

The Coffee Farmer

NUCAFE NEWS LETTER VOLUME 08/02, ISSUE 13 APRIL-JUNE 2008

National Union of Coffee
Agribusinesses and Farm
Enterprises (NUCAFE)



(The Coffee Farmers Association of Uganda)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- SMALL HOLDER COFFEE FARMERS STAND A CHANCE TO GAIN 2
- SHOULD SMALL SCALE FARMERS REMAIN POOR? 3
- NUCAFE TO GIVE FARMERS A BETTER DEAL 4
- HEALTHY FARMING: HOW TO CARE FOR A COFFEE WILT AFFECTED FIELD 6
- THE FARMER OWNERSHIP MODEL THE BEST TOOL EVER 8

ABOUT NUCAFE

NUCAFE's Vision:

- Coffee Farmers profitably own their coffee along the value chain.

NUCAFE's Mission:

- To establish a sustainable farmer owned and operated organization for the benefit of the members.

Sponsored by AGRICORD,



With technical support of Trias



COFFEE NURSERIES TO BOOST COFFEE PRODUCTION



A certified Nursery operator (Mr. Mundeyi Devis (L)) shows a DCC of Mbale District (with cape on) the plantlets available in his shade and ready for supply to needy farmers.

Editorial

Welcome to The Coffee Farmer, Issue 13.

We bring you a range of excerpts in this issue. These range from news, facts about coffee, coffee sustainability tips to leisure.

Get to read about how the DANIDA funded NUCAFE project on nurseries/demonstration plots is faring. See how media has captured NUCAFE activities. Learn how to control and avoid spread of coffee wilt disease. Know some history about coffee. What about your health and coffee, it is all here!

Also, we have introduced a section on humor. Have a laugh, break a rib!

The Coffee Farmer comes out on a quarterly basis to give you an update on the activities of

NUCAFE.

Readers are welcome to contribute. Please send your comments and articles to;

nucafe@nucafe.org/ nucafe@africaonline.co.ug

Read Away!

By Rashida Nakabuga

In a bid to increase coffee production in the country, NUCAFE (National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises) has embarked on supporting the establishment of nurseries and demonstration plots to Ugandan coffee farmers' associations under it.

The Executive Director of NUCAFE Mr. Joseph Nkandu has said the main objective of this move is to strengthen the farmers' ownership model in multiplication and access to coffee planting materials that are resistant to the coffee wilt disease and leaf rust.

Nkandu said that this has been possible with support from DANIDA and NUCAFE is providing coffee planting materials for both Arabica and Robusta through establishment of nurseries, mother gardens and demonstration plots.

"However, the Uganda coffee sub sector continues to face the intertwined challenges of the effect of diseases, lack of planting materials, low yields and generally poor agronomic practices, the old age of many Uganda's coffee trees and there is lack of an effective extension system to reach the three million Uganda small holder involved in coffee production" Mr. Nkandu said.

SMALL HOLDER FARMERS CAN STILL GAIN FROM COFFEE

NURSERIES BOOST COFFEE PRODUCTION

He said that the unstable production of coffee has resulted into poor low earnings to farmers saying that NUCAFE is supporting this replanting program owned and driven by farmers themselves to be empowered to produce their own seedlings that will address the issues of production.

The farmer ownership model for NUCAFE is aiming at empowering farmers to own their coffee in a holistic manner for sustainable coffee production, "Our focus in partnership with other stakeholders is boosting coffee production at least over 4 million bags by the year 2015" Nkandu added.

He said that NUCAFE maintains active interest and involvement in empowering farmers to produce coffee for sustainable livelihoods, "NUCAFE will have to continue developing innovative approaches to enhance productivity, profitability and sustainability to meaningful change in the rural economy.

