



Uganda Coffee Development Authority

COFFEE NEWS

Your quarterly publication highlighting the activities in the Uganda Coffee subsector

www.ugandacoffee.go.ug | January - March 2024



Gov't to Spend UGX 35bn on Registration of Coffee Farmers as Uganda Takes Action to Comply with EUDR Requirements

ALSO INSIDE

European Commission Launches EUR 40 Million Forestry Programme in Uganda to Combat Deforestation

Uganda coffee exports for 2023 soar to US\$ 965.14m

Empowering Coffee Farmers in Northern Uganda



Congratulations



UCDA's Quality Assurance Officers **Ann Kakeeto**, **Jonathan Mugerwa**, and **Joseph Byamukama** have received Q Arabica Grader certification. Their achievement brings the number of Q Arabica Graders in Uganda to 15, further enhancing Uganda's credibility in the global coffee market.

Certified Q Graders share a common language of quality used by producers and buyers alike, facilitating communication and access to markets. They ensure that coffee meets the highest international quality standards. This strengthens Uganda's position as a producer of top-tier Specialty coffee, contributing to sustained economic growth.



UCDA's Quality Assurance Officers **Judith Engena** and **Diana Rose Ajiambo** have received Q Robusta Grader certification.

Their achievement brings the number of Q Robusta Graders in Uganda to 8. This is a huge boost to Uganda's credibility in the global coffee market which strengthens its position as a producer of great Robusta coffee.

The certified Q Graders facilitate communication, sustained economic growth and access to markets by ensuring that coffee meets the highest international quality standards.

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FOREWORD



Welcome to our Quarter 3 newsletter. As we reflect on our journey in the coffee sector, it is evident that significant strides have been made. The Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) Board, led by Chairperson Dr. Charles Mugoya, recently conducted a successful monitoring exercise in Northern Uganda, showcasing exemplary success stories. Through this exercise, the Board and Management observed firsthand the dedication and resilience of coffee farmers in the region.

A notable success story is the transformation of smallholder farmers who have significantly increased their yields by adopting best practices promoted by UCDA. The farmers' stories detailed in this newsletter serve as a testament to the positive impact of targeted support and training programs, reinforcing our commitment to empowering coffee communities across Uganda.

A pivotal development in the industry has been the European Union's regulations regarding deforestation-free coffee. These regulations emphasize sustainable production practices, biodiversity preservation, and climate change management. While this is a positive step, it necessitates investments in traceability and cooperation with international partners to ensure coffee stakeholders comply with the regulations and transition to sustainable practices.

Addressing concerns about potential impacts on farmers, UCDA is actively engaging in efforts to ensure that Europe remains the sizable market that it is for Ugandan coffee, accounting for close to 65% of the country's exports.

Challenges such as drought, diseases like Coffee Red Blister Disease (CRBD), pests like the Black Coffee Twig Borer (BCTB), and coffee leaf rust remain significant hurdles. However, UCDA's initiatives, including stumping trees and distributing inputs for disease control, demonstrate our commitment to overcoming these challenges. Additionally, support for farmers through projects like the European Union-funded Market Access Upgrade Programme (MARKUP) has greatly empowered coffee stakeholders as you will read in the newsletter.

UCDA remains dedicated to fostering sustainable growth, supporting coffee stakeholders, and ensuring the subsector thrives in harmony with environmental conservation as well as local and global standards.

Dr. Emmanuel Iyamulemye Niyibigira

Managing Director - Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA)

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Gov't to Spend UGX 35bn on Registration of Coffee Farmers as Uganda Takes Action to Comply with EUDR Requirements

The Government of Uganda is committed to registering all coffee farmers and having the National Traceability System in place to comply with the European Union Regulations on deforestation-free products (EUDR), Dr. Emmanuel Iyamulemye, the Managing Director at Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA), has revealed.

Iyamulemye says the National Coffee Register as provided for in the National Coffee Act 2021, will be a precursor to the creation of a National Traceability System (NTS) aligned with European Union Regulations on deforestation-free products (EUDR) requirements.

The register will assign unique identifiers and geolocations to all coffee farms.

Iyamulemye says the Government through the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is committed to registering farmers in a phased manner.

"The exercise requires up to US\$9.15m (UGX 35,6bn). The Ministry of Finance has committed to provide up to UGX 13bn in the 2024/25 Financial Year towards farmer registration and the National Traceability System," Iyamulemye said, adding that further funds will be provided in subsequent years.

Iyamulemye was speaking at a stakeholders' meeting held at Serena Hotel on 12th March 2024 to validate the National Action Plan for compliance with the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D) and EU regulations on deforestation-free products (EUDR) in the coffee value chain.



Dr. Emmanuel Iyamulemye, the UCDA Managing Director

The meeting was organized by UCDA, in partnership with the International Trade Centre and the Uganda Coffee Federation.

To comply with EUDR requirements, Iyamulemye says, Uganda is using the Territorial Approach (TA) in the short run to make the whole country compliant.

This approach is not a farmer registration system as no farmer data is collected. It is not a coffee traceability system either.

The TA is based on the premise that coffee production is not a main driver of deforestation. All coffee polygons (including non-compliant ones) can be



Sanne Willems, the Team Leader Green Transition and Private Sector from the EU Delegation in Uganda

identified using High Resolution (HR) maps and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Once non-compliant plots are remediated, the territory (country) is compliant in its entirety.

"We are now engaging the EU to accept the Territorial Approach because the deadline is so short (31st December 2024) for us to have the national register and the National Traceability System where each farmer will have a unique code," Iyamulemye said.

He said many coffee-producing countries including Vietnam, Ethiopia, Peru, Guatemala and Tanzania among others are looking at the Territorial



Dr. Iyamulemye says the National Coffee Register as provided for in the National Coffee Act 2021, will be a precursor to the creation of a National Traceability System (NTS) aligned with European Union Regulations on deforestation-free products (EUDR) requirements.

Approach in the short run to comply with EUDR requirements.

"We have to show that there's something we are doing to comply with EUDR requirements," he said, adding: "Roasters in the EU want Uganda to be compliant with EUDR requirements because our coffee is of very high quality."

Iyamulemye revealed that there are already private companies doing voluntary certification and registration of farmers they deal with.

"These farmers get a premium price. We should focus on producing very high-quality coffee and comply with all the regulations. Once we do that, the price will even be higher," he said.

Sanne Willems, the Team Leader Green Transition and Private Sector from the Delegation of the European Union to Uganda, said EUDR is good because it aims to reduce deforestation and address the climate change crisis the world is facing.

"Climate change has its impact on coffee production. In certain areas, it's too hot to produce coffee. We all agree that the background of this legislation is a good one," Willems says, adding that over 60% of Uganda's coffee exports go to the EU market.

"The EU market is the biggest for Uganda coffee at the moment and it's important (for Uganda) to keep it. It's not so easy to start exporting to other new markets," she says, adding that the responsibility to ensure coffee exported from Uganda is compliant is with the importers in the EU.

Speaking at the same event, Robert Nangatsa, the Extension Manager at UCDA, said the Traceability System will fundamentally change the coffee subsector.

"Once we roll out the Traceability System, how we trade coffee will change significantly. A trader will be required to trace coffee back to the plot where it was grown. Each farmer will be registered in the National Coffee Registry, as per the Coffee Act," Nangatsa said.

On 5th December 2022, the European

Parliament approved a regulation for deforestation-free products to ensure supply chains remain free from products that cause deforestation. Under the Deforestation Regulation, only products that are legal in the country of production and not linked to deforestation and forest-degradation after 31st December 2020 can be placed on the EU market. The regulation which takes effect on 1st January 2025 requires that exporters of commodities such as coffee, cocoa and their derivatives must submit specific documents to export to the EU market. The regulation sets specific criteria for products imported into and exported out of the EU market to be deforestation-free.

Additionally, the EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D) compels companies to undertake mandatory due diligence to identify and address human rights abuses and environmental damage in their global value chains. ■

Source: www.businessfocus.co.ug

Note from editor: The EU has since indicated that the Territorial Approach will not be considered. Uganda coffee stakeholders are expected to comply with the EUDR and ensure that their coffee is deforestation-free and legally produced.



H. E. President Yoweri Museveni met with the European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius and his delegation at State House Entebbe.

European Commission Launches EUR 40 Million Forestry Programme in Uganda to Combat Deforestation

The Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries at the European Commission, H.E. Virginijus Sinkevičius visited Uganda on 9th April 2024.

