



# ssnup

Smallholder Sustainability  
Upscaling Programme

## ENHANCING RESILIENCE THROUGH CLIMATE-SMART PRACTICES IN THE CASHEW VALUE CHAIN IN BENIN AND IVORY COAST



Africa



Latin America



Asia



Financial services delivery



Capacity building for end  
beneficiaries



Market access and  
product development



Management systems  
improvement

### CONTEXT

Ivory Coast is the world's largest producer of cashews, producing around 1.5 million tons of raw nuts in 2025. Benin, with approximately 225,000 tons, ranks seventh globally. Cashews are a key cash crop, providing income for about 450,000 smallholder households in Ivory Coast and 200,000 in Benin. Although climatic conditions are generally favourable, climate and environmental pressures increasingly threaten production. Irregular rainfall and rising temperatures affect yields, while many orchards are planted on marginal land with poor soil fertility, leading to declining productivity. As cashew remains profitable, farmers often expand plantations into new land, contributing to deforestation and soil degradation. Although farmers are aware of climate risks, adoption of climate-smart practices remains limited due to economic constraints and weak extension services. Farmers often prioritise short-term income over soil restoration.

### CURRENT STATUS OF THE BENEFICIARY ORGANISATIONS

The beneficiary organisations are agri-SMEs – a cashew aggregator in Ivory Coast and a cashew aggregator and processor in Benin, both collaborating with a global trader and sourcing cocoa and cashew nuts from approximately 33,000 farmers in Ivory Coast and 8,300 in Benin. Since 2021, farmers have been supported through traceability systems, training, agroforestry promotion and farm rehabilitation. In Ivory Coast, 133 Village Savings and Loan Associations that support farm investment and farmer resilience have been established in collaboration with the trader.

### OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The project aims to promote regenerative and climate-smart cashew production practices to improve the resilience and food security of smallholder households in Benin and Ivory Coast. The expected results of the project are:

- Train 3,560 smallholder farmers in climate-smart and regenerative farming systems in cashew production.
- Establish 4 demonstration plots to promote regenerative practices, including biochar application, legume intercropping and agroforestry with fruit trees.
- Ensure compliance of 3,560 smallholder farmers with Rainforest Alliance certification requirements.

### PRIORITY TOPICS

Environment  
and climate change

Food security  
and improved nutrition

Gender equality

Fair agrifood systems



### IMPACT INVESTOR



### BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

Agri-SMEs in Benin and Ivory Coast

### TARGET

3,560 smallholder farmers

### AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN

Cashew, fruits, legumes

### STARTING DATE

June 2026

### DURATION

12 months

### TOTAL TA BUDGET

€105,352

Including €50,000 (47%)  
contribution from SSNUP



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