

The Gambia

The Gambia, officially the Republic of the Gambia, is a country in West Africa. The Gambia is often referred to as 'The Smiling Coast'. It is the smallest country within mainland Africa and is surrounded by Senegal, except for its western coast on the Atlantic Ocean. The Gambia is a very small and narrow country whose borders mirror the meandering Gambia River. It lies between latitudes 13 and 14°N, and longitudes 13 and 17°W. Senegal surrounds The Gambia on three sides, with 80 km (50 mi) of coastline on the Atlantic Ocean marking its western extremity.

Official Name	The Republic of The Gambia
ISO Country Code	3166-2
Time	UTC+0; GMT
Country Calling Code	+220
Capital City	Banjul
Area	10,689 Sq. km
Other Cities	Brikama, Gunjur, Bakau, Mansa Konko, George Town, Basse Santa Su
Natural Resources	Fisheries, Quartz Sand, and Minerals such as zircon, titanium, laterite, clay, sand, and silica
Agriculture Products	The main agricultural products grown locally are peanuts, rice, millet and sorghum. The main fruits produced include mangoes and cashews
Currency	Dalasi GMD

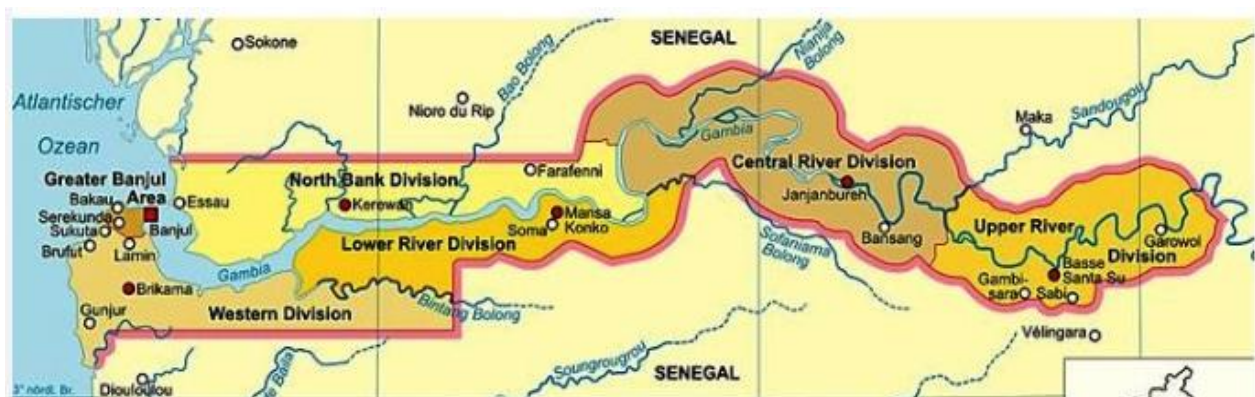
Climate

The Gambia experiences a tropical climate characterized by hot and rainy season which lasts from June to November and cool temperatures for the rest of the year. The country's climate resembles the climate of the neighboring countries such as that of Senegal, northern Benin, and southern Mali. The climate of Gambia is one of the main tourist attractions. Apart from tourism, the tropical climate also favors agricultural activities in the country.

Cashew Growing Regions

Cashews can be grown in almost all parts of the Gambia, with current production concentrated along the north bank and west coast areas.

The west coast offers easy access to Banjul port and airport, while the north and south roads and navigable river ensures easy access from the rest of the country.



Cashew Harvest Calendar of Activities

Calendar of cashew activities

Sector activities	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Season	Dry					Rainy						Dry
CASHEW PRODUCTION												
Seed selection												
Nursery preparation												
Seedling transplant/direct planting												
Weed management												
Pruning												
Grafting												
Land clearing/cleaning												
Tree flowering												
Identification of potential seed												
Fire belting												
Beekeeping												
Preparation for marketing of nuts												
Collection of nuts												
Drying of nuts												
Marketing of nuts												

Source: <https://yep.gm/storage/app/uploads/public/5b6/034/e68/5b6034e684aca720044982.pdf>

Introduction

The Gambian cashew sector has shown tremendous potential in the last 20 years as an alternative crop to diversify production and exports from the current concentration on groundnuts. The sector’s performance has grown steadily in the last few years, sustained by the global demand for cashews.