During his visit, Commissioner Sinkevičius met Uganda's President H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and together they launched the new European Union (EU) Forestry programme with Uganda which is based on the extensive experience of the EU in the forestry sector in the country. The EU is making available grant financing to Uganda to the tune of EUR 40 million (Ugx. 167 billion) in new funding to tackle the root causes of deforestation in Uganda while promoting reforestation and sustainable economic development.

"With these milestones which are a demonstration of common aspirations, we envision achieving the European Green Deal's objectives and the Global Gateway – the EU's sustainable connectivity strategy. This

includes enhancing the role of forests in the bio-economy and nurturing our trade flows of wood material," said Commissioner Sinkevičius. The Commissioner met with coffee

stakeholders on the progress and challenges of compliance with the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) in the coffee industry in Uganda. ■



H. E. President Yoweri Museveni signs on the Uganda-EU partnering for forests in Uganda poster during a meeting at State House Entebbe

Uganda coffee exports for 2023 soar to US\$ 965.14m

Uganda's coffee exports in 2023 hit a value of US\$ 965.14 million, the highest the country has recorded. Coffee exports for the twelve months (Calendar year 2023) totaled 6.12 million bags worth US\$ 965.14 million compared to 5.63 million bags worth US\$ 860.45 million in the previous period (Calendar year 2022). This represents an increase of 12% and 9% in quantity and value respectively.

Local coffee prices also experienced a surge with farm-gate prices for Robusta Kiboko averaging UGX 4,050 per kilo; FAQ UGX 8,750 per kilo, Arabica parchment UGX 10,250 per kilo and Drugar UGX 9,250 per kilo in the month of December.

The increase in prices has brought joy to coffee farmers across the country with Robusta prices nearly doubling in comparison to two years back.

The upward trend of coffee prices especially for Robusta is largely driven by rising global demand and quality of Uganda coffee.

The UCDA coffee report also indicated Uganda's monthly export performance for the month of December remained good.

Coffee exports in December 2023, amounted to 401,336 60-kilo bags, worth US\$ 65.94 million. This comprised 337,026 bags of Robusta valued at US \$ 52.84 million and 64,310 bags of Arabica valued at US\$ 13.10 million. This was a decrease of 4.17% in quantity and an increase of 10.76% in value compared to the same month last year.

By comparing quantity of coffee



exported by type in the same month of last Coffee Year (December 2022), Robusta increased by 1.68% and 30.32 in quantity and value respectively.

Arabica exports decreased by 26.38% and 31.02 in quantity and value respectively.

The monthly coffee exports performance was lower than the previous year and this was partly on account of the harvest season that has delayed due to the rains that also delayed drying of the newly harvested coffee and a small harvest in Elgon region.

UCDA is dedicating significant efforts

to advance coffee production in line with the Coffee Roadmap production target of 20 million 60 kg bags by 2030.

The Authority is implementing robust programs to address key challenges such as pest and disease incidents like the Black Coffee Twig Borer, Red Blister Disease, Coffee Wilt Disease, and Coffee Leaf Rust which sporadically break out in different coffee growing regions affecting production and quality.

Extension staff also implement farmer education programs on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), rehabilitation and renovation, and inspection of Coffee Wilt Disease resistant (CWDr) nurseries, Arabica nurseries, and Elite Robusta nurseries to ensure adherence to certification standards.

Other interventions include technical support on soil fertility management, guided coffee stumping of old and unproductive coffee trees to enhance productivity and conducting sustainable land management (SLM) trainings to address climate change impacts.

World coffee production for 2023/24 is forecast to reach 171.4 million bags, 6.9 million bags higher than the previous year of 164.5 million bags, with higher output in Brazil, Colombia and Ethiopia expected to more than offset reduced production in Indonesia. Global exports are expected to increase by 8.4 million bags to 119.92 million bags, mainly due to strong shipments from Brazil. Global consumption is forecast at 169.5 million bags, with the largest increase in the European Union, the United States of America and Brazil. ■



UCDA Board Members and Management pose for a photo with district leaders in Lira

Unlocking Coffee's Potential in Northern Uganda

In a recent engagement spearheaded by the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) Board of Directors, key stakeholders converged to discuss the burgeoning coffee industry in Northern Uganda.

The engagement began in Lira District with a meeting with local government leaders that highlighted UCDA's robust support for coffee production in the region and its transformative impact on farmers' livelihoods. The UCDA team, led by the Chairman, Dr. Charles Francis Mugoya, also visited various farms in the district.

Dr. Mugoya, remarked, "The purpose of the activity was for the Board of Directors to appreciate the region-specific issues and put in place measures to address them." The aim was clear: to explore opportunities, tackle challenges, and chart a course

for sustainable coffee production in the region.

The narrative of coffee's unsuitability in the Lango sub-region was dispelled, with many farmers showcasing successful coffee yields. However, concerns were raised regarding delayed payments to nursery operators and the discontinuation of free coffee seedling provisions, potentially hampering new entrants into coffee farming.

The UCDA Managing Director, Dr. Emmanuel Iyamulemye, emphasised, "UCDA interventions seek to improve the livelihoods of Ugandans, in this

case, the farmers in the Northern Region, through promoting coffee production, value addition, and marketing." He went to assure the farmers of UCDA's commitment to the region.

To fortify coffee's presence, proposals included establishing demonstration sites, coffee-specific training for extension workers, and fostering mindset changes through success stories. The district leadership's commitment to coffee promotion was unwavering, with calls for intensified efforts in value addition and domestic consumption promotion.

In the other districts in the region



– Gulu, Alebtong, Oyam, Omoro and Amuru – similar sentiments echoed the enthusiasm for coffee's economic prospects. Farmers praised the introduction of coffee as a cash crop, albeit highlighting challenges like drought susceptibility, limited seedling availability, and resistance to certain coffee varieties. The district local governments emphasised the need for irrigation support, research on drought-resistant coffee strains, and intensified training for extension workers. They pledged support for coffee production, including allocating land to UCDA for a coffee analytical laboratory and advocating for improved seedling distribution and payment solutions.

Farmers called on the Authority to support them in their quest to add value to their coffee. The absence of a functional coffee processing plant and low coffee prices highlighted the urgent need for value addition initiatives.



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The engagements unearthed several key insights. Firstly, stakeholders universally embraced coffee as a lucrative venture. However, challenges like drought, limited seedling availability, and a learning curve for coffee-specific practices were acknowledged. In response, a comprehensive set of recommendations emerged. These ranged from promoting

water conservation measures and specialized trainings to establishing technology demonstration sites and facilitating farmer exchange visits. Prioritising value addition, setting up processing facilities, and enhancing seedling distribution were emphasized as crucial steps.

The commitment from both local governments and UCDA signals a promising trajectory for coffee in Northern Uganda. By addressing the challenges raised and by implementing strategic recommendations and promoting collaboration, the region can unlock coffee's full potential. This will inevitably empower farmers, spur economic growth, and contribute to Uganda's thriving coffee sector.

Northern Uganda's coffee landscape stands poised for transformation through agricultural diversification and sustainable practices that will drive prosperity at the grassroots level. ■

Empowering Coffee Farmers in Northern Uganda

The Board of Directors and management of Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) visited five districts in Northern Uganda (Lira, Alebtong, Gulu, Omoro and Amuru) in January 2024. The Board is mandated to oversee the performance of UCDA and preserve its competitiveness while ensuring effectiveness and efficiency in its operations.

The major objective of the activity was to appraise and evaluate the performance of UCDA interventions in the Northern Region, identify hindrances to progress, and generate key recommendations to inform improvements in the strategies for the promotion of coffee in the region. Below are success stories from some of the farmers the team visited.

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Mr. Okello Denis showing off his coffee.

Okello Denis Obak's Thriving Coffee Journey with UCDA

In the heart of Adyaka Parish, Agali Sub-county, Lira District, Okello Denis Obak stands as a testament to the transformative power of sustainable coffee farming. With 8 acres dedicated to Robusta coffee cultivation, Okello Denis has not only reaped substantial harvests but also navigated challenges and embraced opportunities with the support of the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA).

His journey began in 2017 when he received elite coffee seedlings from UCDA, planting 4 acres of his land with these high-quality plants. In 2022, he expanded his farming repertoire by incorporating Coffee Wilt Disease-resistant (CWDr) plantlets on another 4 acres. The collaboration with UCDA extended beyond mere seedlings; Okello received vital assistance in capacity building for agronomic practices, access to fertilizers, essential farm tools, banana



The impact of UCDA's support has been profound. Okello achieved his highest harvest of 58 bags of kiboko coffee in 2020, translating to UGX 11 million in earnings. This success story goes beyond financial gains; it has allowed him to send one child to university and provide education for several others in secondary school.

suckers, shade trees, and cover crop seeds such as mucuna beans.

