

### PRCI Research Proposal Summary

<b>ACTIVITY TITLE:</b>	Deep Dive Analysis for Cashew Nut Value Chain with Gender Lens
<b>PRINCIPAL CENTER:</b>	School of Agricultural Economics and Business Studies (SAEBS)
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<b>GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:</b>	Tanzania

**Activity Description:** Tanzania is one of the world’s largest exporters of cashew nuts, and cashew is one of the most widely-grown cash crops in the country, predominantly cultivated by smallholder producers. Cashew nuts not sold to warehouses for eventual export are processed and sold into the domestic market. Tanzanian smallholder cashew producers face a wide range of constraints to improving both productivity and profitability in both international and domestic marketing channels. Moreover, while women play significant roles in the cashew nut value chain, they face more constraints than men, and these constraints vary by marketing channel. The objective of this study is to assess the opportunities for and constraints to women’s empowerment at each stage of the cashew value chain in Tanzania. The evidence generated through this study will provide insights on how to promote women’s empowerment along the cashew value chain and how women’s empowerment can help address existing and known challenges to achieving higher productivity and profitability.

**Research Questions:** This research will explore the following areas of inquiry:

1. What is the role of women in the cashew value chain (VC) in Tanzania, and what opportunities and constraints exist for increasing inclusivity and women’s empowerment along the cashew VC?
  - 1.1. How does input use in cashew production and yield vary with women’s involvement in production decision-making (including labour and who provides it for different tasks)?
  - 1.2. How does the choice of marketing channel and sale price vary by women’s involvement in marketing decision-making?
  - 1.3. Are there differences in women’s roles, opportunities, and constraints to selling raw cashew by marketing channel (domestic or international)?
  - 1.4. What opportunities and constraints exist for women’s empowerment in cottage or in large-scale processing?
2. What is the effectiveness of the current government intervention in addressing constraints along the value chain to increased productivity, profitability, and gender inclusion?
3. How has COVID-19 affected the cashew VC?
  - 3.1. Are there gender differences in the way these effects are experienced?
  - 3.2. Does COVID-19 have different effects on the domestic and international market pathways?

**Methods:** This study will use secondary data from three waves of the Tanzania National Panel Survey on plot-level cashew production and marketing decisions, which will provide insights on the role of women’s participation in those decisions and associated outcomes, such as cashew yield, revenue from sales, and unit sale price. The data analysis will be complemented by qualitative research that will draw on data collected through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs-when feasible to do in-person) to explore the gender dimensions of the cashew value chain at each node. This will include

interviews with key actors involved in the implementation of government initiatives to increase women's participation in various stages of the cashew value chain.

**Gender Integration:** The cashew nut value chain in Tanzania has been identified as having great potential for women's economic empowerment because women already participate in all stages of the cashew value chain. Women account for about 50-60 percent of labor used at the production level and 90-95 percent at the processing level in established medium to large scale private sector factories (Mpenda, 2020). Women are also involved in cottage processing as individuals and as group members. While women play significant roles in the cashew nut value chain, they face more constraints than men, including lack of ownership and access to productive resources, such as land, credit, and membership in marketing cooperatives. Several government interventions have been developed to address these constraints; in part because such constraints affect volumes and quality of the cashew produced, and cashew is an important source of both rural household income and foreign exchange. The main objective of the proposed research, therefore, is to assess constraints to women's empowerment along the cashew value chain, the effectiveness of interventions designed to address these constraints, and opportunities to further promote greater gender equality and women's empowerment along the value chain.