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KOGI STATE CASHEW PROCUREMENT AND TRADE POLICY, 2025

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KOGI STATE CASHEW PROCUREMENT AND TRADE POLICY, 2025

This Kogi State Cashew Procurement and Trade Policy is made Pursuant to Section 35 Kogi State Commodity Exchange, Export Promotion and Market Development Agency Law, 2024.

1.0 Preamble

Kogi State, being one of the largest producers of cashew in Nigeria, recognizes the immense economic potential of the crop in generating employment, foreign exchange, and rural development.

However, the State also notes the challenges faced by farmers, including low farm-gate prices and lack of structured marketing systems.

To address these challenges and maximize the benefits of cashew production, the Kogi State Government hereby adopts this Cashew Procurement and Trade Policy.

This policy gives the State Government the exclusive authority to make policy and regulations, to appoint partners or/and consultants or/and agents for the purchase of raw cashew nuts produced within the State and to sell to licensed local and international buyers, ensuring transparency, fair pricing, and increased revenue for the State and its citizens.

2.0 Vision

To position Kogi State as Nigeria's leading hub for cashew production, processing, and export through a government-controlled procurement system that guarantees fair market access and prosperity for all stakeholders.

3.0 Mission

To implement a transparent, efficient, and farmer-friendly cashew procurement system that stabilizes prices, promotes value addition, and increases the State's internally generated revenue.

4.0 Objectives

This policy seeks amongst others to:

1. Establish a structured and traceable cashew marketing system.
2. Promote local cashew processing industries for job creation and value addition.
3. Attract reputable local and international buyers through transparent trade arrangements.
4. Enhance quality control and maintain Kogi's reputation as a top cashew-Producing state.
5. Increase State revenue through organized trade, licensing, and export levies.

5.0 Policy Statements

The Kogi State Government through KOSCEPA and its appointed Technical Partner(s) and Consultant(s) shall have exclusive authority to grade and aggregate all raw cashew

nuts produced within the State.

All cashew farmers shall sell their produce through designated State Cashew Aggregation Centres established or licensed by KOSCEPA or its appointed Technical Partner(s) and Consultant(s) in major producing Local Government Areas of Olamaboro, Dekina, Ankpa, Ajaokuta, Adavi, kabba and Okene etc.

Private individuals or organizations shall only participate in cashew trading through licensing arrangements approved by KOSCEPA and its Technical Partner(s) and Consultant(s).

The State Government approved Technical Partner(s) and Consultant(s) and other registered or licensed merchants shall Offtake cashew directly from farmers to:

- i. Help market stability and price volatility;
- ii. Maintain quality control and storage facilities;
- iii. Negotiate sales to licensed local processors and international buyers;
- iv. Keep transparent financial and operational records for accountability sake.

5.1 Appointment of Technical Partner or Consultant

KOSCEPA shall for the implementation of this policy, with the approval of the Governor of Kogi State, appoint Technical Partner(s) and Consultant(s) who shall in collaborations with it, ensure compliance with this policy.

5.2 Ban of Foreigners/Representatives from farm gates

In furtherance of Federal Government of Nigeria policy directive of the 21st March 2022, Kogi State Government has banned all foreigners/their representatives from buying produce from farm gates in Kogi State.

5.3 Mandatory use of Jute Bags for packaging of raw cashew nuts

All dealers, buyers, and exporters of raw Cashew nuts in Kogi State shall package the nuts in a customized Kogi State Jute Bags in compliance with National Cashew Association of Nigeria (NCAN).

5.4 Licensing of Buyers and Exporters

All buyers and exporters of Cashew shall register with KOSCEPA or its Technical Partner(s) and Consultant(s) as a condition for the purchase and exportation of cashew in the State.

Buyers, Exporters and Processors must meet the State's quality, safety, and environmental standards.

In licensing, preference shall be given to buyers who invest in local processing and value chain development within Kogi State.

5.5 Quality Control and Standardization

KOSCEPA or its appointed Technical Partner(s) and Consultant(s) shall establish quality grading and certification systems for all cashew purchased and sold within the

State.,

All cashew intended for export shall be inspected and certified by KOSCEPA or its appointed Technical Partner(s) and Consultant(s).

The State shall collaborate with federal and international standard bodies to maintain high export quality.

5.6 Revenue and Economic Development

All revenues from cashew grading & inspection shall be remitted into the Kogi State Government designated Internal Revenue Account.

This Fund may be used to:

- i. Provide training and improved seedlings to farmers;
- ii. Develop cashew processing clusters;
- iii. Improve rural infrastructure in producing communities;
- iv. Support agricultural research and market expansion.

5.7 Stakeholder Collaboration

KOSCEPA or/and its appointed Technical Partner(s) and Consultant(s) shall work closely with farmers' cooperatives, processors, exporters, and development partners to ensure policy success.

Annual Cashew Stakeholders Forums shall be organized to review pricing, performance, and export trends.

5.8 Monitoring, Compliance and Enforcement

Non-Compliance with the provisions of this policy shall constitute an offence and shall be tried by a magistrate Court in the State.

Offenders shall face sanctions including fines, withdrawal of licenses, or prosecution.

5.8 Offences & Penalties

1. Non-Use of Customized jute bags shall result in the goods being seized, moved to Local buyers Association (LBA) warehouses and re-bagged in Kogi State Branded Bags with a fine of 1,000 Naira for every bag being re-bagged with all associated cost being borne by offending party;

2. Failure to Register by buyers., exporters and Local buyers Association, (LBA) shall attract a fine equal to Twenty Percent (20%) of the entire Value of Goods being moved or total forfeiture of confiscated merchandise upon successful prosecution in a Magistrate Court;

3. Non-compliance with grading and inspection requirements shall attract a fine of One Million Naira (N1,000,000.00) and the good confiscated for grading and inspection at

the expense of the offender;

4. None purchase of grading and inspection tickets and other tickets needed for cashew operations issued and certified by KOSCEPA and its appointed Technical Partner(s) and Consultant(s) shall attract a fine of five Hundred Thousand Naira (N500,000:00);

5. Foreigners/Representatives who violate the ban on directly buying of raw cashew nuts from farm gates shall be prosecuted at the Magistrate Court and if found guilty shall be fined One Hundred Million Naira (N100, 000, 000: 00) or shall be processed for deportation or both.

6.0 Policy Review and Amendment

This policy shall be reviewed every three (3) years or as necessary to reflect market realities and emerging opportunities.

Any amendments shall be recommended by the Governing Council of KOSCEPA to the Governor of Kogi State.

7.0 Implementation Agency

KOSCEPA and its appointed Technical Partner(s) and Consultant(s). Shall work with the Ministry of Justice and Law enforcement agencies in ensuring the implementation of this policy.

8.0 Effective Date/Commencement

This policy shall take effect from the date of its assent by the Kogi State Executive Governor.

9.0 Citation

This document shall be cited as the Kogi State Cashew Procurement and Trade Policy, 2025.

Dated this.....^{28th}..... Day of ^{November}..... 2025

Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo
Executive Governor, Kogi State.