



ORGANIC CASHEW

THE TREE YOU CAN RELY ON

Although technically a seed rather than a nut, cashews are widely known around the world. The cashew tree produces a fascinating structure that often confuses people: the cashew apple, a fleshy, oval-shaped stalk, with an outer seed, the cashewnut. This dual identity adds to the cashew's uniqueness, making it stand out among edible seeds and nuts. Beyond their popularity as a beloved ingredient, cashews play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity, aided by important insects in their ecosystem.

You'll love to chew on these cashew



WORKING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE PRINCIPLE OF ECOLOGY

*Organic agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.**

*Source: IFOAM



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ECOLOGICAL ROLE OF CASHEW TREES

Organic cashew nut farms serve as havens for various wildlife species. The absence of harmful chemicals creates a safe environment for insects, birds, and other small animals. The trees not only provide shelter and nesting sites, but also support a complex ecosystem with their leaves, fruits, and nuts, including fruit bats and various bird species.



Discover more about our cashew nuts!



ORGANIC CASHEW NUT FARMING AND THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY

When it comes to pollination, the organic cashew trees depend upon wild solitary bees, honeybees, and bumble bees. The farmers make sure these important insects can thrive. Simply said if the pollinators are in trouble, so are the farmers and the local economy. Pollinators need food, such as pollen and the nectar of flowers, and of course safe breeding places. Some breed in the soil or sand, some breed in trees and some, such as honeybees, are bred by farmers. The biggest threat for these insects is the use of chemical insecticides and the disruption of their breeding habitats.

Soil-nesting bee



Weaver ant



ORGANIC HELPERS: SOIL-NESTING BEES

Since organic farmers refrain from using synthetic fertilizers and harmful chemical pesticides, they are widely seen as part of the solution to combat biodiversity loss. This is certainly true for our cashew nut farmers. Rather than fighting nature, these farmers create insect-friendly environments that encourage beneficial species like ladybugs, weaver ants, predatory wasps, spiders, and pollinators such as bees. A cashew tree, like all trees, is much more than a 'fruit production unit' that simply relies on bees and ladybugs; it is an ecosystem in itself and part of a much larger biodiverse environment. Every action, positive or negative, directly impacts this environment, which is why organic farming is regarded as a future-proof method of food production.

HOW FARMERS CAN HELP THE SOIL NESTING BEES!

When it comes to helping protect these important pollinators, it is important to:

- Avoid ploughing soils within and near the orchard as this destroys the nests of soil-nesting bees
- Place beehives in or near cashew orchards
- Preserve the natural vegetation of surrounding trees and shrubs to support pollinators and attract natural predators of insect pests
- Keep flowering weeds under cashew trees
- During the rainy season, plant brightly coloured flower strips around the orchards to attract pollinators and to provide food to them
- Leave bare patches of ground to promote bees that nest in the soil and to provide them with food

