners, on data collection and statistical analysis have been realized in the past years. On ministerial level, the Planning, Evaluation, Monitoring and Statistical Division has not yet included cashew in their database or circulated official information on the sector. This makes planning and monitoring of activities particularly difficult.

The objective is to ensure an accurate and updated and verified statistics and information is accessible to cashew actors in the value chain.

Objective	Activities	Milestone/Indicator	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential Partner
3.14.1 Updated and verified data, statistics and information on the cashew sector is available and accessible.	3.14.1 .1 Include Cashew in the PMSD National action plan	3.14.1 .1.1 Cashew is included in the MAF - PMSD national database	2019	MAF – PMSD, Statistics Sierra Leone	EU-BAFS/GIZ
	3.14.1 .2 Conduct impact assessment research on the cashew sector to have an updated statistics on cashew	3.14.1 .2 .1 Impact assessment result published and circulated yearly	2019 – 2023	MAF – PMSD, Statistics Sierra Leone	EU-BAFS/GIZ
	3.14.1 .3 Ensure that qualified enumerators gather relevant data and information on cashew sector	3.14.1 .3 Enumerators trained in data collection and information gathering	2019-2013	MAF – PMSD, Statistics Sierra Leone	EU-BAFS/GIZ

3.15 Cross-cutting Issues

3.15.1. Gender

Women are active in all segments of the cashew value chain, particularly in production (harvest and post-harvest activities and intercropping), artisanal processing for local consumption, as well as buying and cashew trade. This active role does not reflect in their representation and engagement in the governance of the value chain. They are often poorly represented in Farmer Based Organisations and Commodity Associations. Decision making in this respect is not guaranteed to be representative and calls for a stronger involvement of female cashew actors, in order to include gender specific needs.

The objective is **to ensure that Women play an active and visible role along the value chain.**

Objective	Activities	Milestone/Indicator	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential Partner
3.15.1.1 Women play an active and visible role along the value chain.	3.15.1.1.1 Ensure that women are included in all trainings and capacity development activities undertaken by MAF and its partners along the value chain	3.15.1.1.1 .1 Equal participation is encouraged, at least 40% of participants have to be women	2019-2023	MAF	50/50, Comcashew; PMB COOPI GIZ SLPMC/SLeCAD
	3.15.1.1.2 Align Cashew Policy and its implementation plan to the Gender in Agriculture Policy (GiAP) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	3.15.1.1.2.1 The activities of the implementation plan respect the recommendations of GiAP	2019-2023	MAF	
	3.15.1.1.2 Encourage active participation of women in all cashew sector governance structures	3.15.1.1.2.1 Women are visibly (at least 40% of members are female)represented in the Tree Crops Division, CCA, FBOs, Cashew Working Group etc.	2019 – 2023	MAF	

3.15.2. Security

Smuggling of cashew, due to insufficient security and border protection, has impacted the cashew sector negatively. It has led to leakage of revenues, loss in sales and has impacted the volume generated for exports. This has a negative effect on overall security in the cashew production areas.

The objective is that **Security in cashew producing districts is ensured and smuggling prevented.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible	Potential Partner
3.15.2.1 To ensure that smuggling is prevented in cashew producing districts and security is ensured	3.15.2.1.1 Establish a district committee for enforcement of security issues to include Paramount Chiefs, Customs, Police, District Councils, Cashew Commodity Association, PMB	3.15.2.1.1.1 Security Committee is established in all 16 cashew producing districts	2019-2023	MAF/PMB	Local Authorities
	3.15.2.1.2 Policy included into the local Bylaws to ensure local implementation	3.15.2.1.2.1 Cashew policy setup is included in the Local Bylaws	2019	MAF	

Annex 1: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Table 3.1: Cashew Production:

Cashew production in Sierra Leone is still at an emerging state and the volumes produced have not yet attained a competitive level. The country disposes of available arable land and perfect climatic conditions for cashew production. The interest is nationwide growing, nevertheless smallholder farmers are facing several challenges, resulting in low yields and an under-exploited potential of the cashew sector in Sierra Leone.

The Objective is **to ensure that a competitive and sustainable cashew production is practiced nationwide.**

Objective	Activities	Indicator	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of verification	Assumption
3.1.1 To ensure the practice of a sustainable and competitive cashew production nationwide.	3.1.1.1 Mass sensitization on the relevance of cashew to the national economy and the livelihood of farming households	- sensitization workshops held in all districts - radio s & TV programs inform about relevance of cashew	Basic un structured Community sensitization has been held by COOPI I Port Loko, Kambia and Makeni	- One (1) Sensitization workshops conducted in 15 agricultural districts - Five radio programs in the five regions - Two (2) panel discussions held on AYV and SLBCTV	Sensitization report Sensitization report Attendance list	Political will as cashew continue to be a priority of Government
	3.1.1.2 Analyze and evaluate existing cashews plantations and assess the need for rehabilitation	Analysis & evaluation report shared and discussed with partners	N./a	One (1) analysis report prepared One (1) meeting held to discuss with partners	Analysis and Evaluation report Registration of plantations to be	Technical expertise available to carry out study