The impact of UCDA's support has been profound. Okello achieved his highest harvest of 58 bags of *kiboko* coffee in 2020, translating to UGX 11 million in earnings. This success story goes beyond financial gains; it has allowed him to send one child to university and provide education for several others in secondary school. Moreover, he invested in additional land and a vehicle for transporting

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farm produce, demonstrating the broader economic benefits of sustainable agriculture.

However, the path to success has not been without obstacles. Okello faced challenges such as drought, which impacted his coffee yields despite

adequate shade. To mitigate this, he is constructing a valley water tank for fish farming and irrigation, showcasing his innovative approach to sustainability.



The valley water tank being dug for irrigation at his farm.

Another hurdle is the absence of a coffee milling plant in the district, compelling him to sell his coffee as *kiboko*. Pest and disease management, including combating the coffee berry borer, remains an ongoing concern that Okello Denis actively addresses through diligent farm management practices.

Okello harbours ambitious expansion plans. He envisions establishing a 15-acre coffee garden and urges UCDA to resume providing coffee seedlings to facilitate this growth. Encouragingly, UCDA's Managing Director has pledged to support him in becoming a model coffee farmer in the sub-county. Plans are underway to connect him with coffee-honey associations for training in honey handling and marketing, diversifying his farm income stream.

Commending Okello for his effective use of shade trees, which enhance coffee aroma and promote crop survival during dry spells, UCDA plans to provide additional shade trees for his newly opened garden. This collaboration exemplifies the synergy between farmers and agricultural authorities in driving sustainable practices and economic growth.

Okello's resilience, determination, and partnership with UCDA illuminate a path of prosperity for coffee farmers in Uganda. His story underscores the invaluable role of UCDA's supportive initiatives in empowering rural communities and fostering agricultural sustainability. ■



Mr. Okello Denis receiving a token of appreciation from the UCDA Board Chairperson and the MD UCDA at his farm during the Board of Directors M&E Exercise.



The UCDA Board Chairperson and MD UCDA interacting with Mr. and Mrs. Apita on their farm.

Benson Apita's farm inspiring the local community

In the bustling Amuca Parish of Lira City, Apita Benson Bernard stands tall as a beacon of organic coffee farming excellence. With 4 acres of meticulously managed coffee gardens, Apita has not only increased his yield significantly but has also ventured into coffee roasting, transforming his livelihood and inspiring the local community.

Apita's journey began in 2015 when he planted his first 1,000 coffee seedlings. Recognising the potential of organic farming, he expanded his garden with another 1,000 seedlings in 2020. Through the support of Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA), he received not only seedlings but also essential resources like fertilizer, shade trees, and comprehensive training in good agronomic practices.

Apita's entrepreneurial spirit did not stop at cultivation. Alongside his wife, they delved into the art of coffee preparation and roasting. Using traditional methods—roasting in a saucepan and grinding on a



UCDA Board Member, Ms. Martha Nalubega Wandera, advising Mrs. Apita on coffee roasting techniques.

stone—they produce high-quality coffee that they sell locally. Their dedication and craftsmanship have earned them a steady income, with a spoon of their roasted and ground coffee fetching

between UGX 1,500 and UGX 15,000.

Beyond personal success, Apita is a catalyst for community development. He spearheaded the formation of the Amuca Coffee Growers Cooperative, where he serves as chairman. This cooperative, boasting 24 farmers, collectively sold coffee worth UGX 48 million in 2022, highlighting the power of unity in agricultural ventures.

Apita's commitment to sustainability is evident in his farm practices. Recognising the impact of climate change, he implemented water conservation structures like shallow wells for irrigation. Cover crops such as mucuna beans have also enhanced soil

fertility, ensuring long-term productivity.

The couple commends UCDA for introducing coffee into their lives and they envision a secure and prosperous future. The proceeds from coffee sales have not only educated their children but are also supporting the education of a grandchild. Their shift from labour-intensive rice and maize farming to coffee cultivation has paved the way for a more settled and financially stable life.

Despite the successes, challenges like drought and pest infestations tested Apita's resilience. However, his proactive measures, such as digging shallow wells for irrigation and managing shade tree density, showcase his adaptability and determination.

Apita's story is a testament to the transformative power of sustainable agriculture and the invaluable support provided by UCDA. His journey from a coffee farmer to a roaster and community leader exemplifies the potential within Uganda's coffee industry.

As Apita continues to innovate and inspire, UCDA's commitment to his success remains unwavering. Plans are underway to connect his wife with the Uganda Coffee Roasters Association for advanced training in coffee roasting techniques and product marketing, further enhancing their business acumen.

Apita's success story encapsulates the essence of resilience, innovation, and community empowerment. Through his dedication and UCDA's support, he has not only transformed his family's fortunes but also become a driving force for positive change in the northern region's coffee sector. His journey showcases what can be achieved with determination, vision, and sustainable agriculture practices. ■

Hon. Obua Denis Hamson leading by example in Alebtong District

Hon. Obua Denis Hamson, a dedicated coffee farmer from Awori Parish in Abako Sub-county, Alebtong District, has made significant strides in the coffee farming sector. In 2023, he ventured into coffee cultivation by opening up 5 acres of land. Notably, Hon. Obua has adopted an innovative approach by intercropping bananas with the coffee plants to provide essential shade and nurture the young coffee seedlings.

Despite facing challenges such as dry weather impacting the vitality of the trees, Hon. Obua has implemented effective conservation measures. He utilises biochar (charcoal ash) and manure during planting to conserve water in the soil, resulting in an estimated 80% survival rate among the coffee plants. This is a commendable innovation because of its positive impact on water conservation and improving survival rates.

Looking ahead, Hon. Obua plans to expand his coffee farm with an additional 5 acres. In line with his commitment to fostering coffee production within the community, he has successfully mobilized 16 farmers from each parish in the constituency, providing them with seedlings to initiate their coffee farming ventures. His dedication to championing coffee production in the region is evident, as he strives to create opportunities and empower fellow farmers.

Expressing gratitude for UCDA's support, Hon. Obua has also advocated for ongoing assistance to coffee farmers in the Northern region. While acknowledging the government's decision to halt the distribution of free seedlings, he highlights the importance

of offering special considerations to regions like the Northern area, where coffee farming interventions are in their initial stages. Providing support in the form of seedlings, which significantly contribute to the initial establishment costs (approximately 17% - 20%), would serve as a crucial incentive for aspiring coffee farmers, fostering growth and sustainability in the industry.

Hon. Obua's dedication and innovative approaches underscore the potential for transformative change within the coffee farming sector, creating a brighter future for farmers and communities in Alebtong District and beyond. ■



MD UCDA advising the Farm Manager at Hon. Obua Hamson's coffee farm in Alebtong district

Lillian Ogwang championing coffee production in Lira

Ms. Lillian Ogwang, a proud member of the Loro Coffee Cooperative Society, has emerged as a beacon of success in coffee farming, thanks to her determination, support from Uganda Coffee Development Authority, and her belief in the potential of coffee cultivation. Her journey from maize production to becoming a successful coffee farmer is a testament to the transformative impact of informed decision-making and strategic support.

In 2020, Ms. Ogwang ventured into coffee farming with support from UCDA, establishing a 3-acre coffee garden in Lira. Previously engaged in maize production, which proved less profitable, she discovered the benefits of coffee during her time in Masaka, where she resided for over 11 years. Despite initial doubts about coffee's viability in Lira, the COVID-19 lockdown became a turning point as UCDA's extension worker sensitised and motivated her to embrace coffee production.

Ms. Ogwang's diligence and commitment bore fruit when she commenced harvesting coffee in January 2024. With an estimated harvest of over 700kg, she found joy in the profitability of coffee, fetching prices ranging from UGX 3,000 to UGX 4,000 per kilogram. Her ambition now extends to expanding her coffee garden to 10 acres, a testament to her vision and confidence in coffee farming's potential.

Her success has not been limited to personal gains. Ms. Ogwang actively mobilises fellow farmers within her cooperative and community to adopt coffee farming, citing its superior profitability compared to other crops in the region. This grassroots advocacy is driving a positive shift towards coffee cultivation, benefiting not just individual farmers but also contributing to the



Mrs. Lillian Ogwang showing her flowering coffee to the UCDA Board Chairperson, Dr. Charles Mugoya.



The Director of Development Service Dr. Gerald Kyalo explaining to Mrs. Ogwang the importance of picking only red cherries at harvest.

economic growth of the community.

