

CASHEW

DISEASE AND RISK CARDS

Quick-Reference Profiles for Classroom and Field Use

Center for Entrepreneurship
Ashesi University
2026



Each card names a threat to Ghanaian cashew, its impact, the control that works, and the business opportunity it creates, because in this crop every threat is also a market for a solution. The cards match the risk register in Pillar 3 of the Cashew Playbook. Watch-list items are threats to monitor, not present dangers.

CARD 1 • DISEASE

Anthracnose

Colletotrichum gloeosporioides

Impact: 70 to 100 percent yield loss if uncontrolled; about 23 percent orchard incidence in Ghana surveys. Attacks flowers and young nuts, so it hits both quantity and quality.

Control that works: Copper oxide with metalaxyl-M (complete control in Ghana trials); mancozeb; sprays timed to flush, flowering and fruiting; open the canopy by pruning; remove infected material.

The opportunity: Supply bio-fungicides (soybean and cashew-shell extracts) and a certified spray-and-scout service timed to flowering.

Source: Bukari et al., 2025; Muntala et al., 2020



CARD 2 • DISEASE

Powdery mildew

Oidium anacardii

Impact: 70 to 100 percent loss potential; most damage at flowering. Present but lower incidence in Ghana so far.

Control that works: Sulphur dust; systemic triazoles; plant resistant or tolerant clones; prune for airflow.

The opportunity: Tolerant-clone nurseries and sulphur or fungicide distribution.

Source: Mbasa et al., 2025; Wonni et al., 2017



CARD 3 • DISEASE

Gummosis and dieback

Lasiodiplodia theobromae with *C. gloeosporioides*

Impact: Twig and branch dieback and gum exudation; can kill young trees. Ghana orchard incidence about 7 to 14 percent.

Control that works: Prune and burn dead wood; seal wounds; copper fungicide on cuts; remove inoculum.

The opportunity: Pruning and sanitation service crews; wound-sealant products.

Source: Muntala et al., 2020; Wonni et al., 2017



CARD 4 • DISEASE

Fusarium wilt (WATCH-LIST)*Fusarium oxysporum*

Impact: Up to 100 percent loss where it takes hold; now the top disease in Tanzania. NOT yet an epidemic in Ghana.

Control that works: Quarantine seedlings; clean, true-to-type planting material; soil health; resistant rootstock (toolbox is weak).

The opportunity: Clean-planting-material certification; Trichoderma or Bacillus biocontrol supply; a surveillance service.

Source: Mbasa et al., 2025



CARD 5 • PEST

Tea mosquito bug*Helopeltis species*

Impact: Widely reported to cut yield by the order of 40 to 50 percent under outbreak (indicative; West-African field data scarce). Sucks flush, flowers and nuts.

Control that works: Weaver-ant integrated management; targeted sprays (dimethoate, lambda-cyhalothrin) only when needed.

The opportunity: A weaver-ant integrated-pest-management advisory and bait-spray service.

Source: Azeez, 2025; Anato et al., 2015



CARD 6 • PEST

Cashew thrips*Selenothrips rubrocinctus and others*

Impact: Scar the nut surface and downgrade the kernel; can defoliate. Quality loss more than yield loss.

Control that works: Fruit-fly bait spray (which also suppresses thrips); monitoring and scouting; sanitation.

The opportunity: Scouting and monitoring service linked to a quality premium.

Source: Azeez, 2025



CARD 7 • PEST

Stem and root borer*Placaederus ferrugineus*

Impact: The tree-killer: the grub bores the trunk and can kill a tree in one to three years.

Control that works: Metarhizium fungus with neem cake (cut infestation from about 20 to about 7 percent in trials); neem-oil trunk swab; early detection.

The opportunity: Local production of bio-pesticides (Metarhizium, Beauveria) and a prophylaxis service.

Source: Sahu and Sharma, 2008



CARD 8 • PEST**Branch girdler beetle***Analeptes trifasciata***Impact:** Girdles fruiting branches so they snap in wind, losing all their fruit.**Control that works:** Cut and burn girdled wood (sanitation is the best control); targeted insecticide at the base in the rains.**The opportunity:** Sanitation crews and extension training.*Source: Azeez, 2025; Muntala et al., 2021***CARD 9 • POST-HARVEST****Poor drying and storage***(handling failure)***Impact:** About 76 percent of farmers have no storage and many dry for only 3 to 4 days, lowering quality and kernel outturn.**Control that works:** Dry to 10 to 12 percent moisture on raised mats; store in clean jute sacks on pallets in a ventilated store; do not mix old and new nuts.**The opportunity:** Solar dryers, raised platforms and aggregation warehouses; outturn-based pricing.*Source: Gyedu-Akoto et al., 2014***CARD 10 • POST-HARVEST****Aflatoxin***Aspergillus flavus***Impact:** Carcinogenic aflatoxin B1; concentrates in damp storage; an instant export rejection risk. EU cap is 5 micrograms a kilogram.**Control that works:** Keep moisture low; reject mouldy or insect-damaged nuts; ventilated storage; aflatoxin testing for export.**The opportunity:** Aflatoxin-testing labs and food-safety certification for market access.*Source: Musangi et al., 2024; CBI, 2026***CARD 11 • CLIMATE****Bushfire***(dry-season fire)***Impact:** About 5,000 acres of Ghana farmland, much of it cashew, lost to wildfire in the 2024/25 season.**Control that works:** Fire belts of 20 to 30 metres; community fire-volunteer squads; by-laws; agroforestry buffers; cashew itself as a living firebreak.**The opportunity:** Firebelt-ploughing services and community fire-prevention programmes.*Source: field reports, 2024 to 2025*

CARD 12 • CLIMATE

Harmattan and erratic rain*(flowering-window weather)*

Impact: Dry harmattan wind and heat abort flowers; unseasonal rain at flowering spreads disease and drops the crop. Drove Ghana's roughly 30 percent fall in 2024.

Control that works: Windbreaks; site selection out of exposed corridors; time disease control to the wet flowering window.

The opportunity: Windbreak agroforestry and weather-indexed advisory or insurance.

Source: Balogoun et al., 2016; TCDA, 2024



CARD 13 • CLIMATE

Climate-belt shift (WATCH / ADAPT)*(warming)*

Impact: Warming is shifting the cashew belt; but 71 percent of Ghana farmers see cashew as less climate-affected than staples, so it is an adaptation crop.

Control that works: Drought-tolerant clones; agroforestry and intercropping; suitability-based siting; irrigation at establishment.

The opportunity: Resilient planting material; position cashew as the climate-adaptation replacement for declining cocoa land.

Source: Botir et al., 2025



CARD 14 • WATCH-LIST

Witch's Broom (BIOSECURITY WATCH)*(phytoplasma; not recorded in Ghana)*

Impact: No cashew witches'-broom or phytoplasma disease has been recorded in Ghana or West Africa; the only cashew record is a different disease in north-east India. It is an import-screening risk, not a present threat.

Control that works: Import biosecurity and phytosanitary screening; surveillance; flag to CRIG and CSIR for monitoring.

The opportunity: A phytosanitary and early-warning diagnostics service.

Source: Pillar 3 evidence review, 2026