					rehabilitated	
	3.1.1.3 Grant scheme provided for rehabilitation of cashew plantations	Grants scheme provided for cashew producers for rehabilitation of old plantations	N.a	TBD	No of beneficiaries on grant scheme Contracts/MOU of beneficiaries Grant scheme financial report	
	3.1.1.4 Build and strengthen capacities of MAF Extension staff on cashew production	Cashew Production Manual available to MAF Number of MAF Staff trained on cashew production	At least Eight Extension staff trained on cashew production	- One (1) production manual - One hundred and fifty (150) MAF staff trained in 10 district	Training report Attendance list	MAF continue to partner with Comcashew and other cashew training institutions
	3.1.1.5 Establish a network and develop a monitoring mechanism for cashew production	Number of Community mobilisers/advisors organized and trained	N/a	- Tor for network developed - 100 community mobilisers/advisors trained	Training report Attendance least	Political will remain a priority on cashew production
	3.1.1.6 Increase the dissemination of improved planting materials to farmers	Number of plantations with improved planting materials	No comprehensive data available on improve planting materials for farmer	TBD	Distribution list Tree crop database Yields per hr per annum	Availability of high yield improve planting material Willingness of farmers to accept new variety New entrance into the cashew sector

Table 3.2: Improved Planting Materials

Cashew production in Sierra Leone is characterized by very low yield levels and the use of poor quality inputs. Seedling production and supply to farmers is weakly organized.

The objective is that **quality inputs and improved materials are used and available in all cashew producing areas.**

Objective	Activities	Indicator	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption & Risk
3.2.1 To ensure that quality inputs and improved planting materials are made available and used in cashew growing areas.	3.2.1.1 Improve the quality of planting materials in the country	Planting materials used for cashew production is grafted or polyclonal seedling in all districts	Non available	3,420,000 trees to be grafted and polyclone	Regular sight visit KOR listing of beneficiaries KOR report	Good agricultural practice (GAP) Improve planting materials are available from other external sources Knowledge
	3.2.1.2 Assess the number of existing mother trees in all district	Increase in the number of existing mother tree& is well documented and the number has increased	15 potential Mother Trees available	By 2023, Mother trees increase to 150	Sight visit Database of Mother Trees	Study conducted to identify mother trees
	3.2.1.3 Establishment of Nurseries and scion gardens as close as possible to the farmer communities to facilitate seedling distribution	Number of nurseries are established at block level (in the first period of implementation at least every district has one nursery (16))	15 nurseries established in 15 agricultural districts No scion Garden	60 nurseries established 30 scion garden established	Sight visit Data collection Training report	Capacity of farmers to identify scions Source of materials and source of funding
	3.2.1.4 Training of grafters and nursery operators	=Number of nursery operators and grafters are trained for each nursery	N/a	600 grafters and nursery operators are trained (at least 10 for each nursery)	Training report Training Manual Participant attendance list	Availability of grafting training

	3.2.1.5 Ensure that improved Planting Material used in the country are certified by the Seed Certification Agency of Sierra Leone	A list of certified improved planting material is established (in the Seed Certification Agency) and actively used A list of certified improved planting material is established and actively used	N/a N/a	List of seed certification contains xxx number of improved materials by name and specification	Seed certification register List of certified improve planting material	availability of laboratory equipment Climate change
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Table 3.3: Farm Management Practice

Private owned cashew farms are generally poorly managed and not competitive. This is due to lack of knowledge in good agricultural practices and efficient farm maintenance. Farmers have difficulties in mobilizing resources to maintain their farms and have little knowledge of cashew specific agricultural practices.

The objective is that **Farmers adopt good management systems and agricultural practices to increase productivity in their cashew plantation.**

Objective	Activities	Indicator	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption
3.3.1 To provide training services to farmers on general cashew production management	3.3.1.1 Training of MAF Extension staff and community mobilisers on Cashew Good Agricultural Practices	B=Number of Community Mobilisers and Extension staff are recruited (by MAF) to give support to Cashew producers by 2021	No comprehensive data on total number trained	100 Community mobilisers and extension staff recruited to support cashew producers	Training Report Training Manuals Attendance list and Registration	NGO's and private sector continue to partner with MAF in delivering its initiative
	3.3.1.2 Develop a training programme for young entrepreneurs who can train farmers on GAP - new farm establishment, maintenance and improvement of cashew orchards; pruning; harvesting; post-harvest storage and quality control; pest and disease management...)	training programme for young entrepreneurs providing cashew production knowledge is designed and operating t	At least 5 young entrepreneurs have been trained by COOPI and Solidaridad	50 Young Entrepreneur supported and trained to provide GAP training for farmers	Training reports. Frequent site visit and supervision , Training Manual, Attendance list.	Technical expertise available to support the knowledge driven into cashew production
	3.3.1.3 Provide MAF Extension, and community mobilisers with equipment, tools (motorbikes, training equipment)	Extension stagg and community mobilizers are equipped with motorbikes and training Kits by 2021	N/A	150 motor Bikes and training kits provided to 150 MAF Staff by 2021	Beneficiary list, Distribution list Motorbikes	

