



Sahara  
and Sahel  
Observatory



**BRICKS** | Building Resilience through Innovation,  
Communication and Knowledge Services

**SAWAP** | Sahel and West Africa Program

# BURKINA FASO

SUCCESS STORY

## CASHEW PLANTATION

IN POGNOA SANKOADO



Following a study trip organized by the Third Phase Community Based Rural Development Project (PNGT) for the joint implementation of an initiative of seedling plantation and production by the villagers of Pognoa Sankoado, Maldia Thombiano, one of the village's farmers, has conducted a successful experiment of cashew plantation and succeeded in providing solutions to improving populations' resilience to climate change in his village.

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*“My production ensures decent revenue for me every year. In 2014, I sold seeds for 85 000 FCFA, in 2015 for 90 000 FCFA and in 2016 for 240 000 FCFA. Some of my clients come all the way from Benin. I am more convinced than ever that I made a good decision when I launched this project”.*

**MaldiaTHOMBIANO**

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WORLD BANK GROUP



**Maldia THOMBIANO** is a farmer from the village of Pognoa Sankoado, east Burkina Faso. Aged 65, Maldia discovered the cashew seed during a study trip to the Bobo-Dioulasso village in the Hauts-Bassins region, located in the western part of the country and known for its cultivable lands and large planted areas. Maldia brought back with him millions of cashew seeds and decided to start his own plantation in his mother town.

## CASHEW PLANTATION



Supported by the Sahel Integrated Lowland Ecosystem Management Project (SILMP) aimed at improving the productivity of rural resources (natural, physical, financial and human) in targeted sub-watersheds through integrated ecosystem management, Maldia was provided with a full package of equipment to start his cashew nurseries.

With the help of his wife and children, he decided to put in practice the nursery training he received and succeeded in producing millions of cashew seedlings in 2007. He grew 1875 cashew seeds on an area of 3 hectares and kept a space of 4Mx4M between his plants as recommended by his trainers.

## THREE-FOLD INCREASE IN JUST 3 YEARS

Today, and 7 years after launching his project, Maldia Thombiano started reaping the fruit of his successful experience.

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## HIGHLY-RESILIENT CROP TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Maldia noticed that contrary to other seasonal crops as millet, corn and cowpea, cashews are little vulnerable to droughts and flooding. He asserts that his cashew plantation makes him more resilient to climate variation.

Stating some of the advantages of this plant, Maldia explains that:

- Its dense and large leaves provide good shade for the cashew fruits during the dry season
- The large extent of its roots helps reduce soil erosion
- Its dead leaves serve to produce compost that helps to improve land fertility and productivity. To this end, two compost ditches were put in place for organic matter production.



The celebrity of Maldia has exceeded his small village and the man has become a reference in cashew seedlings production.

## SUCCESS FACTORS

In addition to his determination and the training he received, Maldia asserts that the proximity of the cashew nurseries to his house helped him protect and watch over his own plantation.

## DIFFICULTIES FACED

Lack of adherence of the producers community members to this joint initiative, which led to the destruction of a part of his plantation.

## PROSPECTS: URGENT ACTION NEEDED

Maldia asserts that more commitment and support from local politicians and technical and financial partners would certainly help to raise populations' awareness on the necessity to act in favour of the environment.



*Fodder produced from the residues of corn and cowpea*

### PARIMANI SABDANO, MAYOR OF THE KOMPIENGA COMMUNE, SAYS:

*“Maldia is a modern and open-minded producer. He applied and integrated new agricultural techniques introduced by competent services or tested by other producers”.*

### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

This success story is drawn from the SAWAP/Burkina Faso « Third Phase Community Based Rural Development Project”, implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Hydraulic of Burkina Faso. The project started in June 2013 and is expected to end in May 2018.

It aims to enhance the capacity of rural communities and decentralized institutions for the implementation of local development plans that promote sustainable land and natural resources management and productive investments at commune level.

