

In the years 2000-2018, agriculture accounted for the second largest sectoral share of GDP growth in West Africa (AfDB, West Africa Economic Outlook 2019). Agricultural mechanization and processing of agricultural products are underdeveloped; the potential for agricultural machinery is large. Small farmers account for around 85% of total agricultural production in Africa. Recently, governments in West Africa have increasingly promoted the establishment and expansion of agricultural processing and mechanisation in order to secure basic food supplies and exploit market potential at home and abroad. The participation of the private sector is being promoted by national and international agencies. By introducing modern processing solutions, digital technologies and innovative financial instruments and business models, the agricultural sector is to be modernised and made competitive. Given its relatively strong macroeconomic growth, the diversity of varieties with promising future markets (sorghum, millet, cocoa, cashew, cassava, cassava, corn), and the rapidly growing population, West and Central Africa are attractive regions for commercial agriculture.

This event will give an overview of the market size and potential in West and Central Africa. Challenges and opportunities will be critically examined, market entry modalities will be explained, and available support infrastructure will be highlighted.

AGENDA	Duration
Introduction	5 min
Innovations in West & Central African agriculture	20 min
Investments in agriculture in West & Central Africa	20 min
Germany and agriculture in West & Central Africa	15 min
Practical experience	15 min
Major projects	10 min
Closing remarks	5 min