	3.3.1.4 Development of a Cashew Production manual	manuals on GAPs and Post-Harvest Handling are developed	N/A	One (1) Cashew Production manual and one(1) post-harvest handling manual developed for farmers	Training Manual Pretesting training report	By 2021 Cashew farmers could have been well knowledgeable about production techniques
	3.3.1.5 Train Cashew producers on Cashew Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)	Number of Cashew farmers are trained on GAPs	No comprehensive data available on total cashew farmers trained	-Six thousand (6,000) cashew farmers are trained on GAP	Training Report Attendance List Training manual	Register of farmers trained are collected and codified for circulation
	3.3.1.6 Development of Farmer Field School (FFS) Manuals on cashew	A comprehensive FFS is developed and adjusted to suit the local conditions	N/a	One (1) FFS manual develop by 2021	Farmer Field school manual	By 2021 20 FFS would have been established
	3.3.1.7 Establishment of cashew FFS in all regions of the country	Number of cashew FFS are established	N/A	Five (5) FFS Developed by 2021	Cashew FFS establishment and logistics report Farmer Field school physical structure	20 FFS Established nationwide by 2021
	3.3.1.8 Identify areas and establish cashew demonstration sites for GAPs trainings	Number of demonstration plot are established nationwide	N/A	15 Cashew Demonstration sites established	Site visit report Status report	15 sites established by 2021

Table 3.4: Agricultural Diversification

Cashew can be intercropped and diversified with food crops, such as maize, yam, pineapple, ginger or groundnut, especially in the early stages of the plantation, before the canopies close. The practice of intercropping provides additional food and income, especially in the hungry season and contributes to fight the high food insecurity in the cashew producing areas. Nevertheless, intercropping is not sufficiently practiced in cashew plantations.

The objective is that **intercropping cashew farms is encouraged with food crops nationwide to contribute to food security, employment creation and income generation.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of verification	Assumption
3.4.1 To promote intercropping cashew farms with food crops and bee keeping to diversify income	3.4.1.1 Carry out communication campaign on intercropping	Number of information campaign carried out in every cashew producing region Number of farmers aware of the importance of intercropping and practice intercropping	MAF Extension staff under taking campaign using Council devolved funds through Councils	Two (2) information campaign to be carried out in five regions. 1,000 cashew farms intercropped	Report on intercropping campaign Farmers profile and reporting	Farmers adapts their crops to climate smart agriculture
	3.4.1.2 Incorporate intercropping in GAPs training by Extension staff	Number of farmers trained on GAPs including intercropping practices	N/A	6,000 farmers trained on intercropping	Training Report Beneficiary list Attendance list	
	3.4.1.3 Train farmers on bee keeping	Number of farmers trained on bee keeping	N/A	By 2023, five thousand (5,000) farmers trained	Project report Beneficiary attendance list	Specialize Bee keepers are available to provide relevant trainings
	3.4.1.4 Identify areas and establish cashew demonstration sites on crop diversification	Number of demonstration sites for GAP which include crop diversification	N/A	Fifteen (15) demo plots identified for GAP include crop diversification.	Field report Yield study data	Arable land space are made available to cashew farmers

Table 3.5: Pest and Disease Management

Specific cashew pests and diseases have been one of the major challenges of cashew cultivation in Sierra Leone. Farmers mostly lack of knowledge in identifying those threats and treating them sustainably.

The objective is that **Pest and diseases that affect cashew production are successful prevented and controlled.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of verification	Assumption
3.5.1 To ensure that pest and diseases that affect the cashew production in Sierra Leone are successfully prevented or controlled.	3.5.1.1 Inclusion of cashew in the MAF Crop protection Program and national crop protection plan	Cashew is included in the MAF Crop Protection Unit Program and the national crop protection plan by 2020	Currently the national crop protection plan includes management options for all pests and diseases including those of cashew	Production of cashew pesticide, pest and disease management factsheet and field guide. One Phytosanitary standards guide for farmers, staff, producers and processors is made available	Crop protection annual work plan and pesticide specifications M & E report	Cashew continue to be a government priority and included in the MAF crop protection Unit program
	3.5.1.2 SLARI to undertake research on the pest and diseases that affect cashew in Sierra Leone	Govt of SL to provide a dedicated budget for cashew pest and diseases research	N/a	Government to provide a dedicated budget to conduct pest and disease research	At least one research study report	Strong political will and cashew continue to become a priority cash crop
	3.5.1.3 Train MAF Extension Staff and SLARI staff on pest control measures	Number of MAF Extension and SLARI staff trained on cashew pest and diseases management	this has been achieved	Refresher training to be conducted for 320 MAF Extension and 25 SLARI staff on pest control measures by 2023	Project report BAF work plan Training report Trainees attendance list	

	3.5.1.4 Training of cashew producers on pest and disease control and management	Number of cashew producers are trained on pest and disease management	At least three thousand (3,000) cashew producers have been trained on pest management	By 2023, seven thousand (7,000) producers and processors on cashew pest and disease management	Training report Trainees attendance list Project report	
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Table 3.6: Infrastructure for Cashew Production

Functional infrastructures are necessary for the development of the cashew sector. This is especially important for farmers whose cashew farms are very far from main roads and urban sites. Most of the producers do not have proper storage capacities and thus encounter difficulties during the harvest period. With improper storage facilities, farmers run the risk of having their produce been infected by pest and diseases and might be forced to sell their raw cashew nuts at low prices.