Despite her achievements, Ms. Ogwang faces challenges typical of agricultural ventures, such as pest and disease management and limited access to facilities in her district that would add value to her coffee. However, her cooperative is taking strides towards

establishing a coffee store and milling plant, although power sources remain a concern.

In recognition of her dedication and success, the Managing Director of UCDA has pledged support for Ms. Ogwang's ambition to expand her coffee gardens to 10 acres, with a promise of a coffee mill upon fulfillment of her plan. This commitment not only acknowledges her achievements but also positions her as a lead coffee farmer in the district, poised to champion and inspire others in coffee production.

Ms. Lillian Ogwang's story is a testament to the power of informed decision-making, perseverance, and strategic support in transforming agricultural landscapes and empowering farmers towards sustainable success. ■

Empowering Farmer Organizations for Sustainable Coffee Production

Farmers in the Western Ward of Loro Sub-county, Oyam district have expressed appreciation for the Loro Coffee Cooperative Society which exemplifies the power of collective effort in agriculture. Boasting a membership of 107 farmers, comprising 94 men, 13 women, and 6 youth, this cooperative has been making strides with support from Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA).

LOne of the significant benefits the cooperative has received is access to extension services and quality coffee seedlings. These resources have been instrumental in enhancing the productivity and quality of coffee produced by the members.

However, despite the benefits, challenges persist. One such hurdle is the operational status of the coffee milling facility acquired through the Agriculture Cluster Development Project (ACDP) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF). The facility remains non-operational due to power shortages, prompting the group's leadership to explore partnerships for accessing reliable electricity. They are also looking into leveraging ongoing energy distribution programs facilitated by the Central Government.

A critical issue affecting the cooperative's effectiveness is the individual sale of coffee by its members. Currently, 90% of the farmers individually sell their coffee, commonly referred to as *kiboko*, to middlemen at an average price of UGX 3000 per kilogram. Recognising the potential for collective strength, the cooperative has requested training in collective action, governance, and collective marketing. They aim to shift from individual sales to a unified approach, thereby maximising their



The Chairman UCDA Board of Directors addressing farmers at Loro Cooperative Society in Oyam district.

bargaining power and profitability.

The cooperative has ambitious growth plans. They intend to increase their membership from 156 to 500 farmers as they envision expansion and inclusivity in agricultural activities. UCDA has pledged continued support, particularly in providing training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and coffee extension services to further enhance the members' skills and knowledge base.

The recent visit by John Nuwagaba, a UCDA Board member and General Manager Director at Ankole Coffee Producers Cooperative Union (ACPCU), was a pivotal moment for the Loro Coffee Cooperative. Nuwagaba shared valuable insights

on farmer group dynamics and proposed an exchange visit for the cooperative's leaders to learn from successful farmer organizations in traditional coffee-growing areas. This exchange promises to be a transformative experience, offering firsthand exposure to best practices and strategies for sustainable growth.

As Loro Coffee Cooperative continues to navigate challenges and embrace opportunities, it exemplifies the resilience and potential of farmer organizations in driving agricultural prosperity. Through collaboration, education, and strategic planning, they paved the way for a vibrant and thriving coffee sub sector in Oyam district and beyond. ■

Apil Brenda's Impactful Contribution to the Coffee Industry

Ms. Brenda Apil, a seasoned Nursery Operator, in Minakulu Town Council, Oyam District, has been instrumental in revolutionising coffee seedling production in the region.

Located in Acandano cell, Atego ward, Minakulu T/C, Apil's nursery, established in 2017, demonstrates her dedication and innovation. She began with an elite seedling nursery capable of housing 45,000 seedlings. However, in 2020 UCDA's intervention propelled her endeavours to new heights. Through UCDA's provision of 1,400 Coffee Wilt Disease Resistant (CWD-R) plantlets, Ms. Apil Brenda established a CWDr mother garden, achieving an impressive 77% survival rate. Her initial production yielded 10,000 seedlings, a number that has since surged to approximately 22,000 seedlings per season.

The impact of Apil's nursery extends beyond numbers; it has significantly enhanced access to superior planting materials for local farmers. Previously reliant on external sources, farmers now benefit from quality seedlings within the district. Notably, Apil stands as the pioneering force behind the successful production of CWDR clones in the sub-region, a feat that highlights her expertise and commitment.

Driven by her successes, Apil reinvested in her nursery's infrastructure. She utilised proceeds to construct a shade-providing greenhouse and acquire 4 acres of land, earmarked for expanding the mother garden to an acre. Beyond coffee, she also ventured into eucalyptus tree seedling production, showcasing her versatility and entrepreneurial spirit.



Nursery Operator - Brenda Apil with the Chairman UCDA.

However, challenges persist. The nursery's hardening greenhouse requires expansion to accommodate the growing number of seedlings. The recent halt in UCDA's seedling procurement has led to a significant reduction in demand, prompting independent farmer purchases at lower rates. Additionally, the mother garden's maintenance and training aspects need attention for optimised production.

The nursery operator appealed to the UCDA team and the Government echoes the sentiments of many in the Northern Region, where coffee cultivation is still in its nascent stage. Apil advocates for the resumption of procurement and distribution efforts,

emphasizing the crucial role these initiatives play in fostering agricultural growth.

Apil now seeks UCDA's support in acquiring a larger greenhouse to meet escalating production needs. Furthermore, the completion of missing lines in the mother garden, namely KR8, KR9, and KR10, is pivotal for continuity and efficiency.

Apil is not just a nursery operator but a visionary driving local agribusiness forward. Her passion for excellence serves as an inspiration to the community. UCDA remains committed to fostering a vibrant and sustainable coffee industry across Uganda. ■

Farmer Ongaba calls for increased engagement with coffee researchers

Nestled in the picturesque Omoro District is the thriving coffee farm of Ongaba William Pike, a retired extension staff member of the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) renowned for his expertise in coffee growing. Spanning 12 acres, Ongaba's farm is a testament to dedication and sustainable practices.

Since 2014, Ongaba has been cultivating coffee, leading to an impressive average yield of a basin (approximately 20 kilograms) of red cherries per tree. His commitment to excellence has not gone unnoticed, earning him the title of the best farmer in Northern Uganda in 2023 and a prestigious visit from H. E. President Yoweri Museveni in 2020.

The support from UCDA, including inputs like fertilizers, rehabilitation kits, banana suckers, and shade trees in 2022, has been instrumental in Ongaba's success. He appreciates this support and believes that with sustained interventions, Northern Uganda holds the potential to become the top coffee-producing region in the country.

During a recent visit by the UCDA Board and Management, to Ongaba's farm, several noteworthy practices and recommendations were observed. His innovative use of local alcohol in bottles to trap Coffee Twig Borers and other pests is one example of effective pest management that he utilises. Additionally, Ongaba's adoption of stumping and shade-grown coffee has proven beneficial in sustaining crops during drought periods.

Ongaba called for increased engagement by institutions like the National Coffee Research Institute (NaCORI) and researchers with farms



Mr. Ongaba William Pike interacting with the MD UCDA (Left) and receiving a token of appreciation from the UCDA Board of Directors Chairperson (below).



in Northern Uganda. This proactive approach, he insists, is vital as incidences of diseases and pests are on the rise.

Recognising Ongaba's exemplary farming methods, the UCDA Board, led by the Chairperson, Dr. Charles Mugoya, recommended further support and designation of his farm as a demonstration site in the district.

Ongaba suggested organising farm exchange visits for coffee farmers in the Northern Region to foster knowledge sharing and continuous improvement. His farm showcases excellence and innovation in coffee cultivation. His collaboration with UCDA, dedication to sustainable practices, and advocacy for knowledge exchange position him as a leader in the region, paving the way for Northern Uganda to excel in coffee production. ■



The UCDA Team meeting with Paidongo Coffee Growers Cooperative Society.

From Vision to Reality with Paidongo Coffee Growers Cooperative Society

The Paidongo Coffee Growers Cooperative Society, situated in Paidongo Parish of Bobi Sub-county, Omoro District, exemplifies the power of collaboration and vision among local farmers. With 45 dedicated members, each with 2 acres of land, the cooperative has established a solid foundation spanning 90 acres, including 12 acres dedicated to coffee cultivation. The group's chairperson, Michael Odong, leads by example with his management of 15 acres of coffee.

Recently, the cooperative hosted a meeting with a team from the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA), led by the Board Chairperson, Dr. Charles Mugoya, marking a significant step forward in their journey towards greater success and sustainability.

During this meeting, the cooperative shared its ambitious vision of transforming their 500-acre block of farmland into a large-scale coffee farm. They seek support in key areas, including acquiring 67,000 CWDR plantlets and 3,900 shade trees to

expand their coffee cultivation area and enhance ecological balance.

