

4) INPUTS

The main inputs in cashew production includes; Seeds/seedlings, fertilizer, organic manure, Pesticides & fungicide and machinery and equipments.

i) Seedlings

Source of planting material:

- Select from healthy, high yielding trees,
- Place seeds in a bucket of sea water (100g salt per 5litres of water) and select the seeds that sink for good germination and growth potential,
- Sun dry seeds for several weeks to prevent mould and rotting.

Cashew Varieties includes;

These includes A41, A47A, A75-83, A81 and A100 ,

The farmers should obtain improved seedlings from KALRO - Mtwapa Research Centre (Kenya Agriculture Livestock Research Organisation) and its accredited nurseries, The seedling may be from the seeds, stem cuttings, and tissue culture or grafted.

[Link –ACREDITED mtwapa nursery](#)

ii) Fertilizer;

The commonly used type of fertilizer is DAP during planting

iii) Organic manure

These include; farm yard manure, composite. Its provides essential but in limited amount .It also improve soil water holding capacity.

iv) Chemicals ; fungicide and pesticides

Inorganic fungicide /pesticides are used to control pest and diseases in Cashew.

Common diseases includes; Powdery Mildew and Anthracnose.

Common pest includes- Cashew nut bug ,Stem borer and Stem girdler

v) Machinery and Equipment

List of machinery and equipments used in cashew value chain

Types of Equipment	Function	cost/picture	
Motorized mist blowers / sprayer pumps	Control of pest and disease	40,000.00	
Power Saw	coppicing	70,000.00	
Pruning saw	Cutting small branches	400.00	
Grafting Knives	Grating and topworking	2500.00	
secateurs	Nusery management	1500.00	
Slashers	Nusery management	200.00	
Jembes	Nusery management	600.00	