The objective is that **functional infrastructures are available to ensure quality production of cashew production**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption
3.6.1 To ensure infrastructure is available for ease of cashew production and post-harvest handling	3.6.1.1 Establish a network of private sector investors in the cashew sector	A database of private sector investors compiled and registered with MAF by 2019	N/A	One (1) comprehensive data base of Private sector cashew investors established	Database of Private sector cashew Investors	Doing Business in SL indicators are encouraging for private sector investors
	3.6.1.2 Assess availability and possibility to include cashew to existing ABC warehouses	Number of ABC warehouses available which include cashew to their existing product	N/A	60 ABCs assessed and used for cashew products.	List of ABCs that are used for cashew warehousing M& E/project report	Clear memorandum of understanding between donor partners on project objective
	3.6.1.3 Rehabilitate existing warehouses and build new warehouses in districts not yet equipped	Number of functioning and operational warehouse per district	N/A	1 or 2 (?) warehouses rehabilitated/constructed per district (15 or 30 total)	Progress Report Available database	By 2021 30 Cashew ware houses will established through GOSL & other donor partners
	3.6.1.4 Establishment of formal transportation service centres in cashew districts with the private sector	Number of transportation service in each cashew growing district	N/A	By 2023 15 formal transportation service provider Established (one in each agricultural district)	Registration of transportation providers Monitoring and evaluation report	Available platform for public private partnership

Table 3.7: Climate Smart Agriculture

This component set a framework for collaboration between MAF, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) for implementing climate smart agricultural activities for cashew farmers. .,

Land degradation and other climate change effects have adversely affected agricultural production in Sierra Leone. Cashew plantation could be used to reclaim the degraded lands and to mitigate the effect of deforestation and desertification. In addition to that, cashew adaptable to the ongoing climatic change and offers a potential for agricultural adaptation.

The objective is to **promote and practice climate smart agriculture in all cashew growing districts.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption
3.7.1 To ensure that climate smart agriculture is practiced and promoted in all cashew producing districts.	3.7.1.1 Research conducted to streamline all climate sensitive agricultural practices in collaboration with EPA	Number of document detailing all climate smart practices is produced by 2020	N/a	One(1) research report on climate smart agricultural practices produced by 2020	Project Report MAF (PEMSD) Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Political will to promote climate smart agriculture and proper coordination between Govt and related agencies such as EPA/NPAA)
	3.7.1.2 Updating of training materials to capture climate smart agricultural practices	Number of training manuals on GAPs updated to include climate smart agriculture	N/a	At least One comprehensive GAP training manual updated and include climate smart agriculture	GAP Training Manual Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Harmonize partnership and programs between players
	3.7.1.3 Training of MAF Extension staff and community mobilisers on climate smart agriculture	Number of MAF Extension staff and community mobilisers trained on climate smart agricultural practices	N/a	One Hundred and fifty (150) MAF Extension staff and community mobilisers are trained on climate	Training report Participants list/ Register Monitoring and Evaluation Report	Climate smart agriculture continues to be a global concern and mitigation to available threat

				smart agricultural practices		
	3.7.1.4 Train cashew producers on climate smart agricultural practices	Number of cashew farmers trained in GAP that are also familiar with climate smart agricultural practices	At least 500 cashew farmers are familiar with climate smart agricultural practices	Six Thousand (6,000) farmers trained in GAP become familiar with climate smart agriculture	Monitoring and evaluation report	Political will to promote climate smart agriculture

Table 3.8: Research

All cashew Research will be conducted and or addressed by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Collaboration with Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI), and other research Universities. Unlike other cash crops such as cocoa and coffee, no cashew related research activities have been undertaken in the country so far.

The objective is that **Results of research from cashew be disseminated nationwide to all stakeholders in the cashew value chain.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption
3.8.1 To promote agricultural research activities and to disseminate the results of these research activities in all cashew producing districts	3.8.1.1 Set-up, design of a cashew breeding programme	A comprehensive strategic document on the establishment of a breeding center produced by 2019	n/a	One (1) comprehensive strategic document on the establishment of a breeding centre	SLARI Project report M & E Report	Trained researchers with modern techniques available to design and carry out cashew breeding programs in SL
	3.8.1.2 Acquisition clones of high yielding characteristics from different genetic resource centers	Number of clones acquired from different genetic resources especially Ghana and Ivory Coast by 2019	n/a	At least 5 clones acquired from different genetic resources especially Ghana & Ivory Coast by 2023	SLARI Project Report MAF (PEMSD) M & E Report Database	Strong collaboration between SLARI and other regional research stations
	3.8.1.3 Establishment of cashew clonal seed gardens	Number of clonal garden established by 2021	n/a	Tow (2) Clonal garden to be established by	SLARI Project Report MAF (PEMSD)	Available land space provided for setting

