

Benin

Present day Benin was the site of Dahomey, a prominent West African kingdom that rose in the 15th century. The territory became a French Colony in 1872 and achieved independence on 1 August 1960, as the Republic of Benin. A succession of military governments ended in 1972 with the rise to power of Mathieu KEREKOU and the establishment of a government based on Marxist-Leninist principles. A move to representative government began in 1989. Two years later, free elections ushered in former Prime Minister Nicephore SOGLO as president, marking the first successful transfer of power in Africa from a dictatorship to a democracy. KEREKOU was returned to power by elections held in 1996 and 2001, though some irregularities were alleged.

Official Name	Republique du Bénin
ISO Country Code	bj
Time	UTC +1h
Country Calling Code	+229
Area	112,622 km ² (43,483 sq. mi.).
Population	9.9 million
Official languages	French (official), Fon and Yoruba.
Capital City	Porto-Novo
Other Cities	Abomey, Gavié, Kandi, Ouidah
Climate	Tropical, average temperatures between 24 and 31 C. Humid in south; semiarid in north
Natural resources	Small offshore oil deposits, limestone, marble, timber.
Agriculture products	Cotton, corn, cassava (tapioca), yams, beans, palm oil, peanuts, livestock (2001)
Currency	Communaute Financiere Africaine franc (XOF)

Cashew growing regions

Cashew nut production in Benin takes place in three districts: Atacora, Borgou and Zou. In terms of Climactic conditions, the most favorable area is between Gamia in the north and Abomey in the south. Apart from the very noticeable increase in activity at the end of the nineties, due to the rapid rise in prices paid to growers, this crop, which is Benin's biggest export after cotton.

Geographical Data

- Area: 112,620 sq km (land: 110,620 sq km)
- Climate: Tropical; hot, humid in south; semiarid in north
- Terrain: Mostly flat to undulating plain; some hills and low mountains
- Land Use: Arable land: 23.53%; permanent crops: 2.37%; other: 74.1% (2005)
- Water Resources: 25.8 cubic km (2001)
- Natural Hazards: Hot, dry, dusty harmattan wind may affect north from December to March
- Environmental issues: Inadequate supplies of potable water; poaching threatens wildlife populations; deforestation; desertification
- Geography: Sandbanks create difficulties in accessing a coast with no natural harbors, river mouths, or islands



Cashew Processing

1,000 MT capacity:

NAD & Co : Tchatchou, Nord-Bénin
Tolaro Global (Parakou) – SEAL Approved
Agro Benin Sarl (Calavi)

< 500 MT capacity

Groupe KAKE- 5 (Savalou)
AFETRACA, Cotonou (South-Bénin)
ZANCLAN, Cotonou (Sud-Bénin)
Centre SONGHAI Porto-Novo (Sud-Bénin)
UCP Sarl (Parakou)

Afonkantan Benin Cashew (ABC), Tchaourou, Nord-Bénin
La Lumière : Tchetti (Centre Bénin)
Kanodym (Savalou)
ORI SARL (Bantè)
AgrotecBenin Sarl (Glazoue)

Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies

The cost of creating a company has fallen in recent years as a result of government initiatives to encourage business, and can be estimated at around CFA 150,000. The whole process can be done within 24 hours.

Investment Promotion Center of Benin (CPI): An institution of the Ministry of Economy, Development and Public Action Evaluation (MEPDEAP). It advises and facilitates investment projects.

Non-governmental agencies active in the cashew sector include:

African Cashew Alliance
African Cashew initiative
National Institute of Agricultural Research of Benin (INRAB)
Vegetal Protection Service (SPV/DAGRI)
Center of Vegetal Quality Products Promotion and Packaging (DPQC)
Regional Centers of Agricultural Promotion (CeRPA)
National Society for Agricultural Promotion (SONAPRA)
Agronomic Science Department of Abomey-Calavi University (FSA/UAC)
Agronomic Department of Parakou University (FA/UP)

Development Fund for Professional Formation PF and Training T (FODEFCA)
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA-Bénin)
Stichting Nederlandse Vrijwilligers (Nederland Development Organization) (SNV)
National Chamber of Agriculture (CNA)

Natural Resources Conservation RC and Management Program MP(ProCGRN)
Agricultural Sector ProgramDASP (PADSA/CASPA)

Development D of the Agricultural Industries Program AIP (PADFA)
Support to the exportation development program (PADEX)
PADA
Facilite d'Appui aux Filières Agricole (FAFA-CTB)

The National Council of Cashew Exporters of Benin (CoNEC), the National Federation of Benin Cashew Producers (FENAPAB), the National Council of Cashew Processors (CNTC), The National Federation of Buyers of Agricultural and Tropical Products (FENAPAT), and the National Union of Customs Declarants and Service Providers for Tropical and Agricultural Products In Benin (UNADES-TP).

Value chain

Collective action and public support (stakeholder associations or organizations)

The various kinds of organizations involved in cashew activities and their size FENAPAB, which has four main members Atacora and Donga URPA (north-western Benin), with 21,701 growers in 308 cooperatives out of a total of 35,700 growers surveyed (2008 survey Borgou and Alibori URPA (north-eastern Benin) Zou and Colline URPA (central Benin), with 56,516 growers in 300 cooperatives Kétou UCPA (eastern Benin), with 481 growers in 28 cooperatives.

