



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO REVITALIZE THE CASHEW NUT SECTOR IN KENYA







Policy Recommendations to Revitalize the Cashew Nut Sector in Kenya

According to Kenya's 2010 constitution, agriculture is a devolved function. However, agricultural policy formulation remains a function of the National Government. County Governments are thus expected to formulate their agricultural policies and legislations that align to the National Agricultural Policy

What is the role of agricultural policy frameworks in Kenya?


Agricultural policy frameworks play a crucial role in Kenya. They provide a set of guidelines, regulations, and strategies that guide the development, management, growth and sustainability of the agricultural sector in the country.

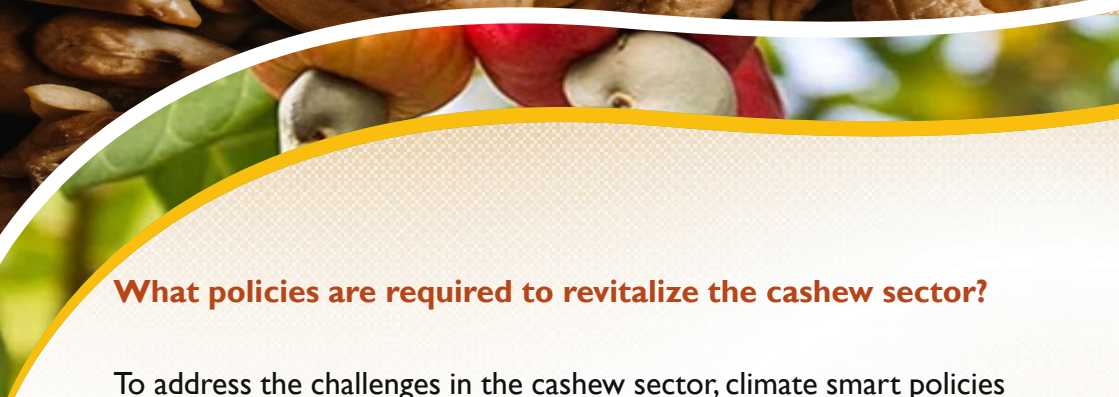
How cashew policies could affect the small holder farmers?

Cashew nut policies have a significant impact on the livelihoods of smallholder cashew farmers.

- The policies can facilitate market access and ensure better prices for cashew nuts thus improve the farmers' income and overall economic well-being.
- Policies that focus on quality standards and certification play a crucial role. Compliance with quality requirements ensures that Kenyan cashews meet international standards and thus assuring markets for Kenyan cashew.
- Certification (such as organic or fair trade) can open up export opportunities and fetch better prices for farmers.



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- Policies that promote research and technology adoption benefit smallholders by:
 - Ensuring availability of improved cashew varieties which improve crop yield and resilience.
 - Enabling pest and disease management: Effective policies can help farmers to combat common pest and disease challenges by ensuring availability of quality pest control products.
 - Ensure availability of Post-harvest handling techniques: Proper storage and processing improve quality and assures markets.
 - Policies that facilitate access to credit and financial services empower smallholder farmers enabling them to access credit for investing in inputs, equipment, and infrastructure. Microfinance institutions and cooperatives play a vital role in providing financial support.
 - Policies on extension services ensure farmer training on TIMPs, sustainable farming, and climate resilience to improve productivity.
 - Policies on Knowledge transfer empowers farmers to make informed decisions.



What policies are required to revitalize the cashew sector?