				2021	M & E Report Database journal	up of the clonal garden
	3.8.1.4 Resource allocation to cashew research	Number /percentage of increase in the budget amount devoted to cashew research and researcher's capacity building	Three thousand Euro (Eu3,000) provided by the European Union		SLARI Budget report M & E Report Research report	Government continues to provide dedicated budget for research in priority tree crops
	3.8.1.5 Capacity building of SLARI staff through Exchange/ training in Ghana (CRIG) or participation in international event on cashew	Number of exchange/training program attended by SLARI staff every year Participation of at least 2 SLARI researchers in the next CIESA	At least 2 SLARI Staff has attended MTP n/a	Minimum of 3 SLARI staff attend training/ exchange program by 2021	Training Report Project report Beneficiary listing	SLARI becomes a member of Regional researches and foster a strong network with international development partners
	3.8.1.6 Involvement of Universities and National Research Centers in cashew research	Number of forum for SLARI staff and University staff undertaken once a year on cashew research needs	n/a	One forum on cashew research needs to be undertaken for SLARI staff and University staff once a	Project report MAF (PEMSD) M & E Report	There are synergies on project objectives
	3.8.1.7 Ensure research on cashew and cashew by product using new technology and science innovation	Number of students from Njala University conduct research project and receives support	n/a	Five (5) student from Njala University identified to conduct research project Five (5) student receives support	SLARI Project report Beneficiaries Listings M & E report	Cashew continues to be a priority crop in Sierra Leone

Table3.9: Value addition and Processing

This component will be implemented in collaboration with MAF and the Ministry of Trades and Industry. and its agencies (Produce Monitoring Board and Sierra Leone Investment and Export promotion).

Processing has been the missing link in the cashew value chain in Sierra Leone. Even though few actors are doing artisanal processing of the kernel for domestic consumption, this remains on a small and insignificant level.

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption
3.9.1 Cashew nuts and cashew by products (apple, shell) are transformed locally	3.9.1.1 Promote and introduce private sector actors to cashew processing and attract international private sector businesses into cashew processing	Number of incubation centers are established as pilots in selected strategic districts to inform local population on the potential of cashew processing and encourage small-scale processing businesses – target: rural youth	N/a	Three (3)incubation centres established as pilots in selected districts	Project report Monitoring and Evaluation report Register of incubation cent	Upgrading the production and processing are top priority Political support to cashew export
	3.9.1.2 Encourage private enterprises to process cashew apples into variety of cashew byproducts	Incubation centers include cashew apple value addition in their activities	N/a	Cashew apple value addition activities included in established incubation centre	Project report M & E Report	Upgrading the production and processing are top priority Improvement in product quality and quantity
	3.9.1.3 Conduct studies on cashew by products and its potential use in Sierra Leone (cashew nut shell, CNSL, apple)	number of study is published by 2021 and results are disseminated; existing suitable business models from other studies are taken into consideration	N/A	At least one (1) study published by 2021 and results disseminated.	Report of Cashew Platform secretariat/PMB Attendance list of participating institutions/organisations MAF M & E report	Better understanding of RCNSL and apple by-products and results disseminated

	3.9.1.4 Inform on potential of cashew processing and by products, ongoing projects and available support, funding schemes etc.	A cashew information centre is fully established through the MAF cashew coordinating Unit/Desk and includes advise and support on cashew value addition	N/a	One (1) well-structured cashew information centre established through MAF cashew coordinating Desk	Project report M & E Report	Cashew desk fully funded and operational
	3.9.1.5 Facilitate the establishment of cashew processing committees to monitor the use and management of the Cashew processing units.	Number of cashew processing committee established	N/A	At least six (6) committees established	Project report M & E Report	Well-structured constituted cashew committees
	3.9.1.6jFacilitate the creation of cashew buying agent groups/clusters to ensure sustainable supply of raw material to processing units and promote supply chain linkages between processors and buyers with farmers	Number of functional buying agent groups are fully operational	1 buying group available in waterloo	10 buying groups would have been created	Cashew Platform/PMB Project report MAF M & E Report	Sound government policies translated into cashew production, price and quality relationships

Table 3.10: Trade and Commercialization

3.10.1 Quality Control and Certification

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) will implement this component of the policy with Ministry of Trades and Industries and its agencies (Sierra Leone Produce Monitoring Board (SLPMB), Standards Bureau Sierra Leone (SBSL) and Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agencies (SLIEPA). Quality control issues along the cashew value chain have become a grave concern nationwide and have seriously impede the quality of cashew products. This has affected the price of the product and reduced the chances of being competitive in the international market. Quality control mechanisms and certification schemes are almost nonexistent, in the cashew sector.

The objective is **to ensure cashew product is of high quality, traceable and international standards are met.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption
3.10.1.1 To promote standards codes, quality control and certification nationwide	3.10.1.1.1 Establish standard codes and certification scheme for cashew and its byproducts	One (1) comprehensive Standard code and certification scheme establish and distributed nationwide	N/a	Comprehensive standard Code and Certification scheme distributed in the 15 MAF agricultural district Sound cashew policy could be translated in quality control and certification nationwide	Copy of Standard Code and Certification scheme M & E report	Standard bureau continue to participate and endorse the West African and other Standards r standard codes and certification scheme
	3.10.1.1.2 Promote and popularize stand codes and certification scheme for cashew nationwide through radio, Television and group discussion	Standard codes popularized in [number of]TV stations (SLBC/AYV/STAR/FTN) five radio stations in Sierra Leone Production and airing out jingles in 5 local	N/a	Codes and certification scheme for cashew Popularized in 4 television stations through panel discussions, news and vies	Project report MAF (PEMSD) M & E report	Adoption of certification schemes and understanding of code by relevant authorities

