

# Research and Methods

## Relaunching of the cashew sub-sector in Mozambique

The Mozambique authorities, with financial support from *Agence Française de Développement*, have set three specific objectives for CIRAD-FLHOR in order to stimulate cashew production:

- improve technical and economic knowledge of parameters making it possible to increase production and to run a plant material breeding programme;
- stimulate cashew production (both quantity and quality) on a short and medium-term basis using high-performance, balanced cropping systems that fit into family mixed farming systems. This should be done with respect of the need to conserve fertility;

- support reflection on the evolution of the framework of regulations governing the sub-sector.

CIRAD-FLHOR should soon post a specialised agronomist in Nampula province in the north-eastern part of the country. He will take charge of the applied research component for an initial 4-year period. In addition, 9 600 growers should benefit from extension and advisory services. The project aims at doubling production to 100 000 tonnes by 2006.

Contact: **Christian Didier**, CIRAD-FLHOR  
christian.didier@cirad.fr

*Cashew nut has long been grown in Mozambique and is important for the national economy. It is the main export (16 percent of export earnings in 1998 and 22 percent in 1996) and the subsector represents 4 to 5 percent of the GNP. More than 400 000 farms are concerned, together with 8 000 artisans, 2 000 traders and 14 processors. National production totalled 216 000 tonnes in 1971-1972 and is estimated to be less than 50 000 tonnes today.*

## Organic banana production in the Caribbean

An international workshop on the production and marketing of organic bananas by smallholders in the Caribbean was held from 31 October to 4 November 1999 in the Dominican Republic. It was organised jointly by INIBAP, CAB International, CTA and CEDAF.

Demand for organic bananas is increasing on European and North American markets. Faced with the problem of being competitive, small banana growers are exploring the diversification of production and organic bananas may be a solution as a stable source of income. All the sector stakeholders (from production to sale) therefore met to draw up the

framework of an initiative aimed at developing and supporting the production and sale of export organic bananas. Five working groups addressed the following major themes:

- technical difficulties in production,
- aid for small growers to convert to organic production,
- organic certification,
- the marketing of organic produce,
- quality assurance and exports.

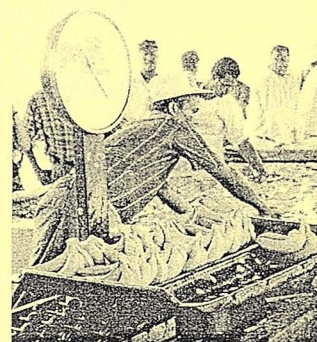
INIBAP has just published the recommendations made at the workshop.

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### Organic banana 2000: Towards an organic banana initiative in the Caribbean

Report of the International workshop on the production and marketing of organic bananas by smallholder farmers  
Caribbean region, November 1999

M. Holderness, S. Sharrock, E. Frisan and M. Kairo, editors



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Contact: **Claudine Picq**  
c.picq@cgiar.org

Fax: 33 (0)4 67 61 03 34