

The Coffee Farmer

NUCAFE NEWS LETTER VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

15/ JUNE/ 2005

National Union of Coffee
Agribusinesses and Farm
Enterprises (NUCAFE)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

RESPONSES FROM THE FARMERS 3

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT 4

E.U AND THE FUTURE OF LDC'S 4

HARRY BELA-FONTE SPEECH AT EAFCA 5

UGANDA FARMERS WILLING TO DOUBLE PD'N 5

THE KEY TOSUCCESSFUL COFFEE FARMING 6

NUCAFE GETS NEW WEBSITE 8

NUCAFE EVENTS

- June 18: Marketing Bunkoko Island Specialty coffee
- June 11: Field training in Masaka, Kapchworwa
- June 06: Council briefing on NUCAFE project in the Mountain Elgon Region
- May 28: Consultative meeting on CCCC, in Germany
- May 23: Training and sensitization workshop in Tanzania on Ware House Receipt System
- May 05: appellation meeting at APEP Offices

COFFEE SUSTAINABILITY - THE PERSPECTIVE OF NUCAFE (A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN)



Mr. Jack Bigfirwa. The Chairman NUCAFE

Within the context of excess supply of coffee on the world market and the corresponding declining prices, coffee quality improvement and sustenance in combination with adherence to social, economic and environmental aspects is critical to the sustainability of coffee production.

Time has come for the coffee industry participants to

seek for *mutual redress* of the problems affecting the coffee sector. Millions of small farmers in developing countries have been thriving on coffee for many decades.

In the lives of Ugandans, coffee meant food security and education. Parents had school fees and food security for their children. This is no longer the case today. The situation is alarming and poses a political risk for many producer countries. The situation is threatening the labour force yet the coffee industry has been the main employer and contributor employment and the countries' foreign exchange earnings. In Uganda, its contribution dropped from 90% in 1994/95 to only 25% in 2002. This has also led

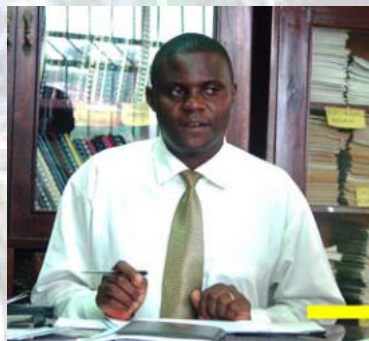
to inflation and devaluation of the Ugandan shilling and therefore, balance of payments is a real problem. Coffee producers' organizations are facing difficulties.

In Uganda, National Union of Coffee Agribusiness and Farm Enterprises (NUCAFE) is facing a lot of challenges to restore hope in the 3 million smallholder farmers. The quality of the farmers' houses has declined and no longer well maintained. In other words, the coffee crisis has led to multifaceted problems for farmers and producing countries as a whole.

However, we are grateful to the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) that brings together 100 national farmers organizations from 71 countries and represents 500 million farming fami-

Turn to page 2:

COFFEE FARMING A BUSINESS: A NEW COFFEE FARMERS' VISION



Mr. Nkandu Joseph, The Executive Director. NUCAFE

Over the years the coffee farmers have been mobilized

and have worked together to achieve the best benefit for their families, associations and the coffee industry as a whole. Today the role of the farmers in the industry has even become bigger and cannot go un-mentioned.

Through their associations they have re-defined their role and Vision. This was done through a participatory planning needs assessment survey of 60 member associations. The outcome was a fundamental change in the way of thinking with a vision of 'operating a commercially viable system of farmer directed

and owned business associations through which farmers increase their Business Returns and Participate more fully in building the Rural Economy.'

The new thinking and way of doing things necessitated a new name and a road map or plan of implementation. The farmers in the National stakeholders workshop held in October 2003 Changed Name of their National hub from UCFA (Uganda Coffee Farmers' Association) to NUCAFE (National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises). A road

Turn to page 2:

COFFEE SUSTAINABILITY CONTINUED:



Sustainability is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." However, there are several definitions of sustain-

opment. Therefore, globalization has not provided a level ground for all.

In its book *Rigged Rules and Double Standards*, OXFAM shows the imbalance

tured products as compared to the non-manufactured products from developing countries is a clear manifestation that policy makers in the developed world are contributing to escalation of poverty in the producing countries.

....The code of conduct is like a bible and for that matter it needs 'priests' to preach what it requires

Coffee in green form has no money. Producing countries have continued to export green coffee as their final product. In addition, the primary producers and the end users of the coffee have been made slaves of the roasters who take a lion's share of almost 80% of the total income accruing out of a kilogram of instant coffee.