		languages		Cashew jingles developed, translated in at least 5 local languages and aired out in 5 regions in Sierra Leone		
	3.10.1.1.3 A network of stakeholders comprising of MAF/MTI/Private sector/ NGO is established for the promotion of cashew certification scheme	Number of cashew network at national level Number of district satellite clusters	One Cashew, Coffee and Cocoa Working group has been established	Fifteen (15 satellite clusters established in 15 agricultural districts 1 at national level?	Project / program database Project report M & E Report	Political will to support the cashew sector Strong public private partnership
	3.10.1.1.4 Training of Produce Monitoring Board Field staff nationwide on quality and standards for cashew production	Number of PMB staff trained on quality control, standards and certification of cashew produced for both domestic market and export	Three staff was trained in the Cashew Master Trainer Program (MTP) in 2018 and 2019P	45 staff would have better understanding of cashew quality nuts and by-products	PMB Project report M & E report	Quality, standards are top priority in global cashew trade
	3.10.1.1.1.5 Producer Organisations are encourage to register their membership with international certification bodies	% of cashew producer and processing organisations are registered with international certification scheme	N/a	A register of certification with international bodies are established Ensure that at least 40% cashew producers, processors & processing organisations register with ICS	Project / certification audit report Database of registered organisations	Quality and standards remain top priority in international trade

3.10.2. Price and Market Information

Standard pricing systems do not yet exist in Sierra Leone in the cashew sector. Traders sell as the situation deemed fit and there are no market information systems.

The objective is to ensure market and price information of cashew products are available to all actors in the cashew value chain.

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption
3.10.2 To ensure market and price information of cashew products are available to all actors in the cashew value chain	3.10.2.1 A memorandum of understanding is established between MAF and PMB in ensuring that price regulations is closely monitored and jointly implemented	A signed MOU stating the terms of the partnership between MAF and PMB established for the implementation of price regulation	N/a	A signed MOU stating the terms of the partnership between MAF and PMB established for the implementation of price regulation	Copy of signed MOU Interagency report M & E Report	Theory of comparative advantage is recognized Conditions are right
	3.10.2.2 Information on market development and prices are provided by MAF and are regularly circulated through PMB	Number of market information system established , Frequency of prices announced nationwide at and frequency of updating	N/a	One (1) market information system is established announcements/ updates per XX	Dissemination report	Quality Price relationship

3.11. Trade Regulations

Cashew trade is not yet regulated in Sierra Leone. Private actors involved in trade and export are mostly not formally registered or licensed. This leads to a very open and unregulated market, where farm gate buying happens often to the disadvantage of the farmer or in very savage competition.

The objective is to **establish a formalized and well-structured cashew market that is functional and enables all actors to buy and sell profitably.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption
3.11. To establish a formalized and well-structured cashew market that is functional and enables all actors to buy and sell profitably	3.11.1 Develop cashew trade regulation framework that will cover a wider range of production standards and commercialization	A structured cashew regulation framework is established and communicated	N/A	Well-structured framework that will cover wider range of products formulated and communicated	Project report M & E Report	Theory of comparative advantage is observed Well-structured framework that will cover wider range of products formulated and communicated
	3.11.2. Ensure that all cashew producers in Sierra Leone are registered formally with MAF	Number of cashew producers are formally registered and have business cards	N/A	4000 farmers registered into formidable groups with MAF	Cashew Producer register PMB Project report MAF (PEMSD) M & E Report	Conditions are right

Table 3.12: Sector Organisation

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption
3.12.1 An enabling environment for the cashew sector is created and all actors are structured and organized	3.12.1.1 The Ministry of agriculture takes the lead in promoting a sustainable cashew sector and coordinates activities with all involved stakeholders	A cashew desk within the Tree Crop Division of MAF is established, functional and connected to all stakeholders involved	N/a	One (1) operational cashew desk establish within the tree crop Division	Local bylaws Monitoring and Evaluation r	Strong political will to support Cashew sector Cashew continue to be a priority crop in the country
	3.12.1.1.2 Translate cashew policy and implementation targets in local bylaws and ensure its implementation	Fifteen (15) Agricultural District have incorporated the cashew policy in their local legislation	N/a.	Cashew policy translated within local bylaws in the 15 agricultural district, and its enforcement assured in all cashew producing districts	Monitoring and Evaluation report	Strong political will to support the cashew sector Cashew remain a priority of government cash crop
	3.12.1.1.3 Strong collaboration with all line Ministries concerned by the value chain	An inter-ministerial committee on cashew is functional and ensures regular exchange on the value chain	No structured inter-ministerial committee on cashew	An MOU is signed between MAF, and MTI One inter-ministerial committee is set up and is functional with regular exchange	Minutes of - committee meetings held monthly Attendance list of participants	Cashew remain a top priority locally ad in the global market
	3.12.1.1.4 Development Partner exchange an coordinate their interventions under the lead of MAF	One development partner Round Table on cashew is organized at least every year, information is exchanged on a regular	A cashew policy oversight committee has been established	One development partner round table on cashew is organised at least every year	Report of Development partner Round Table of cashew. Evidence of information shared	

		basis (quarterly) Frequency of meetings	to support MAF in the implementation of the cashew Policy implementation plan		through various channel.	
	3.12.1.1.5 Public private relations in cashew sector are enhanced and actively promoted by MAF and MTI	The existing Cocoa – Coffee Working Group will include cashew as part of the public-private dialogue	Milestone established	The existing Cocoa – Coffee Working Group will include cashew as part of the public-private dialogue		Strong political will to support the cashew sector

3.12.1. Farmer Based organizations

The sector is characterized by a low degree of organization of the cashew farming community. Cooperatives and farmer groups are existing, but these bodies are inactive and semi functional. Members do not have overall understanding of the purpose of their organizations and lack clear roles and responsibilities.