The NUCAFE Production and Marketing manager of NUCAFE, Mr. David Muwonge revealed that they have so far bought and delivered inputs for the nursery beds in the districts of Kapchorwa, Masaka and Bushenyi in Kaptanya coffee farmers association, Buwunga coffee farmers association and Kagango coffee farmers association respectively.

He said that at first they identified individuals to manage the nursery beds and they were trained for the sustainability of the project and the nursery beds are registered as legal business entities.

"People in charge of the nurseries were trained in the construction and management of the nursery bed for sustainability" Muwonge said.



A group of farmers hand sort their coffee ready for marketing. Good quality coffee, experience has showed them that it fetches a premium, translating into more income

By Rashida Nakabuga

Coffee farming long time used to be an activity of pride to our fore fathers. This was because it used to be the most outstanding source of income that availed families with the daily bread.

But the question now "do we restore the pride or leave it to perish forever"? The main problem that has left the market of coffee in tatters is the fluctuating price that is accelerated by the poor quality of the product from farmers.

Agriculture being the backbone of Uganda, great care of cash crops is a must for quality assurance, coffee being one of the main crops here, a lot of sensitization and awareness creation on different issues is paramount.

Most of coffee farmers are on a small scale basis and this has impacted on the principle of 'Farmers Ownership Model'.

Small scale farmers are the most disadvantaged within the coffee value chain, this is due to the increasing concentration by a curtail of roasters at international level and exporters at producing level.

An example, there has been an increase in coffee revenues globally from \$ 60 billion in 2000 to \$ 90 billion in 2007 but the revenues obtained by producing countries have stagnated and declined.

All coffee producing countries combined only

obtained \$ 9.2 billion in 2000 and about 9.0 billion in 2007, in other words the value gap between what the producing countries are getting and what the roasters are getting has continued to widen.

In Uganda, the farmers share on the revenues collected from coffee is too small and alarming and this is hurting because a farmer is a key player.

For example out of \$ 257 million that was earned by Uganda from coffee exports in 2007, the farmers share was about 150 million representing only 58%, \$ 107 million which is 42% was a share among

less than 10,000 people who are processors, exporters, transporters and regulators.

This has led to poor livelihood of people due to the escalating poverty; farmers are up to earning quick money and not putting in mind that value addition to their produce would earn them dollars.

Coffee farmers sell coffee in a raw form, some when they are still tacked on trees and harvesting coffee before ripening, this decreases the market value share of farmers who deserves a big cake for their produce.

This has resulted into a number of challenges that has continued affecting farmers, they lack capacity to lobby and advocate for favourable coffee policies at national, regional and international level.

Here they are exploited by middle men who pretend to be helping them by buying coffee from them but truly buying at subsidized prices that later it is to their benefit.

National Union of Coffee Agribusiness and Farm enterprises with a vision "Coffee farmers' profitability own their coffee along the value chain for their sustainable livelihoods" helps coffee farmers through the formed associations in more than 19 districts in Uganda from all sorts of exploitation.

SHOULD SMALL SCALE FARMERS REMAIN POOR?



Coffee farmers in kanungu district using a rudimentally made coffee huller . Mr. David M and Mugarura of NUCAFE look on to experiment how this wooden gadget works

By: Buule Ronald S. K.

Youth Representative NUCAFE B.O.D

Dear Coffee Farmer and all interested in becoming coffee farmers even the stakeholders. I have been quiet, not because I have nothing to say. I have been making research on “why farmers are poor” especially the coffee farmers.

Majority of coffee farmers stick to only one source of income, that is, coffee instead of having other sources of income. Coffee should be an entry point, because when it is off season, there is no way a farmer can raise money. I am appealing to coffee farmers to start having other sources of income projects like Poultry, piggery among others.

Intercropping has become a problem. Many coffee farmers have not intercropped. This is very important, more especially for food security. The food crops grown can be used for consumption and sale. If you practice intercropping in your gardens by growing bananas, cassava, trees and others, you will notice a very big difference.

