

## **Main points of the speech of Guinea representative, Mme FANTA CISSE**

This 6th edition of the WCC is an opportunity for our States to reaffirm their deep faith in the agricultural sector as an essential vector for the creation of shared wealth, especially as the 3rd days of the JNEC are taking place at the same time. The theme chosen shows the willingness of the world players in the sector to find the best possible mechanisms to promote the establishment of sustainable performance levers; these performances necessarily involve the construction of local value chains in the producing countries, mainly through the development of a processing economy; this is why in the Republic of Guinea, the cashew nut sector is the subject of a national initiative led by His Excellency the President of the Republic, Head of State Mr. Alpha Condé.

At the heart of this initiative, is the technical supervision of farmers, fertilizer subsidies, free seeds, the establishment of an attractive regulatory framework, the organization of the marketing chain and the strategic option of local processing. Thus, from 200,000 ha in 2016, cashew nut cultivation occupied 300,000 ha in 2017; and the State's objective is to reach 1,000,000 ha in 2020.

National production has multiplied in 5 years, from 40,000 tons in 2013 to 90,000 tons in 2019. We will soon pass the symbolic bar of 100,000 tons and aim at a production that will increase from 250,000 to 300,000 tons by 2025. For the first time since 1940, when cashew nuts were introduced to Guinea, our country has been building its first local processing plant with a capacity of 10,000 tons since the end of 2019.

In Guinea, the RCN is the business of some 50,000 producers; these results, although encouraging, can only experience a high trend if, in the context of the globalized economy, the various actors manage to build an environment that creates the conditions for better visibility on export prices and promote local processing, so as to allow enrichment at the base, i.e. the producers, the only guarantee of the long-term attractiveness of the sector.

This is the place to congratulate the Ivorian authorities and all the local players in the sector who, by dint of reforms and organization, have succeeded in making the IVC the world's leading producer of RCN in 5 years. Dear Ivorian authorities, your country's performance shows that Africa knows how to create wealth when the structural conditions of the economy allow for a sustained expansion of sectoral segments; your country's vision of transforming half of production in the medium term is an inspiration to us. As in cocoa, rubber, coffee, Guinea is now benefiting from the experience and expertise of its neighbouring brother. We have no doubt that the work of the experts present at this symposium will lead to a framework defining the strategic axes of an ecosystem that takes into account the economic and social stakes, the requirements for building local value chains, fair terms of trade and the ecological challenges of our time.

The Republic of Guinea affirms its full confidence in the ongoing process and shows its readiness to actively participate in the construction of a sustainable ecosystem, a source of progress for all and for the global cashew sector.