There is a very big information gap for farmers to know what the market wants. Coffee sustainability is still unheard of in the majority of coffee producers. The same thing I believe exists for the consumers and this explains why there is still

Turn to page 3:

From page 1: lies for work it is doing to support bring farmers together. In the same vein, we are grateful to the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) and OXFAM for increased concern for the coffee farmers.

ability. That in mind, there is need to create a *unified coffee industry vision if we are to achieve sustainability*

Globalization brings both benefits and demerits to an integrated community. However, has been over simplified to mean equal opportunity for all without putting into consideration the different origins' capacities and levels of devel-

that exists in trade between the developed and developing countries. The prohibitive tariffs that are imposed on manufac-

COFFEE FARMERS' VISION CONTINUED:

From page 1: map in the form of a Strategic Development Plan for the period 2004 to 2007 was made. The coffee farmers' road map contains five pillars, which the farmers called the core programs. These programs are designed to support the implementation of the business model and to provide the vehicle for transformation of the entire organization into a sustainable economic system. The core programs include, the Total quality initiative, Business Development, Association capacity Development and support sector and system Development, institutional strengthening.

ers want a differentiated coffee price so that it can act as an incentive. Whereas the issue of coffee Quality may seem too big for the individual farmers collective effort through the Associations makes it easy to achieve. The different member farmer organizations have intensified their efforts to see to it that they market together a better quality of coffee at a better price as a way of eradicating poverty. The involvement of the small-scale coffee farmers who produce the bulk of Uganda's coffee is realistically the best sustainable approach to improving the coffee quality for the country.

.....farmer organizations have intensified their efforts to see to it that they market together....

farmers through their National Hub and their local associations Need assistance from donors, government and other stakeholders in the coffee industry to make the farmer-driven total quality initiative not only a reality but also a success. A number of Member associations have helped their members to improve their coffee quality and the price they get. Notable among them are Kibinge and Kabonera NUCAFE organizations.

The number of member associations has increased from 80 last years to over 200 associations and more are being registered. These associations are located in all the coffee growing areas of Uganda. NUCAFE national hub has therefore responded to this increasing membership by

helping member coffee farmer associations to differentiate the coffee product and take advantage of the natural conditions and unique quality characteristics prevailing at each coffee growing area and maximize the income of the coffee farmers.

In order to achieve the vision its of creating a commercially viable system of successful farmer directed and owned business associations through which the farmers increase their income and participate more fully in building the rural economy NUCAFE is working with all stake holders in the coffee industry. Notable among these is UCDA, UCTF, USAID and other development partners.

However much remains to be done and the need of all stake holders to work with the 'coffee Quality makers' the farmers cannot be over emphasized.

(By: Mr. Nkandu Joseph, The Exeucue Director - NUCAFE)

In Uganda and elsewhere in the coffee industry, small-scale farmers are the custodians of the coffee quality. They therefore felt it the central pillar is the 'Farmer driven-Total Quality Initiative. Through this initiative the farm-

However Small-scale

COFFEE SUSTAINABILITY CONTINUED:

From page 2: a small proportion of sustainable coffees such as shade-grown or Bird-friendly, Fair-trade, Organic in the market. In other words, the market for sustainable coffees is still small even for the small quantities available on the market.

Producer organizations, especially in the developing world have been rendered weak due to government interfering and lack of financial strength to deliver sustainable services to their members. The competition that exists between governments World Bank has made it conditionality to governments of producing countries to clearly separate roles for private sector participants from public ones. But still the financial position of farmers' associations is still weak and this translates into many constraints for the farmer.

With a weak funding position, it has been difficult to enforce and put the code of conduct into practice. Constantly the stakeholders need to be reminded to abide by the virtues of the code of conduct. This should be accompanied with reward for the efforts coffee

farmers put to achieve what the code of conduct requires them to achieve.

The code of conduct is like a bible and for that matter it needs 'priests' to preach what it requires farmers, processors, traders to do. At the current crisis, there is no money to carry out this evangelism. However, where the code of conduct has been sensitized, the quality of coffee, social responsibility and environmental sound practices has been enhanced. But still this has not yet had corresponding economic reward for the efforts.

On the other hand, the regulatory authorities, in spite of their financial capacities have not managed to enforce the statutory rules and regulations. It has been clear also that statutory rules and regulations do not have significant impact where there are weak or absence of farmers' organizations. The local governments have not been involved in enforcing coffee rules and regulations such that a combined effort creates impact in the sector. This is not a one man's responsibility.

(By. Mr. Jack Bigirwa. NUCAFE Board Chairman)

...the financial position of farmers' associations is still weak....

COMING TO YOU SOON IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:

The story of coffee farmers in Bunjakko Island (Buwama Coffee Farmers Association) the marketing point of view....

