

Cashew farmers in Mozambique prepare for a busy harvest season

September 2016 – Mozambique

Alda Filomena André, a cashew farmer from the village of 3 de Fevereiro in Nangade district, enjoys showing off her young, green cashew nuts that have begun

to emerge on many of her cashew trees. Alda and her husband have worked hard throughout the year to get to this point and are now busy preparing for the harvest.

As one of the 23,000 farmers participating in the MozaCajú project, they have spent the last few months pruning and cashew cleaning their eliminating i.e. branches that are dry,

diseased longer productive. no Currently they are in the process of spraying to protect the trees from pests and disease. Their goal is to have a harvest even more plentiful than the last and they

> are hopeful that this year it will happen.

> Over the next few weeks the cashew apples Alda's trees – and cashew trees across Mozambique - will start to form above the cashew nut, which grows in a hard shell connected to the bottom of the apple. Once the cashew is ripe, it will fall to the ground and the cashew nut and apple will

The first cashew apple of the season on Alda's farm

be ready to harvest.



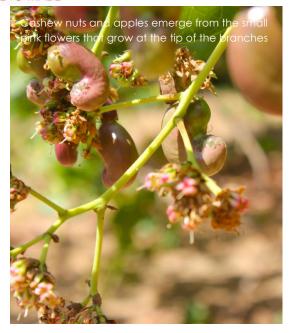




Typically, cashew farmers in Mozambique harvest both the cashew nut and apple. Though the raw cashew nut is the primary income-generating product of the cashew tree, some farmers make money from selling the cashew apple as well, which makes a juice called cajuina.

Additionally, some farmers keep cashew nuts and apples for consumption in the home. Whether it is roasted, ground and added to curries or turned into juice, cashew nuts and apples are a favorite in the family – however, this is primarily only during the time of the harvest when it is plentiful in the household.

A well-producing cashew tree can produce anywhere from 5 to 15 kilograms of raw cashew nut. Farmers like Alda who have many cashew trees will hire local daylaborers from the community during the harvest to help with the collection of the cashew nut and apple, making it a busy time not only for the cashew producers but the entire community.



By mid-October, the cashew harvest season will begin in this northernmost district of Nangade, the major cashewproducing region of Cabo Delgado province. By November, the trees in the rest of the cashew producing areas of the country will be ready for harvest, which typically lasts through December, when commercialization begins.