ADEx. World Bank and EU financing.

GEPT

ANAPAT

Cashew-related projects, programmes and initiatives

The various organizations and/or initiatives that have existed in the country, specifying the donors/financial partners Institutions/organizations INRAB, financed by GIZ, DANIDA Plant Protection Service (DAGRI)

DPQC

CeRPA

SONAPRA

FSA/UAC

Faculty of Agronomy, UP

Fund for the Development of Occupational Training and Apprenticeship (FODEFCA)

IITA-Benin

SNV

CNA

Projects, programmers and initiatives

Current projects

ProCGRN: GIZ funding

ACi: BMGF and BMZ funding

PADSA/component for private sector agriculture: DANIDA funding

PADFA: funding – Benin budget support

PADEX

Completed projects

PADSE, 2000-2005: AFD funding. Used to promote cashew development in Collines, Borgou and to a lesser extent Atacora and Donga departments (guidance, planting, research, organisation, marketing)
PAMRAD ended 2008: Cashew promotion and development in Atacora and Donga (marketing, training and survey of potential);
BTC funding Project to restore Bassila's forest resources (PRRF-Bassila: ended 2004). Support for planting in Bassila commune;
GIZ funding Project for forest massif management in Agoua and Agramarou (PAMF, ended 2007) Support to rehabilitate former State plantations in Bantè and Tchaourou communes;
African Development Bank funding Joint technical assistance project for developing countries and other African countries (ended 2003); Support for the formulation of market access strategies;
ITC/CIC funding PASP, ended 2009; support to promote cashew nuts (processing, market, training, etc.);
World Bank and EU funding

Infrastructure and Regulations

Context: Designated as one of 12 priority industries, the government of Benin has conceived a strategic plan to develop cashew as part of its overall agricultural sector strategy (PSRA, 2006-2011).

Taxes and Regulations: At the beginning of each cashew harvest, the Ministry of Trade sets a minimum farm gate price. The raw cashew nut season calendar is fixed by the Ministries of Trade and Agriculture. The government levies no export taxes on raw cashew nuts or cashew kernel. A road tax is levied at 0.85% of the value of transported goods.

Investment Incentives: Benin grants tax and duty exemptions on imports of agricultural processing equipment. Free zone regulations provide many more tax and duty reductions and exemptions to export-oriented businesses investing in Benin. (See www.a-zfibenin.com and www.cpibenin.com).

Transport costs to Cotonou Port: 15-20 CFA/kg, depending on origin

Freight costs (20-foot container): between 900 and 1100 US\$ for Europe. Up to 1150 US\$ to Asia

