



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

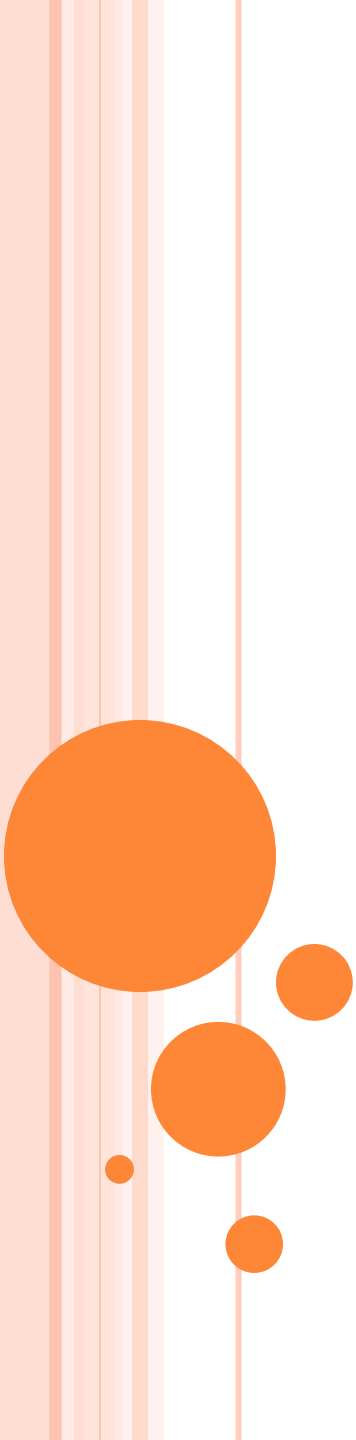
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# **WOMEN PROCESSING CASHEW-NUT: REFLECTIONS ON WORK, PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND GENDER IN THE PROVINCE OF CABO DELGADO**

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## CASHEW-NUT PROCESSING IN CABO DELGADO

- Informal cashew-nut processing activity is on the raise (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%)

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

INCAJU 2011, 2012



# KOROSHO FACTORY & WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS (UMULIKUNGO, 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

Cracking	8.85 Mt/Kg	10-12 Kg per day per person	From 500 to 2,000 Mt per month	Men and women
Peeling	9.50 Mt/Kg	3 Kg per day per person	From 500 to 1,000 Mt per month	Women only
Classifying	1.35 Mt/Kg	65-70 Kg per day per person	1500 Mt per month on average	Women only

- 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)

but also:

- Lack of organisational capacity
- Unconsolidated commercial networks
- Poor infrastructure

*‘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



# 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



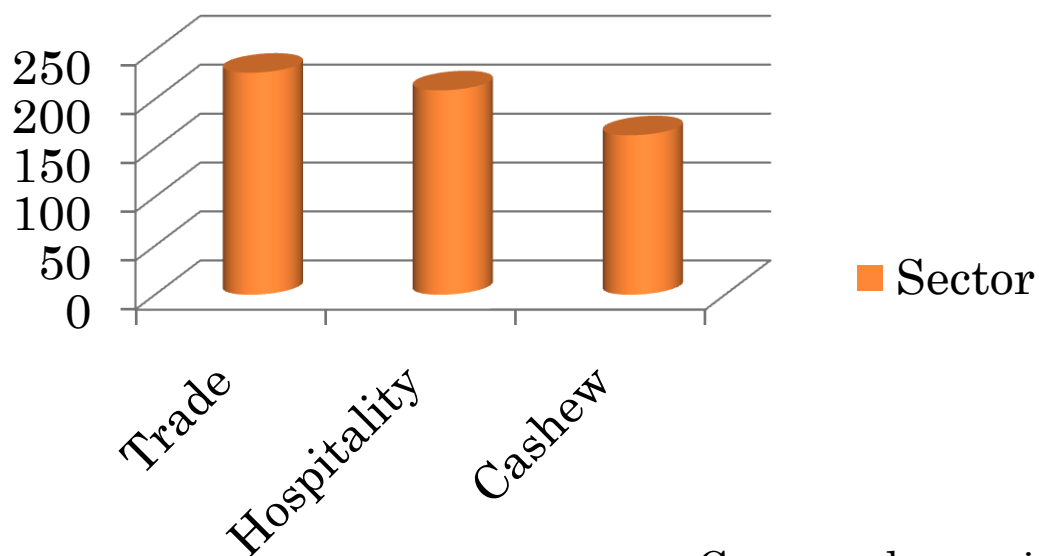
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Indicator	2010	2011	% Growth 2010-11
Labour Force	26,584	31,843	20
Women	2,931	3,854	31

## Women Employed by Sector



Governo da provincia de  
Cabo Delgado – Balanco,  
PES 2011





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