Cashews were first introduced in the Gambia as early as the 1960s, primarily as a reforestation and fire prevention measure. The Gambian cashew sector was mostly developed through private sector efforts in the late 1980s. In the early 1990s the private sector commenced distribution of seeds of locally improved varieties. Seeds were distributed along with a cashew grower’s manual.

The production of raw cashew nuts steadily increased from a low 200 tons in 1998 to 2,000 tons in 2007. In recent years, Gambian raw nut prices have been notably higher than in Guinea-Bissau and Senegal.

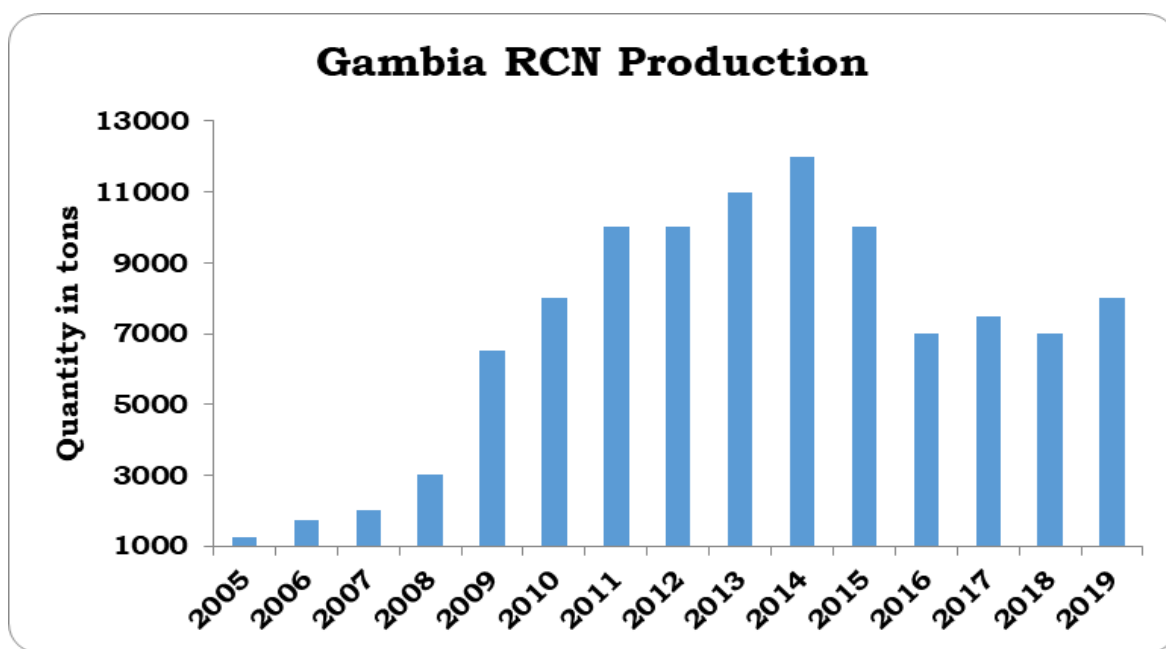
The vitality of the sector in The Gambia, the high concentration of exporters and the port infrastructure drew cashews from Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. Leadership from the private sector has led to the sector’s growth in The Gambia.

Future development hinges on the ability of sector stakeholders to address and correct key constraints and seize emerging opportunities.