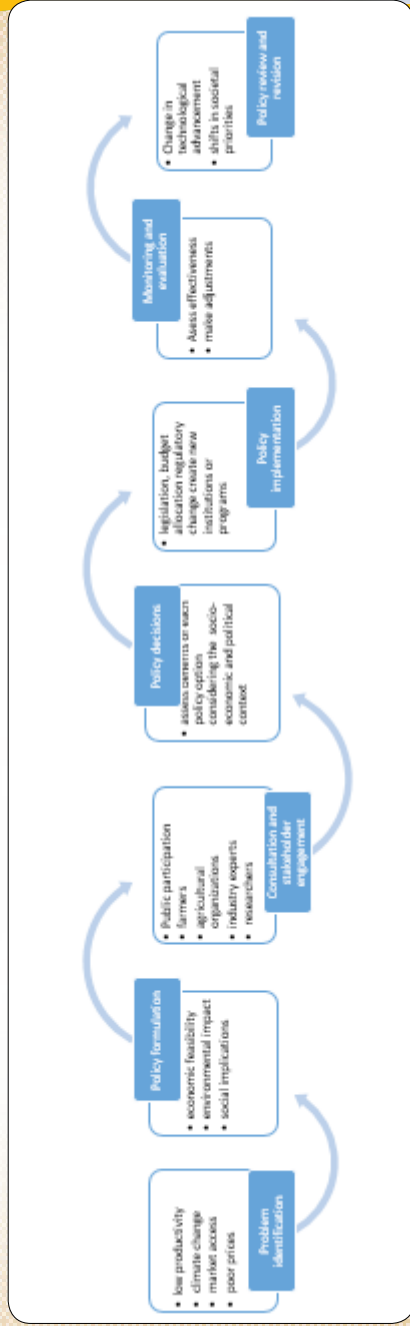
To address the challenges in the cashew sector, climate smart policies are required to focus on the following areas:

- Enhancing climate resilience. The policies must aim to build the farmers capacity for resilience against tproduction shocks promotion of Technology Innovation and Management Practices on drought-resistant varieties, water management, and soil conservation.
- Protect smallholder farmers from crop losses due to extreme weather events through crop diversification and crop insurance
- Promote value addition within Kenya (processing, packaging, and branding) to reduce post-harvest losses, expand market potential for farm products and increase farmer incomes. Value-added products fetch higher prices and create employment opportunities.
- Promote gender-sensitive policies that recognize the role of women in cashew farming, ensuring equal access to resources and decision-making.
- Policies that encourage cooperative societies to empower smallholders. Collective bargaining enhances farmers market. Cooperatives facilitate joint marketing, bulk purchasing, and knowledge sharing.

How can cashew farmers participate in policy formulation for the cashew industry?

Farmers need to be informed about the policy making process and existing policies, regulations, and opportunities, such as those on good agricultural practices, quality standards, and market access.

Farmers and stakeholders in the cashew sector can participate in and influence the relevant agricultural/crop/cashew nut policies through the following means:



The agricultural policy making process

- Forming cooperatives or associations to amplify their voices and negotiate collectively. These groups can, by voicing the farmers' concerns, needs, and priorities, advocate for favorable policies, and provide input in the decision-making processes.
- Cashew farmers can actively engage with their members of county assembly (MCAs) and advocate for their needs. They should actively participate in public participation meetings, stakeholder meetings, policy forums, and consultations. By voicing their concerns, they can influence policy formulation and implementation.
- Cashew farmers can collaborate with research institutions to influence the research and innovation agenda towards development of improved cashew varieties.



Cashew stakeholder meeting



Key Acts and Regulations Governing the Cashew subsector

1. The Crops Act (No. 16 of 2013). The Crops (Nuts and Oil Crops) Regulations, 2020. This is in place though with weak enforcement
2. *The Nuts and Oil Crops Development Bill 2023*
3. *The Coconut and Cashew nut Bill 2023*
4. *The Seeds and Plant Varieties (Vegetatively Propagating Seeds) Regulations 2023.*

The last three are still undergoing the Parliamentary process. Once these acts and regulations are approved they will help in:

- i) Registration of small-holder growers, plantation growers, and growers associations
- ii) Registration and licensing of
 - Commercial nurseries
 - Mother plants/mother block registration
 - traders, retailers, transporters, marketing agents, warehousemen and distributors
 - importers and exporters
- .iii) Approval and licensing of manufacturing facilities
- iv) Enhancing traceability of cashew produce and products
- v) Streamlining seedling nursery operations in production handling and sale of certified cashew seedlings



Cashew nursery



Improved cashew variety



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KALRO/NAVCDP/Cashew Pamphlet No...../2024