Additionally, the cooperative requested support to establish a value-addition facility, such as a wet mill, to process coffee collectively, thereby adding value to their produce. They sought guidance in setting up an irrigation system which they are willing to fund independently.

The responses from the Board Chairperson, Dr. Mugoya and the Managing Director, Dr. Emmanuel Iyamulemye, were encouraging. They praised the cooperative for its vision,

unity, and cooperative spirit, promising support in providing the requested coffee seedlings and shade trees.

Partnerships such as the one between the Paidongo Coffee Growers Cooperative Society and UCDA are critical in empowering local farmers and maintaining sustainability. As the cooperative continues to grow and expand its impact, it serves as a beacon of grassroots empowerment and agricultural excellence. Initiatives like these demonstrate the potential of cooperative farming in shaping a brighter future for all stakeholders involved. ■



Nyabubare washing station in Mitooma constructed with funding from MARKUP under the Matching Grant Scheme.



Drying parchment at Nyabubare, Mitooma.

EU, MARKUP uplift coffee, cocoa farmers

Coffee and cocoa value chain actors in central and western Uganda have registered a change in fortunes following successful implementation of the European Union- East Africa Community Market Access Upgrade Programme (EU-EAC MARKUP).

The project beneficiaries under MARKUP also thanked the European Union and UCDA for supporting them to upgrade their processing facilities which has improved their

competitiveness in the market.

Under the project, companies received a matching grant which they used to acquire new coffee hulling and grading equipment, build coffee washing stations, organize farmers

into cooperatives, establish on-site laboratories for quality control and facilitate access to the European market.

MARKUP also highlighted the critical need for SMEs to access finance to



UCFA team in Mityana



The newly constructed coffee factory supported by MARKUP.



Rubanga Cooperative Society staff in Mitooma.



The newly constructed coffee factory supported by MARKUP.

scale up operations, and improve quality which are critical to enabling access to bigger markets such as the EU.

This was revealed during a monitoring and evaluation exercise organised by the Project Management Unit (PMU) to assess the implementation of activities in MARKUP specifically the matching grant. The team that carried out the M&E exercise comprised officials from UCDA, Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of East African Community Affairs and

the European Union.

The team visited MARKUP-supported project sites in Mityana, Rukungiri, Mitooma and Bushenyi and had a first-hand experience of the impact of the project on smallholders and how it improved the coffee value chain in the areas of operation.

The project sites included Rubanga Coffee Cooperative in Mitooma, New Bukumbi in Kabarole, Uganda Coffee Farmers Alliance in Mityana, and UGACOF in Rukungiri and Bushenyi. ■



Under the project, companies received a matching grant which they used to acquire new coffee hulling and grading equipment, build coffee washing stations, organize farmers into cooperatives, establish on-site laboratories for quality control and facilitate access to the European market.



Project beneficiaries working with New Bukumbi in Kabarole share their experiences on how the project supported them improve coffee productivity.



Nyabubare, Kisizi washing stations revive Arabica excellence in Bushenyi and Rukungiri

UGACOF is a leading coffee processor and exporter out of Uganda and maintains collection centres in all major coffee-producing regions of Uganda. The company was founded in 1994 with Headquarters in Kampala. They are deeply involved in sustainability work with a growing number of farmers throughout the country. Productivity and traceability are at the core of UGACOF's programs.

U GACOF set up four coffee washing stations under the MARKUP project. During the recent Monitoring and Evaluation exercise, the PMU team visited the washing stations at Nyabubare, in the heart of Bushenyi district and Kisizi, in Rukungiri district in Western Uganda.

Construction works on Nyabubare washing station commenced in 2021 and the station became operational in 2022. Since completion, the wet mills have become a centre for Arabica coffee processing. They have improved the quality of coffee in the regions and led to increased household incomes for community members. The washing stations specialize in processing specialty coffee, conventional and natural processed coffee.

Masereka Yason, the UGACOF Sustainability Officer, at the Nyabubare Washing Station says that in the first coffee season (main crop) that runs from October to February, they processed 995,000 tonnes of red cherry. In the fly season, from April to August, they processed 335,000 tonnes of red cherry. This is set to increase as the company mobilises more farmers to supply cherries to the station. The target at each of the stations is to produce 30 MT per season.

Before the construction of the



Processing high quality washed coffee increases payment to farmers



According to Masereka, UGACOF is building a program that focuses on three broad goals, which address key sustainability challenges: build capacity to improve farmers' prosperity; increase traceability in their supply chains; and increase the proportion of responsibly sourced coffee by training farmers.

washing stations, coffee farming was in steep decline mainly because the

farmers had no processing facilities and market for coffee. Today, the construction of the facility has seen farmers pick up Arabica growing.

The Nyabubare washing station has supported a revival of Arabica in Bushenyi, Mitooma and Rubirizi. Farmers transport the cherry to the washing station mainly by boda-boda. Cherry is then inspected and hand-sorted to remove any damaged cherries or under-ripe before they are weighed and loaded into the station's pulper. Farmers receive a payment in line with the quality and quantity delivered.

The facility employs five permanent workers and 50 casual labours who do

the sorting during cherry washing and drying.

Masereka says that ever since the site was constructed, farmers have gotten better pay for their coffee. Farmers used to deal with middlemen who used to prey on their ignorance and offer very low prices. In the past, a

kilo of cherry was purchased at UGX 700 but the price has climbed to UGX 2,000.

"Here we give the best price. We pay cash and on time. We also offer training and extension services. This has helped farmers increase production and productivity," Masereka says.

UGACOF trains the farmers on good agronomic practices and postharvest handling. Farmers are encouraged to selectively harvest only the red ripe coffee cherries to maintain quality. The farmers are also supported on fertiliser application, pruning, stumping and sustainability practices.

At the start of the project in 2021, UGACOF mobilised and certified 1,800 farmers to deliver cherries to the station. The number has since increased to 2,559 farmers. UGACOF's goal is to increase the number of certified farmers to 15,000 to have the station operate at optimum capacity.

Masereka says this target is very achievable because farmers now know that their coffee has a ready market.

Organising farmers into groups

According to Masereka, UGACOF is building a program that focuses on three broad goals, which address key sustainability challenges: build capacity to improve farmers' prosperity; increase traceability in their supply chains; and increase the proportion of responsibly sourced coffee by training farmers.

The training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) conducted by UGACOF has supported farmers to increase yield volumes and quality, while traceability ensures farmers' coffee can achieve certification, and consequently, higher premiums.

With the right knowledge and skills, farmers can address quality challenges. Farmers have also been supported to access crop finance and fertiliser, increase production and productivity and increase household income. ■



The EU team inspects the Nyabubare washing station



Composting coffee husks to make fertiliser which is then distributed to coffee farmers for free.



James Muhangi takes the EU team on a guided tour of the new processing factory.

Rubanga conquers new coffee market after receiving support from MARKUP

In Mitooma, South Western Uganda, a transformational coffee story is unfolding following the partnership between UCDA, EU, MARKUP and Rubanga Cooperative.

In 2020, the Cooperative was one of six companies that received a matching grant from MARKUP.

Today, Rubanga has become a centre of coffee excellence in the region following its exceptional performance under the grant.

The cooperative has improved coffee trade from 485MT to 1,208MT and this is attributed to mobilizing more farmers to join the cooperative society who in turn sell their coffee to Rubanga.

They have built a new warehouse and coffee factory and installed a new coffee processing plant. The plant



The EU-EAC Market Access Upgrade Programme (EU-EAC MARKUP) financed under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) earmarked funds up to a tune of EUR 3.48 million through a matching grant scheme to support smallholder coffee and cocoa farmers in Uganda.

has a 2-metric ton combine huller, 4-metric ton grader, gravity table, and colour sorter.

They have also trained over 9,000 farmers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs). The productivity of coffee for the members has increased. Initially, it was estimated at an average of 1.2kg/per tree in 2019 but it has now increased to 2.1kg/tree.

As a result, coffee outturn has climbed to 95.5% from 71% in 2020.

The cooperative has also registered an increase in business sales/profitability from UGX 2,818,461,438 in 2019 to UGX 8,459,908,725 in 2023.

Rubanga has also expanded into new markets following its participation in exhibitions such as the African Fine

Coffees Conference and Exhibition where they got contacts of new buyers.

Rubanga used to sell FAQ locally to traders before the project came on board but now they export exportable grades.

