

India-Guinea Bissau Relations

Political Relations:

India and Guinea Bissau, for decades, have maintained warm and friendly relations. Guinea Bissau Government is generally supportive of India. There has been regular co-operation at international fora such as the United Nations and NAM. There is considerable goodwill for India both amongst the Government and the general public of Guinea Bissau. There are no perceivable irritants/differences in the relationship. Prime Minister of transitional Government of Guinea-Bissau, Rue Duarte De Barros, led a delegation including Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Economy to India to attend 9th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership held from 17th - 19th March, 2013. An Honorary Consulate of India in Bissau was inaugurated in May 2010.

Commercial Relation /Bilateral Trade:

Year	Value in US \$ Million			
	India's Export to Guinea Bissau	India's Import from Guinea Bissau	Total Trade	Growth (%)
2009-2010	3.19	184.20	187.39	
2010-2011	3.07	59.45	62.52	-66.64
2011-2012	12.42	298.05	310.60	
2012-2013	10.88	140.20	151.08	

Source: *Export Import Database, Department of Commerce, Government of India*

Cashew crop accounts for more than 90% of its export earnings. It is important to note that almost the entire cashew crop (around 98%) is exported to India for processing.

ITEC and other training and assistance programmes:

For the financial year 2014-15, 30 slots for training in India under India Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) have been allotted to Guinea Bissau. Under the programme following the second session of the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-2) held in Addis Ababa in May 2011, five women from rural areas of Guinea Bissau were sent to India in 2009 for training at Barefoot College, Tilonia, and Rajasthan. After completion of training programme, they installed solar energy facilities in their villages. An expert in the area of rice cultivation visited Guinea Bissau from India in early 2006 to assist the country under India-Brazil - South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum's "Poverty Alleviation Funding Facility". An expert Team from India had also visited Guinea-Bissau to assist in a Solar Power project. Guinea Bissau is a founder member of the Team-9 Initiative. In February 2009, India- Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trust Fund Board, approved around US\$ 830,000 for two projects (combined) namely for renewable energy and agricultural capacity building in Guinea Bissau. 08 Scholarship slots have been offered to Guinea-Bissau under Africa Scholarship Scheme for the academic year 2014-15. Guinea Bissau does not have a diplomatic mission in India. An honorary consul has been appointed for Guinea Bissau in India in January 2012.

NRI Population:

There are about 100 Indians in Guinea Bissau. However, every year during cashew crop season, 40-50 Indians visit Guinea Bissau for few weeks to negotiate, purchase and ship the consignments of raw cashew to India.

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