



AFRICAN  
CASHEW  
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**Speech by Babatola Faseru, President of the African Cashew Alliance**

**WCC-JNEC CI 2022**

**Abidjan, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

His Excellency, the Prime Minister, Mr. Patrick Achi

Director General of the Cashew, Cotton Council, Dr Adama Coulibaly

The Chairman of Tan Long, Mr Trouyg Sy Ba

Senior Vice President of Olam, Mr Ganesh Rajaraman

Development and Technical Partners present

Farmers, processors, exporters,

Media, both local and international

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the African Cashew Alliance, I am delighted to address you at this official opening ceremony of the World Cashew Convention being held for the second time with the National Cashew Exporters Day. I want to first thank the Government of Cote d'Ivoire, represented here this morning by the Honourable Patrick Achi, the Prime Minister, for accommodating us in this beautiful city of Abidjan. And to the organizing partners, thank you for efforts.

The production growth of cashew in Cote d'Ivoire continues to be worthy of commendation and emulation. At number one in the world and with the input from other countries, Africa accounts for more than 50% of the global production. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest congratulations to the producers who are behind these excellent results. While we are grateful for this growth, the cashew sector remains largely uncompetitive. With a processing percent of less than 10%, the processing industry remains undeveloped in Africa.

I believe it is for such challenges that these conferences are set up to gather experts both from the public and private sectors to discuss and deliberate on how to address these challenges. I



greatly look forward to the panel coming up later today on how to sustainably scale up cashew processing in Africa.

To address the challenge of limited processing in Africa requires a continuous effort, and we encourage regional and international partnerships to accelerate the industrial growth of the cashew industry here in Africa. As demand for cashew increases, buyers in India, Brazil, Europe, the United States, and even Vietnam will continue to turn to the continent of Africa to source cashew and it is important that we are ready to transact not just the raw cashew nuts but processed kernels. Since 2012, ACA experts have been supporting African cashew industry expansion and Quality & food safety certification by mobilizing donor support programs and enabling global competitiveness practices. The ACA Seal is offered to local processors at highly subsidized fees to ensure food safety at the factories is adhered to, matching the international market demand. Currently, ACA is working with 8 factories here in Cote d'Ivoire to implement food safety certification activities. This we plan to extend to other countries in the coming months.

Your Excellency, ladies, and gentlemen, I mentioned a while ago the need to encourage partnerships both at regional and international levels. Here in the African cashew industry, we are working first with each country and the existing association to ensure the sector is properly organized. Today we have several stakeholders coming together to form interprofessions, alliances, associations thanks to the support of the African Cashew Alliance and its partners. These associations formed at the country level will further create avenues for regional, and ensure international partnerships where favorable and inclusive policies set up are implemented by governments.

Without much ado, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to participate in the 16th edition of the ACA Annual Cashew Conference to be held during 12-16th September 2022 in Abuja, Nigeria under the theme, "Strengthening the role of byproducts and kernel marketing to drive sustainability in the African cashew sector". After two online sessions, I am happy to inform you that we will be hosting a physical conference come September. The ACA conference has



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undoubtedly a record of being an ideal place to meet potential business partners and I entreat you to register now and secure a spot. I look forward to hosting you all in September in my country, Nigeria.

On behalf of the Board and Management of the African Cashew Alliance, I thank you for having us here and wish everyone here a safe stay and fruitful deliberations.

Thank you!

Merci!