

# KIRKLAND SIGNATURE CASHEWS SOURCED BY OLAM



Here is an overview of the cashew program progress in Cote d'Ivoire and Vietnam where OFI sources cashews for Costco.

The program aligns with the following UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



## Project 99, Côte d'Ivoire

In Côte d'Ivoire, the program is designed to create a responsible cashew supply chain where small-scale farmers and their households have improved livelihoods, good health, and well-being.

This is being achieved through the following four initiatives:

1. Introducing beekeeping to supplement the incomes of cashew farmers
2. Building community access to clean and safe drinking water
3. Providing childcare services in processing facilities to enable and encourage more women to work and earn an income
4. Improving profits and livelihoods of farmers

### 1. Promoting apiculture (Bee keeping)



Women cashew farmers are being trained on beekeeping to provide an additional source of income from the sale of honey and wax. In order to create a greater impact, the apiculture program started with Training of Trainers program where 10 trainers have already completed the first module with their 10 beehives who in turn will train 50 cashew farmers. The pollination services of the bees have the added benefit of boosting cashew nut yields.

## 2. Improving community access to clean and safe drinking water



According to the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), 44% of rural areas in Cote d'Ivoire, do not have access to basic water services. This increases the risk of water-borne diseases like dysentery, typhoid and giardia.

Women and girls are disproportionately affected as those typically tasked with walking long distances to collect clean water, exposing them to potential harassment. Children often miss school too as a result of these journeys, when they accompany their mother to provide an extra pair of hands. Installing water

pumps and borewells therefore, not only promotes the health of these communities, but also contributes greatly to social improvements for women and their children. To support cashew communities, we have constructed 3 water boreholes in Côte d'Ivoire in the villages of N'guessankankro, Plikétotokro, and Guienzoukro.

## 3. Providing childcare services in processing facilities

According to UNICEF data for the year 2019 under five years old mortality rate is 79.3 per 1000 live births in Côte d'Ivoire. Early childhood care is essential for the health of children under 5. Furthermore, women have to keep on working to earn living income. A lack of childcare is one of the biggest barriers to women staying in employment, which is why this program is providing dedicated facilities for breastfeeding and childcare for female factory employees, to promote a more diverse and inclusive workplace.



#### 4. Training farmers on good agricultural practices

Implementing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) are important to ensure the ingredient is produced in a way that is safe for consumption, as well as sustainable for the farmer and environment. To date, over 2,000 cashew farmers have received GAP training including pruning, crop diversification, farm management, optimal post-harvest and storage techniques which, combined with being



supplied with essential farm-inputs like seeds and fertilizers, helps farmers produce more and increase the quality of what they sell.

#### Project in Vietnam

Starting from a single group of growers, in 2018, we are now supporting 3,400 farmers and their families across four towns through various initiatives that are focused on improving

1. Access to education
2. Farmer livelihoods
3. Infrastructure for local cashew cooperatives
4. Building Better Living conditions
5. Promoting health and safety in communities



## 1. Investing in quality education

Access to education and the necessary infrastructure is often limited in rural farming communities, but essential for socio-economic development. In the Ia Grai, we have supported a kindergarten school named Truong Mau Giao 10 by building a playground for 400 children attending school in 2 sessions.



## 2. Improving farmer incomes and livelihoods



Farmers in the program are trained and given resources to improve the quality and therefore the value of the cashew they sell. Since 2018, 3,400 farmers are trained on Good Agricultural Practices including quality maintenance and post-harvest

management, which is expected to generate more income for over 10,000 people estimating that average cashew farmer household has min. 3 people.

### 3. Empowering farmer cooperatives



Without adequate commercial infrastructure, cashew farmers can't secure as much value from their crop. 1 out of 4 towns we have transformed the old community house into a new cooperative common area with drying facilities, trading desks, and offices. This Cooperative common area is in Duc Co Costco Town. There

are 791 cooperative members who now have access to sell their cashew, as well as other produce, all year round. This area is also open to non-cooperative members who are living in that area therefore, reaching out to other farmers who are producing crops other than cashew and provide access to market.

### 4. Promoting health and safety in the community



Five public toilets and four water wells have been built, and 200 solar & electric street lights installed to improve sanitation and safety for over 10,000 people living and commuting in three towns, Ia Grai, Duc Co and Binh Phuoc.



## 5. Building better living conditions



Beyond the farms, projects also supports wider community efforts. Financially challenged families are supported through this housing project among the cashew communities. 5 houses have been renewed already.