They have attracted international coffee buyers and today, they export directly to buyers in Italy, Netherlands, Israel, UAE, SA, South Sudan) and specialty coffee to South Korea. Total export sales are over 817MT.

They recently secured Finance from Rabo Bank, Root Capital, and Uganda Development Bank to expand operations. James Muhangi, the Operations Manager at Rubanga says that securing the funding was possible because the financiers realized that they had been funded by the EU under MARKUP.

"This boosted our portfolio greatly. When financial institutions learnt that we had successfully qualified for funding from the EU, it gave them confidence that we are a solid institution. The rigorous processes of EU have helped us a lot to access credit from financial institutions," Muhangi said.

About the MARKUP Matching Grant Scheme

The EU-EAC Market Access Upgrade Programme (EU-EAC MARKUP) financed under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) earmarked funds up to a tune of EUR 3.48 million through a matching grant scheme to support smallholder coffee and cocoa farmers in Uganda.

The project commenced in 2021 with six companies earmarked to benefit

from the matching grant scheme. The companies were Rubanga Cooperative Union, Ainea and Sons Company Ltd (Cocoa), UGACOF Ltd, New Bukumbi Coffee Processors Limited, Outspan Agric. Ltd (Cocoa) and Uganda Coffee Farmers' Alliance.

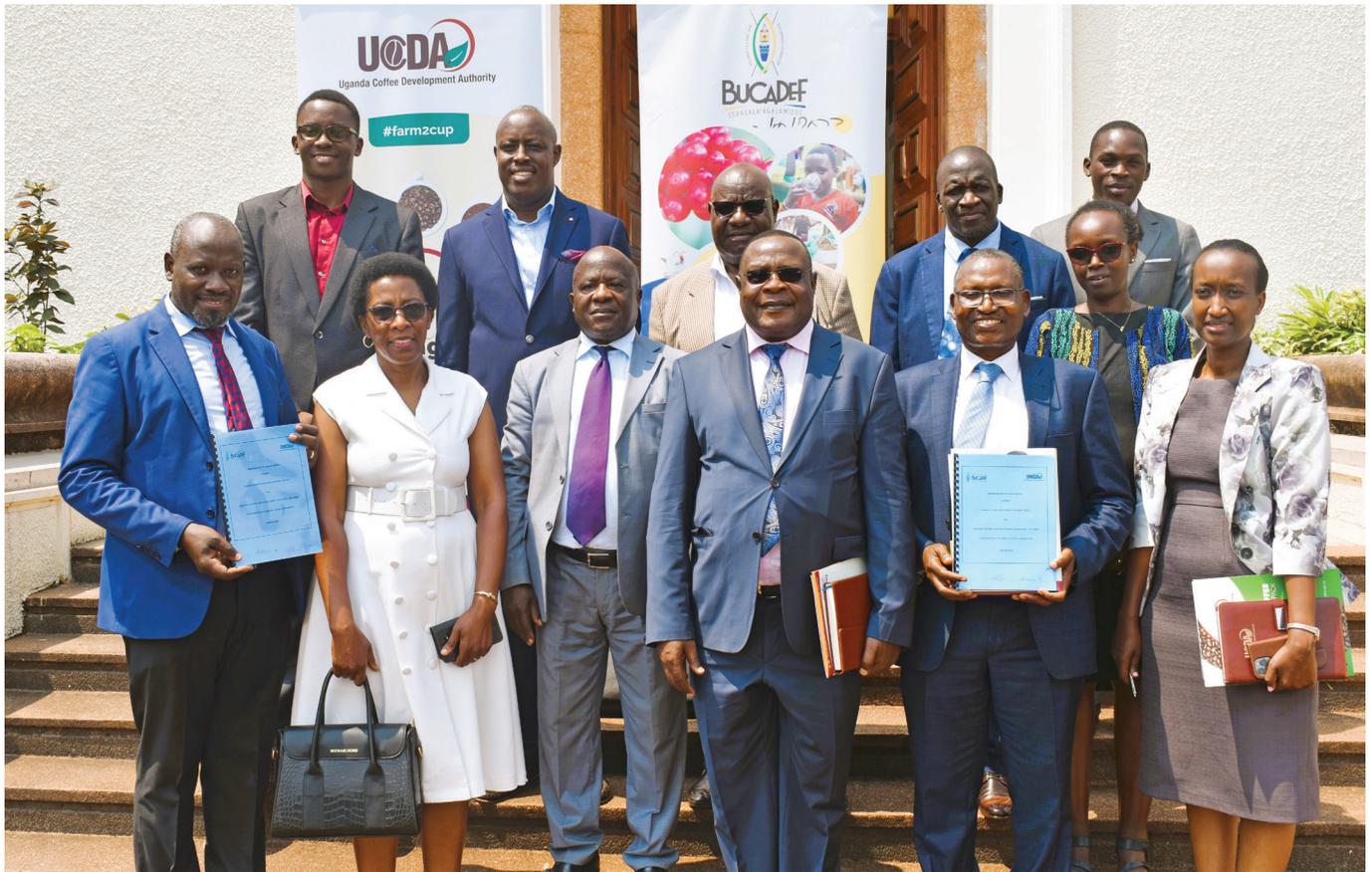
The funding modality was that the private companies contribute 50% of the grant total amount and this contribution would be equal to the funds given to them by the EU. This is why it was called the matching grant scheme. ■



James Muhangi showcasing Rubanga Coffee at the Africa Fine Coffees Conference in Kigali, 2023.



Expansion works: The warehouse and coffee laboratory under construction



UCDA Board and Management pose with the BUCADEF team after signing a memorandum of understanding

UCDA partners with BUCADEF for Domestic Coffee Consumption Promotion

Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) presented an espresso machine and coffee grinder to the Buganda Cultural and Development Foundation (BUCADEF) and a semi-automatic coffee machine to the office of the Katikkiro during ceremonies hosted at Bulange, Mengo.

The ceremonies, graced by the presence of Katikkiro Charles Peter Mayiga and dignitaries from the kingdom of Buganda, marked a notable step towards cultural and economic development and the promotion of domestic coffee consumption.

Speaking at the event, the Katikkiro Charles Peter Mayiga thanked UCDA for the support the Authority rendered

to the Kingdom in the implementation of the Mwanyi Terimba Campaign which has seen coffee production in the Kingdom rise significantly. In FY2020/21, Central region was the biggest coffee producer at 2.83 million 60-kilo bags out of the 8.1million bags produced countrywide. The Greater Masaka Region produces over 2,000,000 60-kg of coffee every year and several coffee exporters and cooperative unions have made significant investments in the region.

The Katikkiro called for value addition to Uganda coffee and promotion of domestic coffee consumption not only for its health benefits but also for its ability to raise farmer's incomes.

"We need to start drinking our own coffee just like in Ethiopia. A robust domestic coffee market will create jobs and put more money in the pockets of farmers. I call on Ugandans to drink more coffee and we should dispel the myths about coffee



Speaking at the event, the Katikkiro Charles Peter Mayiga thanked UCDA for the support the Authority rendered to the Kingdom in the implementation of the Mwanyi Terimba Campaign which has seen coffee production in the Kingdom rise significantly.

consumption because they are not true," the Katikkiro said.

Dr. Charles Mugoya, Chairperson of the UCDA Board, expressed gratitude to the Buganda Premier for leading the Mwanyi Terimba campaign, which has spurred a remarkable coffee revival in Buganda.



Katikkiro Charles Peter Mayiga addressing the UCDA team led by Chairperson Dr. Charles Mugoya at Bulange, Mengo

"These coffee machines symbolize UCDA's commitment to supporting the kingdom in promoting coffee consumption and supporting cultural initiatives for economic progress," Mugoya said.

Other attendees included UCDA

Board members Martha Wandera, Fred Luzinda-Mukasa, and Michael Nuwagaba, as well as UCDA Managing Director, Dr. Emmanuel Iyamulemye, and senior management members.

Both UCDA and BUCADEF signed a memorandum of understanding, marking a promising step towards empowering communities through coffee production and consumption while underscoring the vital role of partnerships.

Robert Musenze, the Chief Executive Officer of BUCADEF noted that demand for seedlings in the kingdom is high and requested UCDA for further support. He noted that out of 10 calls they receive at the foundation in a day, 8 of the callers request coffee seedlings. Musenze thanked UCDA for the coffee machine and said it would be used to promote coffee consumption during cultural gatherings. ■



Katikkiro Charles Peter Mayiga hosted the UCDA Board Members and senior management at Bulange Mengo



Dr. Emmanuel Iyamulemye, MD UCDA, introduces John Nuwagaba, GM, ACPU to delegates at the African Fine Coffees Conference and Exhibition during the tour of exhibition booths. ACPU won the Taste of Harvest Award for best Robusta among coffee producers in Africa

Uganda Robusta is best in Africa as ACPU sweeps top positions at Taste of Harvest Competition in Addis, Ethiopia

Uganda's Ankole Coffee Producers Cooperative Union Ltd (ACPCU) clinched the first and second positions at the Taste of Harvest Competition in the Robusta Category proving that Uganda has the best Robusta on the continent and in the world.

