CHALLENGES

- There has been an infiltration by individuals and groups that have taken advantage of farmers' ignorance. To address these challenges, NUCAFE will intensify and popularize the farmer ownership model principles in these five years, and also reinforce the code of conduct values.
- NUCAFE relies on a limited budget while implementing its programmes, and staff has not been able to cover all coffee growing districts effectively. Thus, not all coffee farmers in Uganda have been adequately served.
- Stakeholders should join hands with NUCA-FE to empower farmers; deepen, consolidate and replicate the farmer ownership model in other coffee growing districts.

SUMMARY NUCAFE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FIVE YEARS 2008- 2012

- Strengthen the institutional capacity of NUCAFE
- Promote membership development and strengthening
- Advocate and lobby different stakeholders in the coffee industry for enabling coffee policy and regulatory framework
- Provision of services that enhance production and profitability of coffee
- Develop and document in a database 235 member associations
- Promote corporate governance throughout the NUCAFE system
- Continuously build both managerial and leadership capacity in all groups and associations
- Provide coffee agricultural knowledge and information to farmers
- Directly market at least 10,000 metric tones of green coffee to exporters

- Certify and verify 10% of NUCAFE member associations under fair trade, Utz certified and organic, and 4C (Common code for the coffee community)
- To work with 200,000 small holder farming families
- Market branded NUCAFE coffee
- Contribute to the domestic consumption of coffee at least by 5 percent
- Ensure sustainability of the NUCAFE system by at least 70%
- Enhance farmer ownership within the coffee value chain by at least 20% of 1kg of soluble coffee in London.

NUCAFE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

AGM NUCAFE Board NUCAFE Secretariat

Member Associations

Business Managers

Quality Farmer

Groups

Contact:

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Website: www.nucafe.org

Quality Farmer

Groups

Major Sponsoring Bodies

AGRICORD

Quality Farmer

Groups



National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises (The Coffee Farmers' Organisation in Uganda)

Mulching Coffee Plantations for good yields



Selective Picking of Coffee Cherries



Wet Processing



Selling Brown Coffee Bean



Cupping needed at farmer association level



NUCAFE: Hope for Rural Wealth Creation

BACKGROUND

NUCAFE is National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises. It was founded in 1995 as the Uganda Coffee Farmers Association (UCFA). In 2003, UCFA changed name to NUCAFE in response to members' needs as a result of needs assessment and strategic planning carried out in year 2003.

VISION

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

MISSION

To develop and establish sustainable market-driven system of coffee farmer associations and groups that are empowered to enhance their household incomes.

MEMBERSHIP

Currently, NUCAFE has 125 coffee farmers associations at sub county level spread all over 5 main coffee growing regions of Uganda, with over 100,000 coffee farming families.

COUNTRY COVERAGE

NUCAFE mainly operates in all the five coffee producing regions of Uganda.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

NUCAFE is implementing a farmer driven approach to better position the farmers within the coffee value chain. This is aimed at enhancing quality, and increased market value share. All these activities are implemented using the farmer ownership model.

The NUCAFE Farmer ownership model

Farmers and farmer groups are encouraged to take on

as many functions as possible within the value chain in order to improve their incomes. Under this, NUCAFE empowers farmers with goods and services that enable farmers upgrade and move up the coffee value chain. Here, roles of middlemen and processors change. Instead of buying, trader-processors are only processing and milling charges. The processed product is later goes back to the farmer for value addition. The farmer is encouraged to continue sorting, grading, roasting, grinding, branding, among others.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- NUCAFE has accomplished several achievements during the last two years. Between 2006 and 2007, NUCAFE membership expanded from 110 to 125 member associations and corporate companies.
- More farmers were linked to exporters and this increased their returns. NUCAFE empowered farmers with skills in improving coffee quality, how to add value to the crop through minimal processing and negotiated directly with exporters. The increase in returns was also supported by the favorable world coffee prices.
- Coffee prices significantly rose 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 an increase in volume sold from 331 metric tonnes of F.A.Q coffee in 2006 to 630 metric tonnes in 2007. This increased farmers' incomes 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 living 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.
- In 2007, farmers realised that it was their role to contribute towards the sustainability of the services and goods provided by their associations, and the NUCAFE 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.
- NUCAFE successfully continued to engage itself in partnerships to increase the impact of its highly effective farmer empowerment model, which provides farmers with knowledge, capacity for attitudinal change and skills that they themselves can control their future and build sustainable businesses within the coffee value chain. NUCAFE's partnerships with NAADS supported farmers technically in Kanungu district and raised 2.3 million coffee seedlings on their own in their farmer groups and were all planted in 2007.
- Organizations that have supported development of this model for the last four years include AGRICORD, Agriterra, Uganda Coffee Development Authority, NAADS, the Coffee Research Centre (COREC) at NARO, USAID and Oxfam International. Expansion of the program has been constrained by limited financial and human resources. Thus, not all coffee farmers in Uganda have been served adequately.