Coffee farming is business. There is no way one will escape the dish of poverty while still having the mentality of selling “Kiboko” (dry Robusta cherries) instead

of “Kase” (FAQ) for value addition. For instance; Farmer “A” sells kiboko at 1200/= /Kg and Farmer “B” sells Kase at 2900/= /kg. It is a big difference to overcome.

So, if originally coffee farmers have not been involved in selling Kase, now is the time to do so. Join the smart and steady vehicle to achieve wealth in coffee farming. By doing so also co-operate with other coffee farmers, many farmers do not want to associate which is also a problem. We have NUCAFE in Uganda,

which has done a lot of work, and many of us have come to appreciate it. It has organized coffee farmers together in different areas of the country to achieve the best. If coffee farmers come together, they can share ideas, market together, have the same voice, target together some materials like coffee plantlets in case of re-planting programmes. Nsangi Coffee Farmers Association has set up seven (7) coffee nursery beds provided by Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA).

Exchange visits between farmers from different areas can boost the coffee business. Coffee farmers from Kenya visited Nsangi CFA a member of NUCAFE on 9th May. Another group of farmers from Tanzania visited Nsangi CFA on 5th June, 2007. You can imagine farmers from other parts of the world come to pay a visit to your association within your country, why don't you also spare a day as coffee farmers from the same sub county and pay a visit to some well organized associations like Nsangi CFA, Kabonera CFA, Buwama CFA and many others. From this, you achieve basic knowledge. It can be a bit hard if you are not organized. Team work is what works here.

It is illogical for one to argue that coffee

farming is only for elderly people. This is completely wrong. The youth should become engaged as early as possible in coffee growing. They ought to practice it as their business.

As Director for Youth, I assure you that coffee farming business is a hub through which wealth can be achieved and profits maximized if you decide to follow my advice. “Coffee is a God given prize to Uganda.”

Not to be forgotten, Uganda has the best Robusta in the whole world. The Ugandan scenario aside, coffee is the world's second source of income after oil. Back to Uganda, it is the main cash crop. So, why not join coffee farming and become a billionaire. It is simple. Contact the NUCAFE Secretariat at Coffee House on Jinja Road. It will be a “Key to Success” for you.

I have managed to visit some countries. Uganda's NUCAFE has the best model and methodology for empowering coffee farmers. Some farmers claim not to have “Entandikwa” (start-up capital), but if you have the space or land for sure you have the capital, why? Farmer “A” who is having Kibanja or Land can have a partnership to invest in with Farmer “B” who has money, to invest in the coffee farming or coffee planting to achieve the best. This is can be through negotiations and try much as possible to work under the associations for those ones who have not started the association.

I implore new coffee farmers to join the system, and cultivate ways of sharing and selling the idea with none coffee farmers so that coffee quality and quantity in terms of production can improve. This will create a permanent coffee industry in Uganda and the World over.

God bless you as you do coffee farming business.

NUCAFE TO GIVE FARMERS A BETTER DEAL



A group of casual laborer ladies attend to a weighing process after harvesting coffee of one of their group members, such harvests ensure quality in the cup

MEDIA WATCH:

By Michael J. Sali

(Daily Monitor, June 11 2008)

If the coffee farmers unite and build more trust, among themselves they are set to increase their income from the cash crop and gain more control over its price.

Under this attempt by farmers in their organizations, National Union of Coffee Farmers Agribusiness and Farm Enterprises (NUCAFE) is already paying off. One of the main objectives of NUCAFE is to put control farmers in control of their crop as procedures and market in themselves and sell to the highest bidder.

Addressing coffee farmers in Kisseka sub county in Masaka district, NUCAFE official Mr. David Muwonge wondered how farmers can remain poor yet they produce a commodity whose demand is high.

NUCAFE is out to fight exploitation of farmers by traders (sometimes called middle men), its other objective includes producing more coffee and improving its quality.