The objective is that **FBO'S are strengthened to actively represent the interest of farmers in cashew production.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption
3.12.1.1 Existing Farmer groups are empowered and dispose of the necessary capacities to play an active role in representing the interests of cashew farmers.	3.12.1.1.1 Provide technical support to effectively empower FBOs, governance structure and functions (functional constitution and Bylaws)	Formal constitution/Bylaws for Farmer Based Organisations in the cashew sector established	Some formal constitution/bylaws for Farmer Based Organisations available	All FBO's have formal constitutions/Bylaws	Monitoring and Evaluation reports Project reports (PMB/COOPI)	conditions are right Technical support available
	3.12.1.1.2 Promote the organization of cashew FBOs and their member network	A database of Farmer Based Organisations and its members established	Available but not comprehensive	A comprehensive database of Farmer Based Organisations and its members established	PMB, COOPI and other project register	
	3.12.1.1.3 Strengthen FBOs operational and business development capacities to provide Services to their members	FBOs are operational and trained, providing services to their members such as RCN bulk selling, access to credit for pruning, weeding operations)	N/a	FBOs are operational and trained, providing services to their members such as RCN bulk selling, access to credit for pruning, weeding operations)	FBO's Training reports and other project reports Monitoring report	

3.12.2. Cashew Commodity Association

Cashew Commodity associations have been created to represent all actors involved in the cashew sector (farmers, traders, processors, exporters and NGOs) on district level. Those associations are existing in some cashew producing districts, but not functional. In order to address the weak organisations of the sector, to improve its governance and to ensure that the private actor’s needs are articulated to government, these associations should play a central role.

The objective is that **CCA represent and articulate private sector interest and contribute actively to the governance of the cashew sector.**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will recognize the advocacy role of the Cashew Commodity Association and promote public-private dialogue and Include Cashew Commodity Association to the existing Cocoa Coffee Working Group of MAF and MTI.

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption
3.12.2.1 CCA Represent and articulate private sector interest and contribute actively to the governance of the cashew sector	3.12.2.1.1 Support Cashew commodity associations to play their role as an advocacy body for the cashew value chain	Number of existing CCA re-structured and operational	CCA’s are in the process of restructuring in Port Loko, Kambia and Bombali	6 CCA are restructured and functional in all cashew producing districts Establishment of new CCA in new cashew producing districts	CCA Registration and payment receipts Constitution of CCA Minutes of	
	3.12.2.1.2 Include the CCA into the existing Cocoa, Coffee Working group	CCA is officially included to the CCC Working Group	n/a	Five regional representatives is included in the CCC working group	Attendance list Minutes of decision to include CCA into the CCC working group	Political and technical support
	3.12.2.1.3 Build and strengthen capacities of CCA executives in advocacy, negotiation skills and governance	Number of CCA Executive members trained	N/a	160 CCA Executive members trained on negotiation skills, advocacy and governance One (1) Comprehensive training manual and plan develop	Training manuals Training report Participants attendance lists	

3.12.3. International Platforms

Cashew being an emerging crop in Sierra Leone, the country has not yet integrated sufficiently the international cashew sector. Exchange and learning from other cashew producing countries, especially in the sub region will be beneficial for the country and specifically the cashew sector.

The objective is that **Sierra Leonean cashew actors are integrated in international cashew networks and benefit of exchange and learning opportunities.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption
3.12.3.1 Sierra Leonean cashew actors are integrated in international cashew networks and benefit of exchange and learning opportunities.	3.12.3.1.1 Sierra Leone joins the Consultative International Cashew Council (CICC) as member state	GOSL has signed and ratified the convention of the CICC and is an active member	N/a	GOSL sign and ratify the conventions of the Consultative international cashew council as a member state by 2020		Strong political will Cashew remain a priority for government sensitive crops
	3.12.3.1.2 Increase exchange with other cashew producing countries in the sub region	Exchange visits, participation in cashew events in the sub region and training of MAF staff and its partners	Exchange visits, participation in cashew events in the sub region and training of MAF staff and its partners has commenced on a small scale	Increase in exchange visits,, participation in cashew events and training of MAF staff in the sub region	Activity plan Database of participants participation	Strong political will Cashew remain a priority for government sensitive crops Network and conditions are established

Table 3.13: Access to Finance

The cashew sector, especially production related activities, suffers from insufficient access to finance. Commercial banks and financial institutes do not offer adapted financial products and are often unaware of the potential of the cashew sector. Especially farmers do not have access to loans and other financial support, because of stringent collateral requirements, high interest rates and inflexible loan repayment schemes (not adapted to seasonal realities). This hinders the maintenance of existing plantations and often discourages them to pursue or expand their activities.

