

## Enhancing Domestic Food Processing for a Neglected Agricultural Commodity: An Empirical Evidence-Based CGE Modelling Approach

### Project Team



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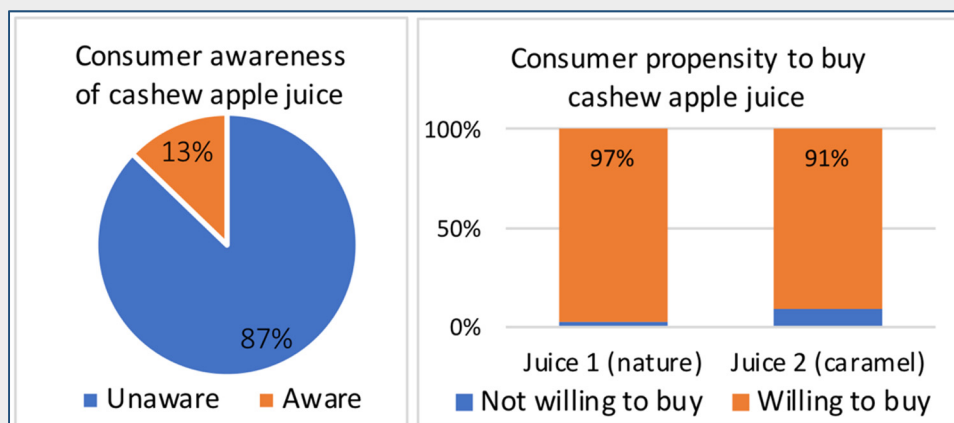


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Cashew trees, besides cashew nuts also produce cashew apples. These are juicy fruits, rich in vitamins and nutrients and at least nine times heavier than the nuts. As they perish quickly and cannot be marketed as fresh fruits, they mostly spoil under the trees. Processing is the only way to avoid this. Furthermore, processing of the apple provides additional income to farmers with little additional effort and cost and can potentially contribute to poverty reduction as well as enhancement of food and nutritional security.



This project aims at assessing the economy-wide effects of developing this sector using computable general equilibrium (CGE) modelling. Surveys are conducted analyzing the sector and investigating consumer's awareness of cashew juice and their willingness to pay, to support the simulations with empirical evidence.



We found that almost 90% of Benin consumers are not aware of the existence of cashew juice. When tasting different types of cashew juice, most of the consumers expressed willingness to buy these juices. This means that there is a potentially high demand for cashew juice in Benin. In addition, more than 80% of the consumers wanted to substitute sodas by cashew juice for a healthier diet. Further research is ongoing depicting the processing of cashew apple in the process of a CGE model to analyze the additional value-added generation.



This project is a part of the PhD research of **Thierry Kinkpe** under the supervision of **Prof. Harald Grethe** and **Dr. Jonas Luckmann**. It was framed to complement a transdisciplinary research project of the Food System Economics Commission (FSEC), which is an independent academic commission set-up to equip political and economic decision makers with tools and evidence to shift food and land use. We are grateful to FSEC for funding the empirical work related to this research. For more information about FSEC, please consult <https://www.foodsystemeconomics.org>.



For more information on  
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