Women Processing Cashew-Nut: reflections on work, private investment and gender in province of Cabo Delgado

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Women Processing Cashew-nut: Reflections on Work, Private Investment and Gender in the Province of Cabo Delgado

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Cashew-nut Processing in Cabo Delgado

- Informal cashew-nut processing activity is on the rise (INCAJU 2011, 2012)

- Employment opportunities available to women with low educational levels
Cabo Delgado is the third province for number of productive cashew trees (12%), after Nampula (40%) and Inhambane (21%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7,736.31 tons</th>
<th>Cashew-nut commercialised in the province of Cabo Delgado 2011-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,118.73</td>
<td>Exported to Tanzania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,316.66</td>
<td>Exported through the Nacala port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,122.52</td>
<td>Bought by Korosho factory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,038.12</td>
<td>Bought by factories in Nampula province</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140.28</td>
<td>Processed informally in Cabo Delgado</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INCAJU 2011, 2012
Korosho Factory & Women’s Associations (Umulikunango, Luisa Diogo and Unidade)

- Manual processing techniques
- Export industry vs local markets
- Wage work vs partial control over means of production
- Gendered division of labour
- Loose contracts and informal processing
**Cash Incomes**

- **Workers’ wages in the factory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Price Mt/Kg</th>
<th>Quantity Kg per day per person</th>
<th>Monthly Range</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cracking</td>
<td>8.85</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>From 500 to 2,000 Mt</td>
<td>Men and women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peeling</td>
<td>9.50</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>From 500 to 1,000 Mt</td>
<td>Women only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classifying</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>65-70</td>
<td>1500 Mt per month on average</td>
<td>Women only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The cooperatives buy raw cashew-nut for 30Mt/Kg and sell it for 200Mt/Kg. One person can process up to 6 Kgs per day.

*Based on information provided by the workers.*
SEASONALITY AND SEASONAL ABSENTEEISM

- Lack of financial capacity to ensure adequate input supply (access to credit)
- ‘Here work choices are viewed as casual, transitory, and a complement, not a substitute, to agricultural labour’ (Paul 2008: 15)
- Seasonal absenteeism is a consequence of low salaries, not of individual choices.
- *Kibarua* and the importance of informal labour markets

but also:
- Lack of organisational capacity
- Unconsolidated commercial networks
- Poor infrastructure
Women’s Participation in Labour Markets

Two key issues:

- Changing allocation of labour between productive and reproductive work due to economic compulsion – ‘real subsumption to familial male control’ (Bryceson 1980)

- Gendered division of labour in paid work – femininization of labour and export industry (Ghosh 2002)
Empirical Considerations

- Long-term viability and sustainability of associations that do not enjoy external support?

- Private investment in the agro-industrial sector is concentrated in export industry
  ➔ employment creation for women
  ➔ working conditions and rights, especially for women workers (Ghosh 2002)
THEORETICAL REFLECTIONS

- Linkages between allocation of labour between reproductive and productive work and gendered inequalities in labour markets

- Formal/informal dichotomy may obscure interconnections between the two categories as well as overlapping

- Seasonal or irregular working patterns and the need to engage in different economic activities in their linkages with processes of social differentiation and class formation
Thank you
REFERENCES CITED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>% Growth 2010-11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labour Force</td>
<td>26,584</td>
<td>31,843</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>2,931</td>
<td>3,854</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Women Employed by Sector**

![Bar chart showing women employed by sector: Trade, Hospitality, Cashew]