

CASHEW (*ANACARDIUM OCCIDENTALE*, L.)

- **Cashew (*Anacardium occidentale*, L.)**

ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION

- Indigenous to South America. Introduced to North America, Asia, Africa and Australia by the Portuguese explorers between 15th and 16th centuries.
- Commercially grown in many countries in 4 continents: Asia, Australia, South America and Africa.

Cashew in Nigeria

- ❖ Cashew is cultivated in all agro-ecological zones of Nigeria. Thus, it tolerates wide rainfall conditions of between 600 mm and 3,000 mm per annum.
- ❖ Price of cashew nut per ton depends on the nut-size: The bigger the nut-size the higher the price.
- ❖ Various nut sizes of cashew nuts include: Jumbo-size, Extra large, large, medium, small and Madras nuts

Raising Cashew in the Nursery

- Cashew seedlings are raised in the nursery through the nuts
- Heavier nut-size are preferably used for seedlings production.
- Seedlings produced by lighter nuts are less vigorous and hardly survive transplanting shock when eventually transplanted.

Site selection:

- Thin forest is ideal for cashew
- Clear-fell all trees

Layout:

- The field is laid out at a spacing that suits the farming technology.

Transplanting of cashew seedlings into the field.

- Cashew seedlings are transplanted into a clear-fell field after a period of 8 – 12 weeks in the nursery.
- Only vigorous seedlings are transplanted.
- The crop is transplanted at a spacing of 9m x 9m. Closer spacings of 6m x 6m, 4.5m x 4.5m are possible, but, the trees have to be later thinned to a wider plant spacing when the canopy becomes bigger.

Peculiar maintenance operations in cashew

- Weeding
- Pruning
- Selective thinning

Insect Pest of Cashew

- **Root and stem borer (*Plocaederus ferrugineus*):**
- **Stem girdler (*Analeptis trifasciata*):**

Harvesting

- Harvesting in cashew is by picking the fallen nuts.

Post harvest handling:

- Removal of foreign bodies.
- Sorting
- Sun-drying
- Bagging

Grading of cashew:

- Cashew is graded according to the size of the nuts

Marketing:

Properly dried cashew is sold in the international market through the local buying agents of the multinational companies.