

PREMIER CASHEW INDUSTRIES

Exporter of
Organic Cashew Nuts in Tanzania

PCI is registered in Tanzania as a Public Limited Company. The company is dedicated to the purchasing and processing of raw cashew nuts in Tanzania, and exporting of the (shelled) cashew kernels to countries throughout the world. In 2002, exports took place to: U.S.A., Canada, U.K., The Netherlands, Japan, Korea, Kenya, Pakistan, India, South Africa & Dubai.

PCI aims to take advantage of the huge quantity of cashew nuts produced in Tanzania, which is traditionally exported to India for processing. To reach this objective, the company underlines the importance of quality. Exports from Tanzania benefit from the preferential treatment given by developed countries like the USA Japan and in the EU.

The cashew processing is carried out manually. PCI operates a processing plant in which 1,500 women shell the nuts. The present capacity allows for processing of 22 tons of raw nuts per day. The 2001 production volume corresponds to approximately 3.5% of Tanzania's production. Part of the production is in the process of being certified organic.

PCI is aiming to be a reliable exporter of high quality organic cashew kernels, with state of the art processing (vacuum packed).



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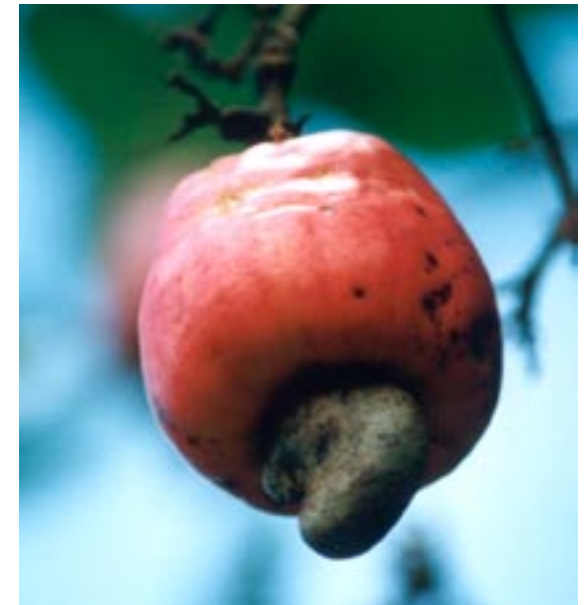
www.premiercashew.com

Supported by the Sida programme
– EPOPA – www.epopa.info
Export Promotion of Organic Products from Africa



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A Win-Win Project

Premier Cashew Industries (PCI) participate in the EPOPA project to enhance their export of organic Cashew from the Coast region of Tanzania. They get assistance in finding buyers and to get the product certified. In return they implement the project for example by employing field staff.

Premium pay and premium quality

Farmers will receive a premium for their organic produce. Furthermore PCI is working on improving social standards for its workers and on quality standards (HACCP) for its product.

Cashew Nuts, Tanzania (Anacardium occidentale)

The Cashew tree is found in many tropical areas. Some cultures make a beverage from the fruit, although the fruit itself is commonly not consumed. A nut, in the shape of a kidney, hangs at the base of the fruit. The kernel inside the fruit, the Cashew Nut, is excellent to eat.

The major cashew producers in the World are India, Brazil and Vietnam, while Mozambique and Tanzania have declined from their prominent positions in the 1970s.

Regardless of the decline in cashew production in the past two decades, Cashew Nuts still remains the third important export crop of the country. Furthermore, Tanzania maintains its position as the fourth biggest cashew nut producer in the world.

Cashew is the main cash crop produced along the coast. The harvesting season in the Coast region is from October to January.

The nuts is predominantly grown by small-holders. The number of trees owned varies from 150 to around 3,000 per farmer.

One tree can yield 10-30 kg raw nuts, which give about 2-6 kg kernels.



Target group

The direct target groups are the existing organic farmer communities in the Mkuranga district, South of Dar Es Salaam, and the urban women processing the nuts at the factory.

Overall aim

- To improve livelihoods of rural population and of urban women by export of organic cashew
- To diversify export products for Premier Cashew Industries
- To add extra value to an important Tanzanian export crop

Project objectives

- To convert 500 farms to organic farming systems, thereby improving quality and yields
- To process and export 400 tons of organic cashew kernels
- To improve food safety and working conditions in the factory



EXPORT PROMOTION OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS FROM AFRICA

EPOPA – Development through Organic Trade

Export Promotion of Organic Products from Africa (EPOPA) is a programme created by the Swedish international Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in 1994. The programme has projects present in Uganda and Tanzania.

The EPOPA programme aims to give African smallholder farmers better conditions through developing the exports of organic products from Africa. The rural communities, thus the farmers, get a premium price for their crop, they get a more transparent price setting from the exporter who buys more directly and they are paid cash in hand.

Participating countries are given the opportunity to increase and diversify their exports, while at the same time expose the agricultural sector to innovative and environmentally sound farming techniques.

The programme has since it started in 1994 proven to be a valid instrument for African exporters to improve their business and for thousands of farmers to improve their livelihood.

The execution of the EPOPA Programme is subcontracted to a consortium of two consultancies, AgroEco from the Netherlands and Grolink from Sweden. Both consultancies have great experience of working with international organic production issues worldwide.

More information

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