The organization is made up of farmers headed by Hon. Gerald Ssendaula a for-

mer minister of finance, they formed NUCAFE, committees at sub county level in nearly all coffee growing district, the farmers harvest coffee and after drying it have it husked and take it to mill factory of their choice and under NUCAFE arrange to transport it to Kampala and sell directly to exporters who offer best prices.

During the last December/January season in Masaka region, the farmers who used this arrangement sold their (average quality processed) coffee at 3400 shs per kilo

while those who dealt with traders sold at 2250 per kilo.

The good news is that quite a good number of the farmers who were not yet members of NUCAFE by that time leant about the high prices they missed last season, and it's expected that during the current harvesting season more farmers will be selling their coffee under the NUCAFE arrangement, Kibinge sub county where Mr. Livingstone Mpimbe is the NUCAFE chairman is said to have benefited most from this arrangement and middlemen are now increasingly finding it hard to get willing sellers of coffee in that area, Lwengo sub county also in Masaka district is reported to have found the NUCAFE system very profitable. At the onset of the ongoing harvesting season, NUCAFE sent out its officials to all sub counties in the Masaka region to hold meetings with coffee farmers to inform them of the advantages of selling their coffee through NUCAFE.

"We are not coffee buyers ourselves" said Mr. Hassan Kakooza, a NUCAFE business manager based in Masaka. "We merely help to link farmers to buyers"

The organization does not pay cash to the farmer at the time of receiving the coffee, which is taken to exporters and after a few days money is deposited to the individual farmers bank accounts.

The process is actually similar to what used to take place many years ago when farmers sold their coffee through Cooperative Unions and Coffee Marketing boards.

The big difference however is that the government had a hand in the latter and would determine the price while NUCAFE is owned by the farmers who elect NUCAFE leadership every after three years and their sole objective is to promote the crop and maximize profits.

Since NUCAFE is out to maximize its member's earnings from coffee, it's bound to ensure that the farmers produce the best quality coffee.

Over liberalization of the coffee trade in Uganda, in the recent years has been criticized as the leading cause of poor quality coffee and indeed the chief cause of crops declining production.

Any one across the village has been buying coffee from anybody regardless of the quality including that from thieves who pick it from other people's farms before it ripens.

But when NUCAFE takes over that marketing of the crop, offering better prices the poor quality traders are bound to get fewer giving NUCAFE a chance to set conditions and regulations about the coffee it takes to the market.

NUCAFE is built on the concept to trust and farmers know the most honest among themselves and those are people they elect to the local committees.

This allows them to scrutinize who brings what coffee and on which farm he has been growing it consequently thieves and idlers will find it hard to sell their loot.

GLOBAL WARMING MOVES COSTA RICA COFFEE LAND HIGHER

GLOBAL NEWS:

(By John McPhaul, Reuters News Service, June 2008)

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica - Costa Rican coffee farmers are facing threats from climate change but the rising temperatures are also expanding high-altitude regions where the country's most prized beans are grown.

Human emissions of greenhouse gases could cause the earth's surface temperature to rise anywhere between one and six degrees Celsius (1.8 and 10.8 degrees Fahrenheit) over the next 100 years, according to the United Nations, forcing growers of all crops to adapt to new weather conditions.

In Costa Rica, the temperature increases may help transform mountainous land that was once too chilly for delicate coffee trees into prime coffee-planting territory.

The strictly hard-bean Arabica coffee sought by specialty roasters is only found at high altitudes, so the shift could mean more opportunities for a country already known for its quality coffee.

"We can now plant at 2,000 meters (6,562 feet). We didn't plant there before," said Daniel Urena, an agronomist for the Copepoda coffee cooperative, which sells its high-altitude coffee to buyers such as Starbucks Corp.

Urena said the cooperative's coffee plants traditionally have not survived above 1,800 meters (5,906 feet).