The Gambia Statistics

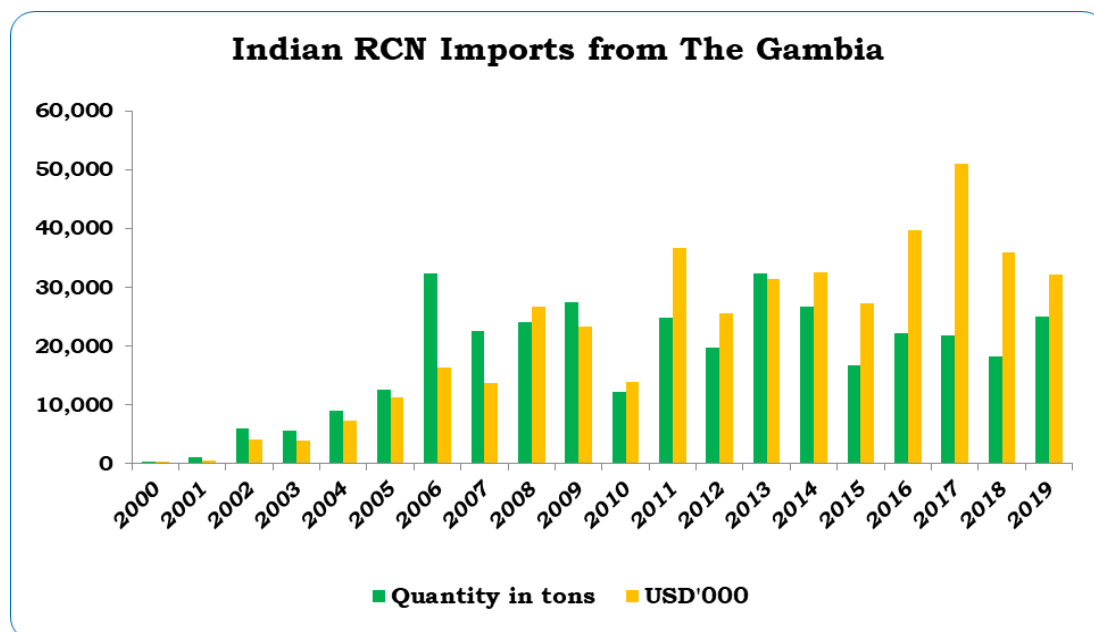
Gambia Raw Cashew Production

The Gambia Raw Cashewnut (RCN) production increases to 12000 tons in 2014 from the low of 1250 tons produced in 2006. In the last decade the RCN production averages more than 9000 tons.



Source: ITC calculations and IRD data, WCCE PPTs presented by ComAfrique Limited

Indian Import of RCN from The Gambia



Source: CEPCI, DGCIS, Ministry of Commerce

The Gambia mainly exports rcn to India and Vietnam mostly in the raw form. Moreover, Gambian exports were far higher than what they actually produce due to cross border trade. Raw materials from Neighbouring countries like Senegal and Gambia to other countries.

India’s rcn imports from Gambia averages well above 22500 tons since 2006. The highest ever import of rcn from Gambia was witnessed during 2013 when it produced 33332 tons.

References

https://www.climatefinancelab.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/SeGaBi-study_final_18.03.02_pub.pdf

YOUTH AND TRADE ROADMAP OF THE GAMBIA NUTS AND AGROPROCESSING SECTOR 2018-2022

http://www.gambiatradinginfo.org/sites/default/files/Gambia-Cashew_Strategy.pdf

Ports of The Gambia

The (GPA) Gambia Ports Authority is charged with administering the docks situated at Banjul. It was created in 1972 by the Ports Act to operate the ports of the Gambia on a commercial basis.

It was given the mandate to manage and provide all necessary marine and harbour

facilities, cargo handling equipment and storage as well as to regulate, enhance and to carry out regular maintenance of the complex.

Source: <http://accessgambia.com/information/ports-authority.html>

Governmental Agencies

The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) was established in 1993, by an act of parliament of the Republic of the Gambia. The NARI is a major component of The Gambian agricultural research system. The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) maintains two main research stations, one in the eastern half of the country at Sapu in Central River Division (CRR) and the other in the western half at Yundum. In addition to these main stations, NARI operates in several satellite research stations countrywide. At the institute's headquarters in Brikama, three laboratories for pest management, soil analysis, and food quality analysis respectively, are operational. NARI has a long working history with CORAF and the WAAPP.

