

Findings from Workstream B:

Supply Chain Mapping and Traceability

This overview summarizes the responses from 11 suppliers from participating companies in the project *Building Capacity towards Sustainable Development for the Cashew Nut Supply Chain in Vietnam*. The overview is structured around seven themes: sourcing, agents, relationships, requirements, agent involvement, digital tool use, and knowledge of traceability tools.

Cashew supply chains often involve multiple intermediaries and agents, and it is challenging to trace raw cashew nuts back to the farmers who produce them. This lack of transparency makes it hard to engage with farmers directly and to ensure responsible practices at the earliest stages in specific supply chains.

Through this workstream, participating companies in the project have looked into the different tiers of the supply chain, understanding the role of agents and intermediaries, and explored the use of digital tools that can strengthen transparency. The aim is to develop a clearer picture of how cashews move from farm to processor, and to lay the groundwork for more responsible sourcing practices, better farmer engagement, and stronger collaboration across the supply chain.

The analysis shows that:

Sourcing is highly diversified, with strong reliance on African origins alongside Vietnam and Cambodia.

Agents play a central role, with most suppliers working with up to 10 intermediaries or more.

Relationships with agents vary widely, from formal contracts to informal or spot arrangements.

Requirements exist but vary in strength, with policy compliance being common, but certification demands less consistent.

Traceability remains a major challenge, given diverse sourcing channels and limited digital tool use.

Knowledge gaps around traceability tools persist, signalling an area where the project can make a strong contribution.