



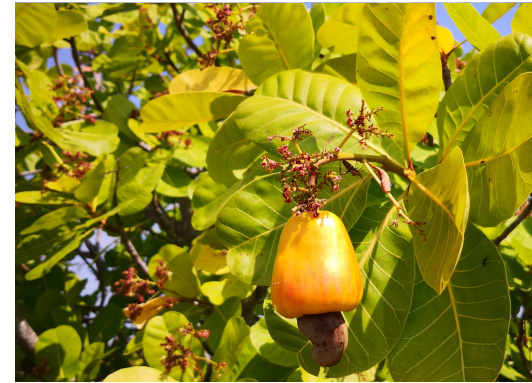
# KardiaNuts - Vichada, Colombia

## Development Stage



Conceptualisation Fundraising Implementation Operation Finalisation

KardiaNuts is a cashew farm located in the district of Vichada, Colombia, just a few miles east of the Andes Mountains. An area that has the potential to become an agricultural powerhouse and feed millions of people. However, it is also one of the poorest areas of Colombia known for its low rural infrastructure. With the support of reNature, KardiaNuts wants to create a regenerative agroforestry Model School and contribute to inclusive rural development in Colombia. Through the creation of a sustainable nut-based agroforestry value chain, the livelihood of the local people will be improved in the long term as well as the ecosystem services.



### LOCATION:

Puerto Carreño, Colombia

### SIZE OF PLANTED PLOT:

300 ha

### SIZE OF POTENTIAL AREA:

6.000 ha

### CLIENT:

KardiaNuts

### PRODUCTS:

Cashew, and other nuts

### INDUSTRY:

Food

### GOAL:

Improving cashew value chain, sustainable natural resource management & rural dev.

### MAIN FOCUS:

Inclusive rural development and provide ecosystem services.

### PARTNERS:

Agrosavia, Leopold Bachmann Stiftung, Pakka Foundation.

## Finance & Planing



270.000

Investment



Juan Pablo Muriel

Initiator





## Assignment & Impact

### Number of expected beneficiaries

100 farmer families

### Development Challenge

The district of Vichada has the second-largest poverty rate in Colombia, where 68% of the population does not meet basic needs. Yet, this district is also the second-largest in Colombia, of which one-third of the land (3.8 million hectares) is used for agricultural production. Unfortunately, socio-political challenges have not allowed successful (rural) development of the area, which is affecting the livelihoods of many local communities as well as sustainable management of natural resources.

### Intervention

To intervene in this long history of socio-political instability inclusive rural development is key. The project intends to link small producers to the cashew value chain and improve their quality of life. This will be done by promoting local capacities, facilitating access to finance, and increase economic feasibility by adding value to organic certified products. Education also plays an important role. Through regenerative agroforestry Model Farms and School, farmers will be trained to establish sustainable conservation farming practices and learn that the improvement of ecosystem services leads to long-term economic sustainability.

### Financial Details

Support for Training & Research: 100.000€

reNature Model School: 170.000€

### Objective

KardiaNuts is enabling sustainable and inclusive development by creating a way for local farmers to enter the cashew value chain and receive decent and fair incomes while taking care of the environment and our natural resources.

### Inspirational Impact

KardiaNuts operates a model farm in Vichada to generate knowledge for the region as well as to show small farmers that they can implement similar profitable models. A pilot is being implemented this year with 20 landless farmers. Based on the learnings gained from this pilot and with the support of reNature this program will be scaled to inspire more farmers. Through this project, small-scale farmers will acquire the right tools to have better market access.

### Environmental Impact

Vichada is expected to be one of the regions most affected by climate change in Colombia. An expected increase in temperature greater than +1.6 degrees Celsius in the next 20 years will result in significant changes in the ecosystem leading to biodiversity loss and land degradation. Many critical biodiversity areas are being destroyed through slash and burn as well as other harmful agricultural practices.



100

Community  
Members



61% More

Biodiversity



45% More

Improved Water  
Cycle



23% More

Soil Carbon Stock





To protect and preserve biodiversity corridors the plantation of native trees combined with regenerative agricultural practices will be promoted.

### Social Impact

With the establishment of agroforestry Model Schools, the aim is to inspire and educate thousands of farmers over time. The farmland will function as a model farm in the region that can be studied and multiplied. Furthermore, Kardianuts has established a nursery that produces 85,000 cashew seedlings per year, to date they have planted 460 hectares within Kardianuts and other landowners. In addition, they have tested different crops to further develop an agroforestry system to generate food security for small producers, as well as introduced organic fertilizers and pesticides produced within Kardianuts. Improved land management can increase productivity by 10% and reduce input costs leading to product prices below or at conventional prices. This year (2021) they have embarked on the design of a processing plant, which will be operational in 2022. Overall, this project contributes to the quality of life as it leads to food security, a more nutritious alimentation, and income improvement for the farmers involved.

### Economic Impact

Regenerative agroforestry practices contribute to the diversification of crops and lead to an increased and more stable stream of income. The establishment of an inclusive and sustainable value chain will strengthen entrepreneurship among small farmers thus, improving market access and access to financial means. A greater variety of food can be sold locally and high-value crops can also be sold internationally. As a result, employment can be significantly improved and generated along the value chain. In the long term this type of business creates economies of scale that are required for value-added

infrastructure and competitive international prices. Since the project is located in a poor, rural area, it will help many communities and indigenous people out of poverty. This is especially important for women as they are often the ones involved in agriculture and a steady income will help them to provide for their families.

## Impact Metrics

### Outcome Metrics

1. Increased food security, protection against price volatility and rejuvenation of crops. (3 products)
2. Increase income & generate 100 jobs
3. Improve sustainable land management (10% productivity and 0% deforestation, 100% water recycle)
4. Reduce input costs (at or below conventional prices)
5. Sophisticated processes to access new markets

### Evaluation Method

1. Farmers have access to finance to establish or rejuvenate their crops (monitoring progress)
2. 740 USD - Average monthly payment made to farmer (5 hectares)
3. Local available organic seedlings, fertilisers and inputs
4. Establish internationally competitive processing facilities & bankable associations and cooperatives



# KARDIANUTS