

A Report on A meeting held with UNIDO and UCDA, on the 01/06/2007 in the Board Room.

Objectives

Improving the lives of coffee-banana farmers

Value addition to Banana Juice production

Organizing banana and coffee-banana farmers better

Notes

- The project is funded by UN-HABITAT through UNIDO.
- A plant to process the banana juice is already in place and operational (Jacana) located in Kampala District.
- Various stake-holders have already been contacted and involved
 - Kawanda Agricultural Research Institute for better banana juice producing varieties
 - Makerere University (Faculty of Food Science and Technology)
 - UCDA for farmer groups and extension personnel
 - NUCAFE for farmer groups and extension personnel
- UNIDO offices of the coffee-banana project be opened on 1st floor coffee house.
- The role of organizing banana farmers will be headed by UCDA, NUCAFE and NAADS as organizations that have excelled in this.

Opportunities

- Extension services are already existent and operational, with the greatest ease of transferring information.
- The project in the first phase would like to handle farmers close to Jacana Juice processing plant, later on expand as the demand and supply increase in the second phase.
- The farmers involved in both banana and coffee production, very few are growing bananas as a pure stand but as an intercrop.
- The project will set up small processing and collecting centers, centrally located in every sub-county for ease of reach and maintenance of quality.
- The extension service providers' time spent on banana related extension services will be catered for by the project.
- A technical personnel a graduate in food science and technology will manage the small processing and collecting centers and a 1 -2yrs contract basis, with guidance from both national and international experts.
- With a production of at least five (5) bunches of bananas per day, and an average of fifty (50) bunches per month farmers will be able to supply the required quantity of the bananas to sustain the smooth running of the main processing plant.

Way forward

- Dialogue between UCDA, NUCAFE and UNIDO shall progress until the commencement of the project and even while running.
- With the existing structures and mode of organization of NUCAFE, it was found better to have more dialogue and more involvement of NUCAFE and its member organizations, because of this expertise from NUCAFE shall be required to extend a similar organization management to farmers in Tanzania on group and association formation.
- Because of NUCAFE success stories on improving the livelihood of member coffee farmers some documentation on how to ascertain and also boost its image to take on the role of organizing these farmers would be sent to UNIDO, through Mr. Apollo Kamugisha.
- A good social economic survey of where to locate the collecting centers, initial districts to involve in the primary process of the start of the project shall be conducted as soon as possible.