Ugandan coffees garnered impressive scores at the Taste of Harvest Competition, particularly excelling in the honey-processed Arabica and Robusta categories.

Mountain Harvest, a producer of specialty coffee in Uganda showcased two standout entries, securing fourth and fifth positions in the honey-processed category with scores of 86.5 and 86.32 respectively, closely trailing the top three coffees from Ethiopia.

In the Robusta category, Uganda's Ankole Coffee Producers Cooperative Union Ltd clinched the first and second positions with scores of 87.2 and 85.7 respectively, while Kashari Coffee and Zicofe Coffee claimed the fourth and fifth positions with scores of 84.6 and 84.3 respectively.

The African Fine Coffees Association (AFCA) organised the Regional Taste of Harvest Coffee Competition from February 6-10, 2024, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, coinciding with the 20th African Fine Coffees Conference and Exhibition.

A total of 71 Arabica coffee samples from nine countries competed, comprising 41 Washed, 24 Naturals, and 6 Honey Processed varieties. Competing with other Arabicas from Africa and making it to the top 5 is a great achievement not only for Mountain Harvest but also for the country. It is especially significant as the competition was from Ethiopia which is the birthplace of Arabica.

Kenneth Barigye, the MD of Mountain Harvest says competing with Ethiopia, the Birthplace of Arabica and taking 4th and 5th place is a great achievement for Uganda and a boost of confidence



The MD of UCDA (centre, holding cup) poses with participants at the Authority's booth at the African Fine Coffees Conference and Exhibition in Addis Ababa



Taste of Harvest judges: L-R Veronica Najjemba (Uganda), Bernard Chan (China), Grace Mukayisenga (Rwanda), Birhanu Gebissa (Ethiopia), Li Feng (China) and Doreen Rweihangwe (Uganda). Mukayisenga was the Head Judge

in the quality of Uganda coffee.

"Last night Mountain Harvest announced Uganda in the specialty coffee space at the AFCA expo! We

won 4th and 5th place in the Arabica honey processed category, competing with 71 other Arabicas from Africa and winning is big for us! Especially when all the top Arabica were from Ethiopia

the birthplace of Arabica! We are proud of our achievement as a team!" Barigye said.

Despite Ethiopia dominating the top positions in the Arabica categories, Mountain Harvest's win is a testament of Uganda's potential if producers focus on quality.

Additionally, seven Robusta coffee samples from four countries were part of the competition. Uganda swept the top positions in the Robusta category cementing its position as the birthplace of Robusta and a producer of high-quality coffee.

All coffees underwent rigorous grading by a panel of seven regional and international judges, all certified as Q Graders. They included two from Uganda – UCDA's Doreen Rweihangwe, who is the Director Quality and Regulatory Services and Veronica Najjemba, who is the Value Addition and Promotions Manager. ■

Ugandan Baristas Shine at the African Barista Championship

The African Barista Championship (ABC) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during the African Fine Coffees Conference and Exhibition, witnessed an impressive showcase of talent from Uganda as three of her baristas finished in the top five. Fifteen skilled baristas from across the continent competed in this year's event.

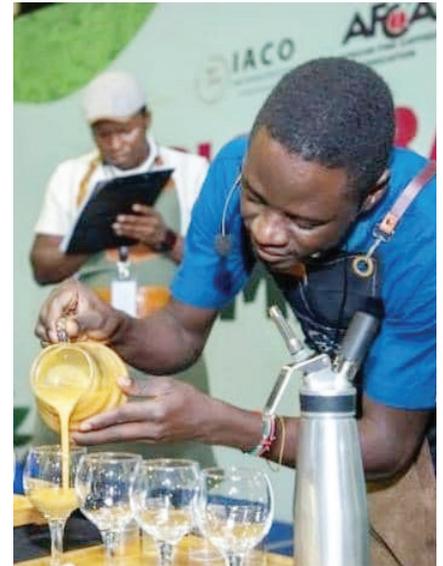
Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda stood out with three representatives each, while Rwanda and Cameroon boasted two talented baristas each. Additionally, Burundi and Ghana proudly showcased their coffee culture with one barista each.

Uganda's baristas emerged as frontrunners, demonstrating remarkable skill and finesse throughout the competition. Their dedication and expertise earned them prominent placements, with one contestant, Ibrahim Kiganda, achieving

an impressive 3rd place finish, and two others, Isaac Ntambi, the reigning national champion and Charles Lukonge, securing a commendable tie for 4th position.

Before the ABC, the three had participated in the Uganda National Barista Championships organised by Uganda Coffee Development Authority and sponsored by the European Union, Kawacom, MoTIV and Private Sector Foundation.

The panel of judges, led by Brenda Mangeni, UCDA's Promotions Officer, and co-head judge Martin Shabaya



Ibrahim Kiganda emerged 3rd at the 2024 Africa Barista Championship.

from Kenya, brought a wealth of experience and expertise to the event. Comprising representatives from Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Kenya, the judging panel ensured a fair and rigorous evaluation of each contestant's performance, contributing to the overall success and integrity of the competition. ■



Isaac Ntambi, the reigning Uganda national barista champion tied in 4th position with Charles Lukonge.



Fifteen baristas from across the continent competed in the Africa Barista Championship in Ethiopia.

Pictorial: UCDA showcases coffee value chain at Harvest Money EXPO

Organised by Vision Group, the Harvest Money EXPO is the biggest agriculture and agribusiness annual event. This year, it took place from February 23 to February 25 at the Kololo Independence Grounds, Kampala under the theme: Farming as a Business. UCDA took part in the 3-day event and shared the Uganda Coffee Experience with coffee lovers.



Exhibition goes at the UCDA booth



UCDA and COCODEV staff showcasing the cocoa value chain at the EXPO.



Nostalgic Coffee, a youth-led coffee brand was one of the local brands UCDA supported to exhibit at the EXPO



UCDA team promoting domestic coffee consumption at the Expo.



UCDA staff explain the different stages of the coffee value chain to EXPO goers.



COFFEE TRENDS

March 2024



Key Highlights



A total of **329,686 60-kilo bags of coffee** valued at **US\$ 64.74 million** were exported in **March 2024** at an average price of **US\$ 3.27/kilo** US cents 21 higher than **US\$ 3.17/ Kilo** in **February 2024**, and US cents 87 higher than **US\$ 2.30/kilo** in **February 2023**.

This was a decrease of **32.4%** in quantity and **9.45%** in value compared to the same month last year.



Farm-gate prices for **Robusta Kiboko averaged UGX 5,100 per kilo**; **FAQ UGX 10,750 per kilo**, **Arabica parchment UGX 11,500 per kilo** and **Drugar UGX 10,500 per kilo**.



Coffee exports for the **twelve months (April 2023-March 2024)** totaled **5.89 million bags worth US\$ 993.26 million** compared to **5.86 million bags worth US\$ 850.33 million** in the previous year (April 2022-March 2023).

This represents an decrease of **8.59%** in quantity and an increase of **13.43%** in value respectively.



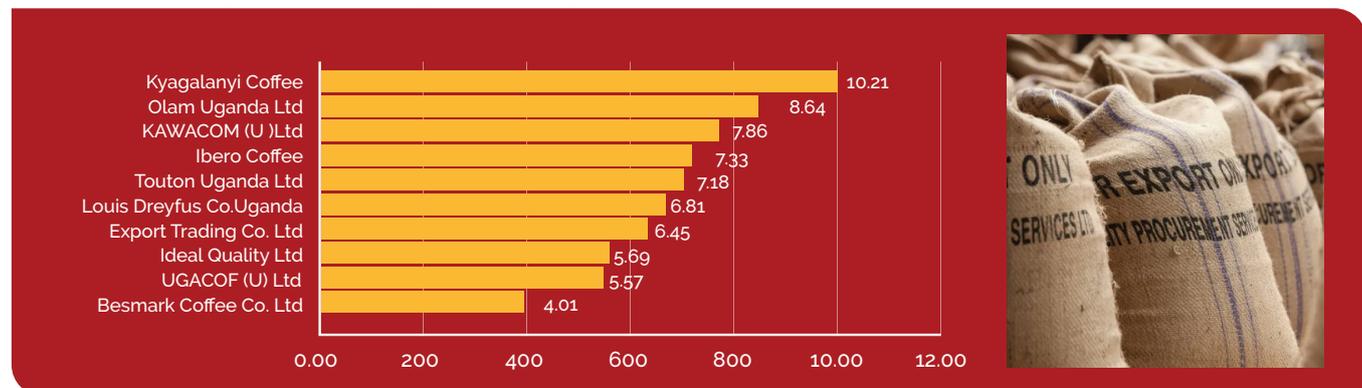
72% of the total volume was exported by **10 exporters, out of 50 companies** which performed during the month compared to **69%** in **January 2024**.