Source: <http://www.coraf.org/gambia/>

Ministry of Agriculture, Gambia, <http://www.moa.gov.gm/about>

MOA is in charge of driving the government agenda with respect to agriculture and all related activities. It oversees the activities of national agencies involved in agricultural development such as NARI and Departments of Agriculture for the implementation of agricultural-based policies and programmes. MOA collects agricultural data on area, yield and production, and trains farmers.

Ministry of Trade, Regional Integration & Employment (MOTIE)

MOTIE is responsible for trade policy, industrial development, employment creation, export development and overall private sector development.

Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs (MOFEA)

The main responsibilities of MOFEA are fiscal and monetary policy management including budget allocations, prioritisation of development projects, revenue generation (taxes and customs duties) and focal institution projects.

Gambia Revenue Authority, <http://www.gra.gm/>

Central Bank of Gambia, <https://www.cbg.gm/about-cbg>

Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA)

GIEPA is the investment and export development institution of The Gambia. It is leading implementation of the government's NES and is well positioned to assist export development of the cashew sector.

The Cashew Alliance of the Gambia (CAG): CAG is a national association of all cashew stakeholders including farmers, processors, traders, Government representatives and exporters. It was registered as a non-profit organization in 2010 as the apex body for the cashew industry and to further the interests of the cashew sector in The Gambia.

Their funding has come mainly from donors, including ITC and IRD, but also membership fees – there are currently 28 members coming from all parts of the value chain. CAG's primary focus is on farmers and value addition. CAG also represents the interest of the African Cashew Alliance (ACA) in The Gambia.

National Cashew Growers and Traders Corp

Gambia Farmers Platform

Federation of Gambia Cashew Farmers

The Cashew Farmers Federation provides training, farmer to farmer visit, workshops, seminars and dissemination of manuals on Good Agricultural Practices.

NGOs Working in Cashew Sector

International Relief & Development (IRD): IRD Gambia is a charitable, rural, international non-governmental organisation (NGO) committed to lifting people out of poverty and creating livelihoods among the most impoverished people around the world.

IRD has been involved in the Gambia River Basin Cashew Value Chain Enhancement Project (CEP) which involves thousands of farmers and processors in The Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Senegal. The purpose of the programme is to enhance the cashew production and distribution system and raise the incomes of all those engaged in its cultivation and processing.

The project aids food sufficiency by giving adequate training to growers, better cultivation methods, know how to process all parts of the fruit and nut, high yield seeds, processing equipment and better farmland management techniques. It aims, whenever possible, to have the nuts processed locally rather than in exported in its raw form.

Shelter for Life International (SFL) is an international faith-based relief and development organization with over 30 years of experience in providing sustainable development and humanitarian assistance to post-conflict countries around the world.

Source: <https://www.shelter.org/who-we-are1>

Linking Infrastructure, Finance, and Farms to Cashew (LIFFT-Cashew)

LIFFT-Cashew will create durable trade infrastructure, increase access to financial services, organize and train smallholder farmers to increase production and bargaining power, and build the capacity of local processors to add value to kernels in the SeGaBi cashew production zone. As a result, the program will benefit smallholder farmers, a range of processors, and a variety of other businesses along the cashew value chain.

Funder: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Duration: 2018-2023

Cashew Exporters in Gambia

- Comafrique Limited
- Ghatson Company Gambia Limited
- Multipro Ltd.
- National Cashew Growers & Traders Corp
- R.S Exports
- Mbass Trading
- Gam Cashew
- Alphonsa Cashew Industries
- Afronut

List of Prominent Banks in Guinea Bissau

- Central Bank of West African States (Banque Centrale des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) Banque Régionale de Solidarité
- Banco Da Uniao
- Banco Da Africa Ocidental
- Ecobank

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