



Book of Abstracts

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Flash talk **F1**

Fighting cashew tree enemies in Guinea-Bissau: a collaborative project to support the control of diseases, pests and weeds

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Cashew is the major agriculture commodity in Guinea-Bissau, providing not only important export earnings but also income and food security at the smallholder level. Guinea-Bissau is one of West Africa's largest producers and exporters of cashew nuts and one of the countries in the world whose economy is most dependent on this crop. A preliminary assessment of the phytosanitary situation of cashew orchards showed that diseases, pests, and weeds are increasing and already causing important production losses. Under this scenario, the project "Support for the control of cashew diseases, pests and weeds in Guinea-Bissau" (TCT/GBS/3801), funded by FAO has been put in place to perform a whole country assessment of pests, diseases and weeds affecting cashew orchards at production level. This project, led by the FAO country's delegation, has the collaboration of cE3c/FCUL and LEAF/ISA as responsible for providing technical support, but also capacity building and a complete overview to determine major agents affecting cashew and prospect. This study involves a high demanding field prospection at national level, being the first phytosanitary assessment performed in the country at cashew orchards. This will generate the first evaluation of the economic impact of pests, diseases, and weeds in cashew orchards, and assess its incidence and severity. A significant component of this project involves the on-site and post-graduate training on pest management and control, publication of brochures on cashew enemies, and audiovisual material production with the design of a smartphone application to identify, report events and control cashew pests at smallholder level.