Port Location: Cotonou

Port Name: Port of Cotonou

Local Port Name: Port Autonome de Cotonou Pac

Port Authority: Ports Authority of Cotonou

Address: Cotonou

Phone: 229 21315280

Fax: 229 21312891

800 Numbers:

Email: pac@leland.bj

Web Site: www.portdecotonou.com

Latitude: 6° 20' 48" N

Longitude: 2° 25' 32" E

UN/LOCODE: BJCOO

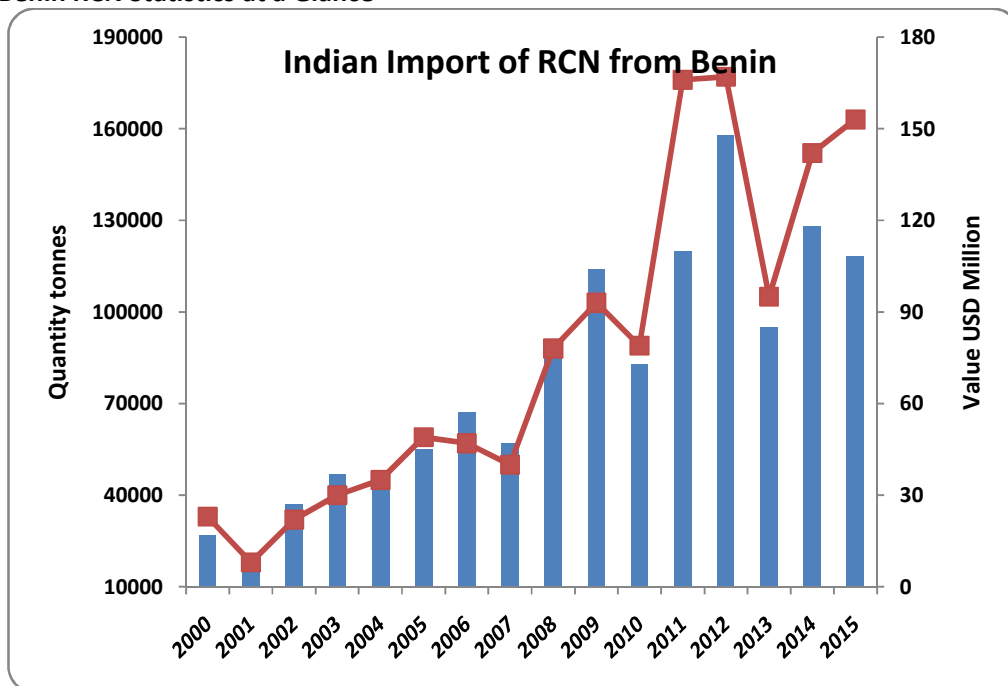
Port Type: Seaport

Port Size: Medium

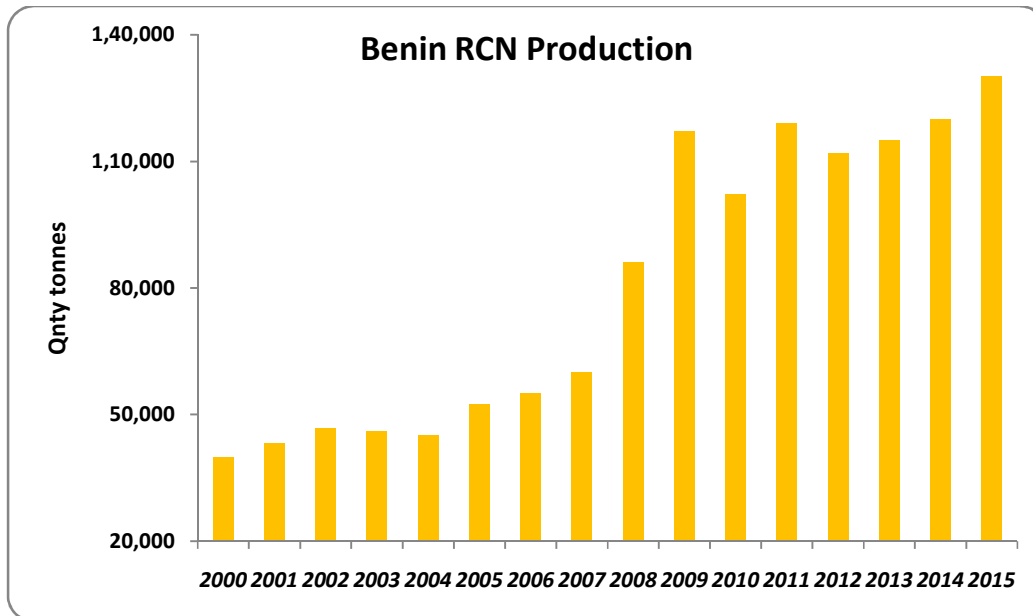
Shipping lines and Agencies

- Africa Asia Agency
- Afritramp
- Agence de Transit et Logistique - Atral S.A.
- Beninoise de Navigation Maritime (COBENAM), Compagnie
- Doba Shipping International & Trade
- GAC-GETMA
- Geodis Overseas
- Grimaldi Benin
- Grimaldi Benin S.A.
- Groupe Kajebau
- Groupe Navitrans
- Inter Seas Benin
- Inter-Seas Benin (ISB) Sarl
- Lemoine & Cie SA
- Magusto Sarl
- MG 11 Express S.a.r.l.
- Moller-Maersk Group, A.P.
- Pride Shipping & Services
- SAGA Benin
- SAGA France
- Samoa
- SDV Benin S.A.
- Sitt Benin
- Societe Inter-Continentale d'Affrements et d'Agence Maritime (SICAAM S.A.)
- Supermaritime Benin S.A.
- Westport S.A.

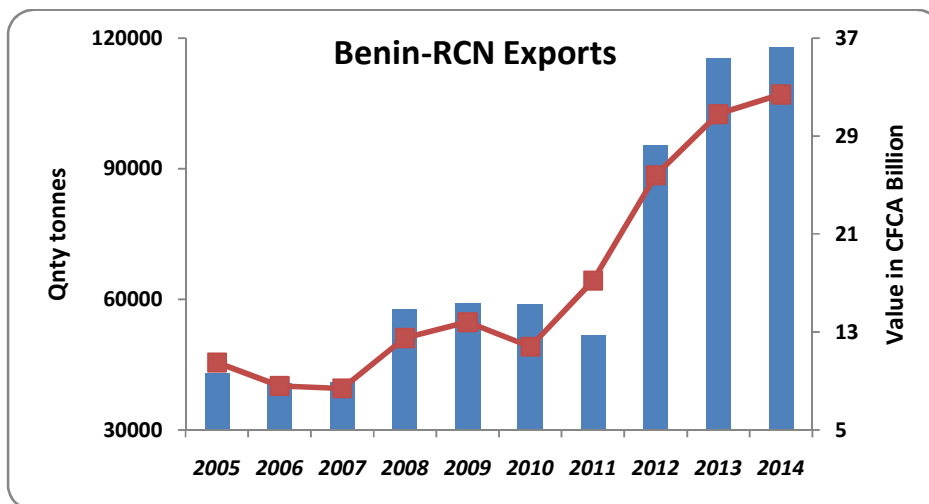
Benin RCN Statistics at a Glance



Benin-RCN Production



Benin-RCN Exports



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