Mt. Elgon PB fetched the highest price at **US \$ 8.71 per kilo**.

Trend of Total Quantity and Value of Coffee Exported: April 2023 - March 2024



Top 10 Exporting Companies by Percentage Market Share - March 2024

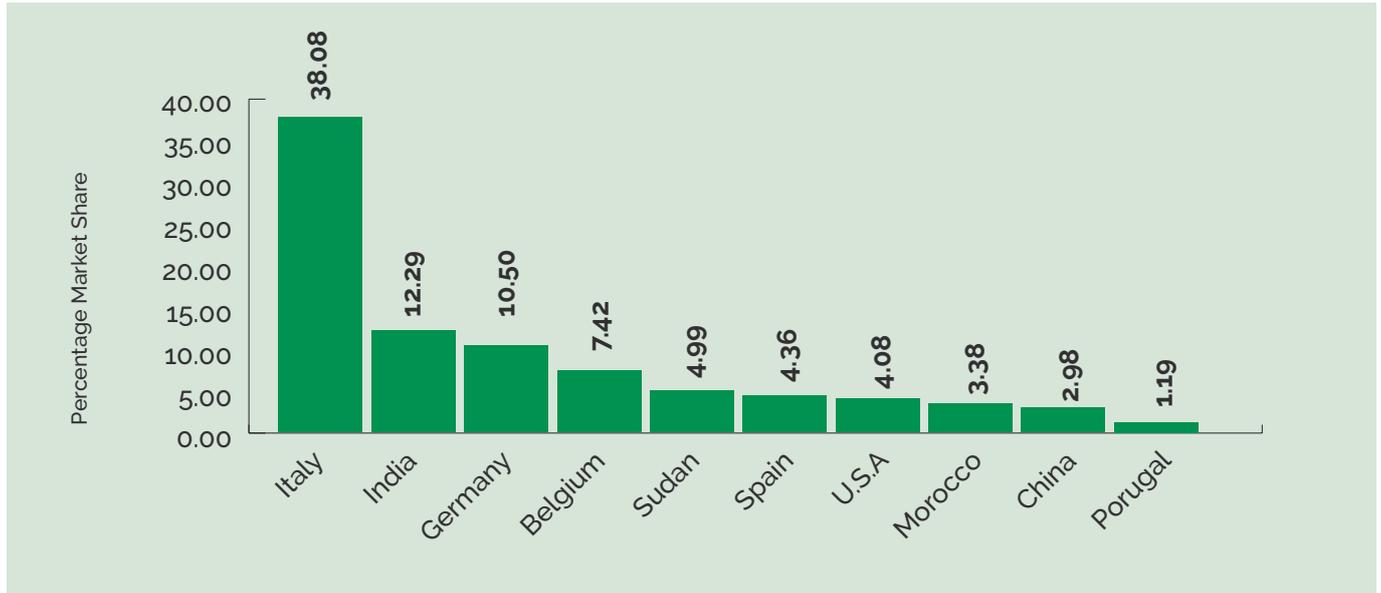


COFFEE TRENDS

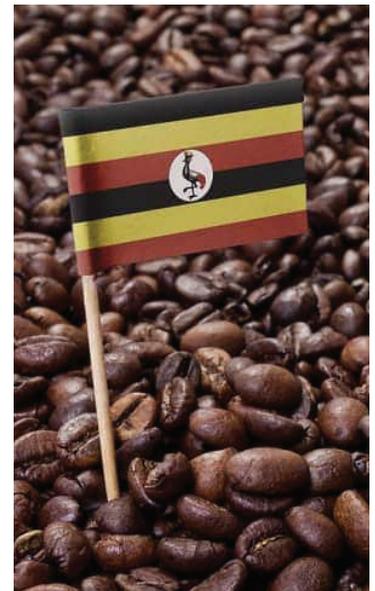
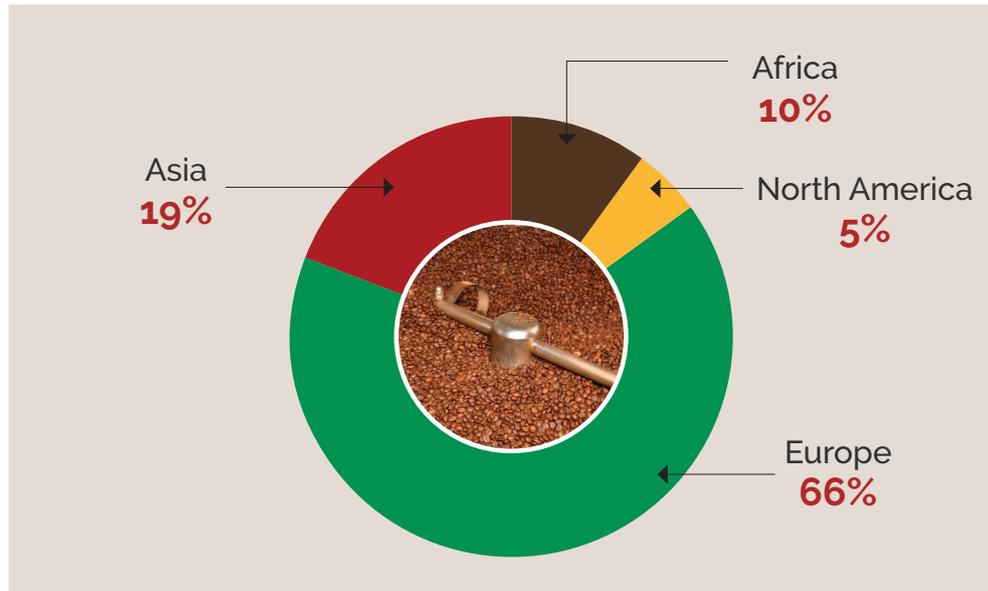
March 2024



Top Ten Coffee Export Destination by percentage market share



Percentage of Coffee export share by continent for March 2024



Quantity of Coffee exported by type for March 2024 (60Kg-bags)



Total: Quantity: 329,686 60Kg-bags | Value: US\$ 64,735,218

COFFEE TRENDS

March 2024



ICO Indicator Prices - March 2024

In US cents/lb

	ICO composite indicator	Colombian Milds	Other Milds	Brazilian Naturals	Robustas
01-Mar	181.39	206.30	204.99	183.44	157.54
04-Mar	183.10	209.76	207.30	185.63	157.91
05-Mar	181.97	206.67	205.81	183.35	158.63
06-Mar	185.77	209.44	208.59	186.12	164.27
07-Mar	190.75	215.48	214.71	192.05	167.42
08-Mar	185.64	208.92	208.16	185.54	164.84
11-Mar	185.15	209.09	207.83	185.41	163.72
12-Mar	186.23	209.58	209.41	186.12	165.01
13-Mar	183.64	206.99	205.84	183.26	163.23
14-Mar	184.62	208.27	206.88	184.23	164.10
15-Mar	185.06	207.93	206.60	183.75	166.00
18-Mar	185.04	207.23	205.57	182.68	167.70
19-Mar	185.28	207.36	205.46	182.80	168.29
20-Mar	184.35	206.99	205.09	182.47	166.32
21-Mar	186.36	210.12	208.50	184.55	167.08
22-Mar	186.15	210.01	209.01	184.19	166.55
25-Mar	188.12	212.31	210.70	186.47	168.30
26-Mar	190.02	214.45	212.84	188.56	169.82
27-Mar	193.26	217.53	215.64	191.36	173.76
28-Mar	191.02	215.38	213.64	189.62	170.92
29-Mar	191.28	215.96	213.99	189.50	171.34
Average	186.39	210.27	208.88	185.77	165.84
High	193.26	217.53	215.64	192.05	173.76
Low	181.39	206.30	204.99	182.47	157.54

ICO composite indicator price - March 2022



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Seeing you through the value addition journey

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Uganda Coffee Development Authority

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Health Benefits of Drinking Coffee

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