DRY SPELLS, NEW PESTS

But while farmers in Costa Rica's highlands maybe able to develop into new areas, climate change could bring blight to the crop

with unseasonable dry spells, unusual cold snaps and more difficulties growing coffee at lower elevations.

A recent UN study in Uganda found an increase of just two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) would drastically cut back the land area suitable for coffee.

In the coffee-growing regions that survive, global warming could leave stressed coffee trees susceptible to new diseases and some coffee pests thriving in the warmer weather.

"Increases in the frequency of dry cycles that reduce the effect of cold on plants could favor the proliferation of fungus like the leaf rust coffee fungus," said Patricia Ramirez, a scientist working for inter-governmental Central American Integration System.

The rust infects mainly leaves, but also attacks young fruit and buds, and hit Brazil's coffee crop in 1970.

Strong winds that unexpectedly affected production in Guatemala and a severe drought in Brazil – the world's leading coffee producer – last year are examples of how global climate change can damage crops and reduce yields, said Jorge Ramirez, head of the Costa Rican Coffee Institute's research center.

He said growers can take measures to mitigate the effects of climate change by planting more shade trees in coffee fields to protect cherries from stronger-than-usual rains or creating protective windbreaks around farms with fast-growing trees.

"We have to educate farmers to use (these methods) more," he said.

(Additional reporting and writing by Mica Rosenberg; Editing by Christian Wiessner)

BELIEVE IT OR NOT:

Pope Clement was the first to baptize coffee and make it a true Christian beverage.

"coffee smellers" were discharged wounded soldiers employed as spies to "smell out" unlicensed coffee roasting during the coffee monopoly in Germany.

Goats actually discovered the coffee plant. Their shepherd noticed that they were getting hyper, therefore, one day, he followed their every move, and found out that they were eating a strange berry that was keeping them awake all day and night.

(Adapted from Think quest Library)

IMPROVE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH WITH COMMON FRUITS, VEGETABLES—EVEN COFFEE

COFFEE AND YOUR BODY:

By Joy Bauer, NBC News

Every cell in your body needs a steady supply of oxygen and nutrients in order to stay alive and work properly, including brain cells. Because oxygen and nutrients are carried in the blood stream, anything that impedes blood flow will starve those all-important brain cells. The plain truth is that a healthy heart makes for a healthy brain. So keep your blood pressure and cholesterol in check, exercise regularly, don't smoke and get at least seven hours of sleep each night.

Compelling research also indicates that certain foods and nutrients can help enhance your memory. Read the facts on fish, berries, leafy greens and coffee — and be sure you *remember* to incorporate them into your diet.

ITS TIME FOR A LESSON IN THE HISTORY OF COFFEE

HEALTHY FARMING:

Coffee wilt disease

A coffee tree usually has two or three branches. If one branch is infected and it is confirmed that it is coffee wilt disease, do not hesitate, uproot and burn the whole tree even if the other branches have not shown the symptoms.

Coffee branches that dry due to coffee wilt disease should not be used for firewood. This is because collection from the field, tools used and transportation would aid in spread of the disease.

A coffee field that has been infected by coffee wilt disease, and trees uprooted should not be replanted with coffee for at least three years. It is recommended that a fresh field, away from the infected one be prepared and planted with clean planting materials such as clonal coffee.

Coffee husks from infected berries can be a source of coffee wilt disease. Until the disease is completely eradicated from the country, farmers are advised not to use coffee husks for mulching their coffee fields.

A combination of spraying carbolineum mixture (in a ratio of 1 litre carbolineum to 10 litres of water) with "uproot and burn" has proved effective in some countries previously affected by the disease. Spray diseased coffee with carbolineum mixture to kill off the plant and the fungal spores or conidia, then uproot and burn the already dried coffee trees.

Even if a coffee bush with the disease already has berries, do not harvest these berries from infected trees. Such berries should be destroyed with the infected plant as they are a channel for further disease spread.



