



Project name
CajùLab

Country
Benin



Implemented by



Budget
349.238 €

Duration
06/2019-06/2021

Contribution to SDGs



Implemented by



Financed by



CHALLENGES/CONTEXT

Benin aims to double its cashew nut production by 2021. Cashew nuts are Benin's second largest export crop and the government recently set a production target of 300,000 tonnes per year. To achieve this, the government plans to increase the area under cashew cultivation to 60,000 hectares.

However, if the cashew sector does not adopt an appropriate strategy, this growth in production may not result in net environmental benefits, or even lead to a loss of biodiversity and a negative impact on marginalised populations.

Climate-smart agriculture offers a solution to tackle these challenges.

DIGITAL SOLUTION/APPROACH



In June 2019, TechnoServe launched the «CajùLab» project. This new initiative aims to use remote sensing and machine learning technologies to increase climate resilience in cashew nut cultivation in Benin. This is being achieved by developing two main outputs:

1) Development of an efficient and reproducible digital tool to analyse large-scale drone images and identify the health of cashew nut plots.

2) Development of an action plan for climate-smart cashew nut production that includes policy actions and training programmes for women farmers.

WEHUBIT EFFECT



RISK-TAKING

The deployment of new digital technologies carries particular risks. Wehubit has given us the flexibility to adapt to these risks.

SCALE-UP OF DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

Wehubit's support allowed us to gain experience in the field of digital technologies and to raise additional funds.

SYNERGIES ON THE FIELD

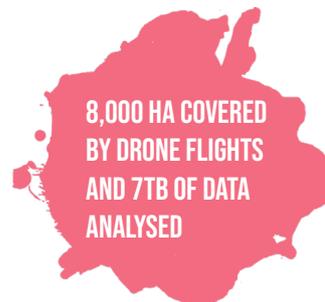
The CajùLab project benefits from access to Enabel-trained farmers in Benin. This collaboration has contributed more than 1000ha of data in addition.

EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

At the end of the project, a total of 10,000 cashew producers will be identified and targeted for training in climate-smart farming practices.

Most importantly, the project will have pushed the boundaries of making advanced digital technologies available to smallholder farming communities.

Eventually, the digital tool developed and the approach adopted by the project will be replicable to other types of crops and geographies.



LESSONS LEARNED

What worked well

Farmers in the field have provided an excellent collaboration and shown enthusiasm for these new technologies. The initial results is very encouraging for a scaling-up of the solution.

What needs to be improved

Timing is essential when working with drones and remote sensing technologies. The project is therefore work hard to find the most effective ways to capture drone data with consistent quality at all seasons of the year.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?



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