AGROSAVIA - COMMERCIAL FACT SHEET

Cashew - AGROSAVIA Yopare Ao2

***English reference translation**. Prepared from the supplied Spanish-language AGROSAVIA fact sheet. This translation is provided for reference; the original Spanish document remains the source text.*

Scientific name	*Anacardium occidentale* L.
Commercial name	AGROSAVIA YOPARE Ao2
Adaptation	Well-drained flat Altillanura of the Orinoquia

Life cycle and agronomic characteristics

Beginning of fruiting	3 years after transplanting
Flowering and fruiting period	November-January
Harvest period	January-March
Useful life	30 years
Plant height	4.5 m
Nut weight	12 g
Kernel weight	3.3 g
Kernel yield	28%
Kernels per U.S. pound	136 (W180)
Cashew apple/peduncle weight	66 g
Vitamin C	79.6 mg ascorbic acid/100 g fruit
Antioxidant activity	131 mg Trolox/100 g fruit
Experimental yield	1,600 kg nuts/year; 12 kg nuts/tree/year
Anthracnose - average infection	8.5%

Management recommendations

Planting material

To maintain varietal characteristics, propagation should be through grafted plants (asexual propagation), referred to as clones. The recommended rootstock is genotype 36-80, a local material with high seed productivity and hardiness under the high-aluminum conditions typical of native Altillanura savannas. Grafted cashew plants should be obtained from qualified nurseries certified by ICA, or from an entity or institution authorized to distribute the genetic material.

Planting

Plant at the beginning of the rainy season, preferably during the second quarter of the year (April-June). Before transplanting to the final site, plants should have six green, mature, healthy leaves. For one hectare of Corpoica Yopare Ao2, the fact sheet specifies 125 plants, one plant per site, at 10 m between rows and 8 m between plants.

Pest and disease management

Disease management: Anthracnose, caused by *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* (Penz) Penz. & Sacc., may be managed with copper-based fungicides at 2.5-5.0 L/ha; practical use should consider economic feasibility. Under nursery conditions, the original fact sheet reports effective control through weekly fungicide sprays such as copper oxychloride at 3 g of commercial product/L of water (Owen & Román, 1996).

Pest management: Insects observed in the crop have generally not been economically important, but may become primary pests under favorable conditions. *Sibine* spp. larvae may cause complete defoliation of adult trees; the fact sheet notes entomopathogenic fungi such as *Beauveria bassiana*. *Atta* spp. leaf-cutting ants occur mainly in nurseries and recently transplanted trees; management includes locating nests and direct treatment, including entomopathogens such as *Metarhizium anisopliae*. Thrips (*Selenothrips rubricinctus* Giard) may dry leaves and defoliate trees, especially during dry periods. Cultural practices such as removal of dry leaves and weeds can reduce populations; *Lecanicillium lecanii* is reported for biological management.

Weed management

Two to four weed-control operations per year are required, both between rows and in the weed-free area around each tree.

Pruning

During the first year, conduct formative pruning by removing undesirable lower branches so that a single branch-free stem is obtained up to a height of 35-45 cm. This helps prevent future branches from interfering with weed control and harvesting fruits from the ground.

Fertilization

Recommended per-plant fertilization during establishment: 60 days after field planting, 30 g potassium chloride; in year 1, 130 g urea + 70 g potassium chloride; in year 2, 180 g urea + 300 g single superphosphate + 100 g potassium chloride; in year 3, 270 g urea + 450 g single superphosphate + 150 g potassium chloride (Román, 1992). From year 4 onward, the fact sheet indicates 1 kg/tree/year of a 10-30-10 compound fertilizer. Fertilization should be adjusted according to soil and foliar analyses and available economic resources.

Harvest

Nuts are generally collected after fruits fall to the ground and should be gathered at least twice per week. Near the end of harvest, which commonly coincides with the beginning of the rainy period, collection should be carried out as quickly as possible. If the cashew apple/peduncle is to be used, collect more frequently, preferably in the morning, taking care not to bruise or damage it.

Postharvest

Store nuts only when dry, at approximately 9% moisture, recognizable by a brittle condition. The original fact sheet describes drying nuts on a concrete floor in layers no deeper than 30 cm for three days, turning the layers daily. When rain is possible, cover with tarpaulin or plastic, especially at night. After drying, pack in 50 kg fique sacks and store in a ventilated place on pallets with aisles for air circulation. Keep pallets at least 30 cm from walls and 1 m below the ceiling.

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