A UCDA - DCC inspects a CWD infected tree, in a Low-land Arabica - Banana intercrop. Most farmers are resorting for the non confirmed Low-land arabicas that have not yet been confirmed to back stop the yield losses

COFFEE NOTES:

Coffee was first grown in a country called Ethiopia, which is in Africa, almost 1,000 years ago. Long before the 1200's, coffeehouses were already all over the Middle East. By the end of the 17th century, 400 years later, coffeehouses were also popular in France, Italy, Holland, England, Germany, Austria, and in many other countries. Occasionally, a ruler, politician, or religious leader would try to destroy the coffeehouses of the world, but they never succeeded. They tried to destroy the houses because at the coffeehouses people were free to discuss whatever they felt like discussing, and the rulers didn't like this. The world loved coffeehouses because they were a place where people could go and talk with other people. They could also read quietly, study, sketch, write, play cards, or play a game of chess or checkers.

Because of traders and explorers, coffee growing spread to Indonesia, the Caribbean, and Latin America. European settlers brought their habit of drinking coffee with them when they came to the New World.

DUCK FOOD

HUMOUR:

A duck walks into a store and asks the guy behind the counter for duck food. "I Don't have any duck food. Just dog food and cat food." "Okay, thanks," the duck says, and leaves. The next day the duck comes back. "Got any duck food?" he asks. "I told you -- only dog food and cat food." "Okay, thanks."

The next day the duck shows up again, asking for duck food. Now the man behind the counter is annoyed. "I've told you for three days running, we don't carry duck food." "Okay, thanks."

The fourth day, here comes the duck. "I'm looking for the duck food section." The counterman blows his stack. "You come in here one more time and ask for duck food, and I'll nail your webbed feet to the floor. You got that?"

Next day the duck shows up again. "What do you want?" the counterman asks threateningly. "Um, got any nails?" the duck says. "No, no nails." "Okay, got any duck food?"

NUCAFE PIONEERS THE FARMER OWNERSHIP MODEL



Mr. Nkandu Joseph. The Executive Director - NUCAFE. Believes the farmer ownership model is the best tool for farmers world wide

**T H E
P L A T -
F O R M:**

NUCAFE, the National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises, is the national association of coffee farmers in Uganda.

NUCAFE has adopted a new approach encouraging farmers to gradually expand their scope of activities in the value chain and by doing so increase their farm income. With the aim to improve the standard of living of the farmers NUCAFE uses the "farmer ownership model" whereby farmers are encouraged to own their coffee along the various stages of the value chain. At the same time farmers organize themselves to assume as many roles as possible in the coffee value chain in order to increase their income from value added to the product. **The** farmer ownership model is a response to a problem with liberalization, globalization, traditional middlemen and the traditional cooperative model. The traditional cooperative assumes a role which is very similar to that of a middleman who maximizes profits through offering a low price to the farmer or by selling at the highest price possible. This alienating effect on the farmers kicks in especially when the coopera-

tive grows and when farmers lose control and ownership to the employees. **According** to the "farmer ownership model" the role of the farmer organization such as NUCAFE is different. Rather than buying coffee, NUCAFE focuses on being a process facilitator providing goods and services that empower farmers to upgrade and move up the coffee value chain. Also the roles of the middlemen and processors change. Instead of buying, trader-processors are simply paid processing or milling charges and then the processed product goes back to the farmer who is encouraged to continue adding value by sorting, grading, roasting, grinding, branding and etc. This way, farmers and farmer groups and associations are encouraged to assume as many functions as possible within the value chain in order to improve farmers' incomes. Of course it all depends on the capacity of the farmer through the farmer organization (group, association or cooperative) to assume some or all of these functions. NUCAFE builds capacity of farmers and farmer organisations through training, coaching, and guiding farmers through a process of attitudinal change that is required, especially in the early stages of adopting the model. Furthermore, the farmer ownership model encourages

farmers to diversify and integrate other enterprises on their farms to ensure stable incomes during the off-coffee seasons.