The objective is that **Adapted and flexible financial frameworks, that enable cashew actors to develop their business sustainably, are available.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption
3.13.1 Adapted and flexible financial frameworks, that enable cashew actors to develop their business sustainably, are available.	3.13.1.1 Sensitize and promote the importance and financial benefit of the cashew sector to financial institutions nationwide	Nationwide sensitization to Financial institutions in the fifteen (15) Districts on the importance and financial benefit of cashew sector	Comprehensive data not available	Nationwide sensitization to Financial institutions in 15 agricultural districts	Sensitization report Project report	
	3.13.1.2 Advocate with financial institutions to restructure their loan scheme to fit cashew actors and target especially women and youth in the sector	Number of Financial institutions provide loan schemes targeting cashew farmers, processors and traders	N/a	TBD	List of beneficiaries who have attained loans	Conditions are right Theory of comparative advantage
	3.13.1.3 Provide financial management and record keeping training for cashew farmers	15,000 cashew farmers trained on financial management and record keeping	Comprehensive data not available	15,000 cashew farmers trained on financial management and record keeping	Training report Training Manual Participant attendance list	

3.14 Data and Statistics

Currently only limited data on the cashew sector is available. Only few individual initiatives (yield studies, mapping of farms, household surveys etc.), mainly driven by development partners, on data collection and statistical analysis have been realized in the past years. On ministerial level, the Planning, Evaluation, Monitoring and Statistical Division has not yet included cashew in their database or circulated official information on the sector. This makes planning and monitoring of activities particularly difficult.

The objective is to ensure an accurate and updated and verified statistics and information is accessible to cashew actors in the value chain.

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption
3.14.1 Updated and verified data, statistics and information on the cashew sector is available and accessible.	3.14.1.1 Include Cashew in the PEMSD National action plan	Cashew is included in the MAF - PEMSD national database	N/a	Cashew included in the PEMSD National action plan	PEMSD Project report MAFS Monitoring and Evaluation report	Universal data collection standards and best practices
	3.14.1.2 Conduct impact assessment research on the cashew sector to have an updated statistics on cashew	Impact assessment result published and circulated yearly	N/a	Impact assessment result publishes and circulated yearly	Impact assessment report MAF Monitoring and Evaluation Report	
	3.14.1.3 Ensure that qualified enumerators gather relevant data and information on cashew sector	Number of Enumerators trained in data collection and information gathering		TBD	Training report Database of trained cashew enumerators Project report	

Table 3.15 Cross-cutting Issues

3.15.1: Gender

Women are active in all segments of the cashew value chain, particularly in production (harvest and post-harvest activities and intercropping), artisanal processing for local consumption, as well as buying and cashew trade. This active role does not reflect in their representation and engagement in the governance of the value chain. They are often poorly represented in Farmer Based Organisations and Commodity Associations. Decision making in this respect is not guaranteed to be representative and calls for a stronger involvement of female cashew actors, in order to include gender specific needs.

The objective is **to ensure that Women play an active and visible role along the value chain.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Current Status	Target to be met	Source of verification	Assumption
3.15.1.1 Women play an active and visible role along the value chain.	3.15.1.1.1 Ensure that women are included in all trainings and capacity development activities undertaken by MAF and its partners along the value chain	% of women participants in trainings and capacity development activities	At least 20% of participation is women	40% or more participation are women with more women participation encourage	Disaggregated attendance list of participants showing women participation	Gender mainstreaming remains a global concern and a government of SL priority
	3.15.1.1.2 Align Cashew Policy and its implementation plan to the Gender in Agriculture Policy (GiAP) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	The activities of the implementation plan respect the recommendations of GiAP	A Draft Gender in Agriculture policy is being developed by MAF	All recommendation of the GIAP is respected	M& E report on the impact and alignment of cashew policy	Policy development continue to be a priority of MAF and is translated into practice
	3.15.1.1.3 Encourage active participation of women in all cashew sector governance structures	Forty (40)% of women representatives/staff in the Tree Crops Division, CCA, FBOs, Cashew Working Group etc.	At least 20% of women are visible represented in the Tree Crops division	By 2023, 40% of members/staff need to be women	Project report	

3.15.2: Security

Smuggling of cashew, due to insufficient security and border protection, has impacted the cashew sector negatively. It has led to leakage of revenues, loss in sales and has impacted the volume generated for exports. This has a negative effect on overall security in the cashew production areas.

The objective is that **Security in cashew producing districts is ensured and smuggling prevented.**

Objective	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target to be met	Source of Verification	Assumption
3.15.2.1 To ensure that smuggling is prevented in cashew producing districts and security is ensured	3.15.2.1.1 Establish a district committee for enforcement of security issues to include Paramount Chiefs, Customs, Police, District Councils, Cashew Commodity Association, PMB	Fifteen agricultural cashew producing districts with a Security Committee	A platform is being prepared and District authorities are being sensitize	15 active and enforceable Security committee (1 in each districts)	Boarder security report of smuggling activities Database of exporters by PMB MAF (PEMSD) Monitoring and Evaluation Report	National security continue to be government priority
	3.15.2.1.2 Policy included into the local Bylaws to ensure local implementation	Cashew policy setup is included in the Local Bylaws	Local authorities including Paramount Chiefs are being sensitize of the cashew Policy and the importance of inclusion of including it into Local Bylaws	Cashew policy included into the Local By laws in all Districts	Local Bylaws of District Administration	Continued collaboration with Local District Authorities

Annex 2: Cashew Policy Communication Plan