Trader processors are not members of NUCAFE and all of them subscribe to NUCAFE Farmer ownership model because it is viewed as eliminating them from buying coffee. However, through education, some have realized that if their function of buying does not change, there would be no coffee in some years to come because farmers' margins steadily continue to shrink to a point that volumes will cease to make economic sense not only to the farmers but also to the trader processors. Therefore, processing (milling) at a fee is seen as a win-win for them and the farmers.

NUCAFE has been developing the model since 2003 and progress has been made. In 2007, NUCAFE continued to expand in membership from 110 member associations and



A coffee farmer after marketing her coffee receives part of her payment through their village savings micro finance, part of the payment remains on her account to cater for future needs, this has encourage saving highly.

We are on the web:

WWW.NUCAFE.ORG

www.ugandacoffee.org/stakeholders/farmers

**NATIONAL UNION OF COFFEE
AGRIBUSINESS AND FARM
ENTERPRISES (NUCAFE)**

Plot 32 Jinja Rd

Suite 2.7 Second Floor

Coffee House

P. O. Box 34967 Kampala (NUCAFE)

Phone: +256-41-236199

Mobile: +256-772-595030

Fax: +256-41-345252

E-mail: nucafe@nucafe.org

E-mail: nucafe@africaonline.co.ug

E-mail: info@nucafe.org



**Coffee Farmers profitably own
their coffee along the value chain
for sustainable livelihoods.**

BEST FARMER MODEL

corporate companies in 2006 to 125. Through improved quality, value addition in form of minimal processing and negotiating directly with exporters combined with the favorable world coffee prices, NUCAFE moved more coffee to farmers and farmers substantially increased their returns. The change was significant, from Uganda shillings 1200 for 2 kg of unprocessed dry coffee cherries (Kiboko) in 2006 to as much as 2700 per kilogram of Fair Average Quality (F.A.Q) for Robusta in 2007 and from Uganda shillings 1300 per kg of Arabica parchment to as much as 2600 per kilogram of Arabica parchment in 2007. Through its market linkage service NUCAFE facilitated a increase in volume sold from 331 metric tonnes of F.A.Q coffee in 2006 to 630 metric tonnes in 2007. This achievement resulted into increased incomes of farmers with an overall value added of Uganda shillings 413,360,457 out of the total of Uganda shillings 1,677,220,618 obtained from the sale of 630 metric tons. Consequently as part of this value, farmers from Erusi Coffee Farmers Association initiated what they called the Home Improvement Programme (HIP) in Nebbi district where 42 farmers who were staying in grass thatched houses for decades purchased 1005 iron sheets. Furthermore, 5 farmers from Buwama Coffee Farmers Association in Mpigi district bought 5 motor bikes to support them in transportation service.

Another interesting aspect of 2007 work was the realization by the farmers that time had come for them to contribute towards the sustainability of the services and goods provided by their associations and the NUCAFE system as a whole. Out of the total value per kilogram of Fair Average Quality that was added to the farmers because of the farmer ownership model, farmers paid their facilitating organizational structures over Uganda shillings 20 million.

Organizations that have supported development of this model for the last four years include AGRICORD, Agriterra, UCDA, NAADS, the NARO Coffee Research Centre (COREC), USAID and Oxfam International. Expansion of the program is constraint by limited financial and human resources. Therefore, not all coffee farmers in Uganda are served adequately.

For information to develop the farmer ownership model, a manual is available and you can contact the author, Joseph Nkandu, Executive Director NUCAFE on joseph.nkandu@nucafe.org or jnkandu@yahoo.com and Tel: +256-772-595030.



Coffee farmers association leaders receive equipment that is a key tool in improving the coffee farmer incomes, through reducing theft losses through moisture content and weight a major method used by Middle men.



www.huacafe.org

We are on the web