What will and/or transpire from the Coffee Farmers Convention on the 29th of July, 2005 to be held in Namboole National Stadium, where the Chief Guests is H. E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni The President of the Republic of Uganda....

More coffee prices, And so much more....

RESPONSES FROM THE FARMERS' (RUKUNGIRI NUCAFE BRANCH)



(Salongo Katarikaawe Jackson)

The coffee farmers now know that they are the coffee owners, and have appreciated the mission/vision, objectives of NUCAFE.

the farmers unsolved question, coffee was usually left to Mother nature to take its toil on the coffee plant, however with the availability of Quality Field Representative/ Business managers farmers are using the Good Agricultural Practices (G.A.P).

Hope for the revival of the coffee industry through a



Good working relationship with the current NUCAFE structures and/or organogram.

Actualization of good coffee farming methods and practices. Previously due to lack of appropriate trainings and trained staff addressing

Mr. H. Mrema and Mr. Boaz Standing during one of the trainings in Rukungiri.

(NUCAFE – File photo)

vibrant NUCAFE operations and guidance to the grassroots coffee farmers.

Farmers have realized the potencies of adding value, through primary processing applications, realizing a better prices for there coffees.

With the better prices, coffee is once again taking it place as a major income generation crop to the farmers, and as a result they are doubling there production so as to enjoy the rewarding benefits of coffee farming.

BY: SALONGO KATARIKAWE JACKSON – CHAIRMAN.

Current coffee prices:

Robusta Kiboko

700 - 900 UgX

Robusta F.A.Q

1700 - 1800 UgX

Arabica:

2500 - 2800 UgX

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT



H. E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni - The President of Uganda attending to his cattle on his Ranch.

The President in his speech addressed the M.P's; to encourage persons they represent in their constituencies to engage in commercial agriculture, he cited several examples of prominent small scale farmers who have excelled in using land less than five acres to produce commercially, One prominent farmer in Mpigi district, another in Soroti on your way to Serere A.R.D.C such small plots farming is ideal for the eradication of poverty. Inclu-

sive was the LC. V Chair person of Mpigi district who has used the loaming district funds to create a Micro finance institution that is now put to better use the district funds that are not being utilized.

He added that it was crucial to get rid of poverty and some of the avenues to do this were through the introduction of zoning, the government has mobilized 800Million Uganda Shillings for the financial year

2004/2005 to facilitate this. Abolishing of Graduated Tax starting July first, describing it as a regressive and unpopular among the population, those involved in its collection used crude methods that are utterly unacceptable.

The abolition of such a tax, taxes charged on Gonja roasters and Boda-Boda cyclists were deemed illegal, and this was most likely to be replaced by a more indirect consumption tax, using this example after a day's work these persons will go and have a

In order to bring services closer to the people and better service delivery the government is looking into the creation of new districts based on cultural and linguistic differences and this was pending approval of the parliament prior July.

With improved service delivery, will result in improved family incomes and estimated that each household shall have a general income of at-least 20Million UgX per annum, having established projects like Education for All (U.P.E), Health for All and Bona Bagagawale (Wealth for All) is a must. The initiative is to start in 30 districts in Uganda with an intervention of 1000 homesteads where the deliverables include training in better agro-practices, export of agro products, through re-known agro-villages.

((This article was scripted during the Presidential Live Broadcast on Uganda Television (UTV) when H. E. Yoweri K. Museveni was addressing the Members of Parliament))

By. Musenze Robert

...Bonna Basome, Bona Bagemebwe, Bona Bagagawale (Wealth for All) is a must.....

beer in the evening that is highly taxed, and thence paying an indirect tax. It's a win-win situation, he added, if you take from the poor then you'll always remain in poverty.

THE E.U AND THE FUTURE OF L.D.C'S

The referendums in France and the Netherlands on the EU constitution gave citizens a real, if disapproving, voice in the EU's future. But some question if referendums are a good way to chart the EU's future direction.

Last week's ballots in both France and the Netherlands, in which majorities rejected the EU constitution, were a blow to the EU elites, just as many voters intended them to be. The charter, hammered out in tortuous fashion over several years, went down to defeat in two the EU's founding countries: 55 percent of the French said

"non"; 61.1 percent of the Dutch screamed "nee." (no)

The referendums in France and the Netherlands stirred a charged debate over the EU that has not been heard in years, if ever. But particularly in France, the two months of campaigning triggered a passionate political debate about the bloc, with both sides sensing that the referendum was a moment to define France's future.

Many citizens no

longer trust politics thus the rejection of the E.U constitution, there is no easy solution to the current crisis though there several skeptics who could be happier. The President of UKIP a Minority political party in Britain says it a good change for the British

to side by the French. This was an option for reflection, to engineer a constitution better for even the skeptical British, with different

tasks ahead. There are plenty of groups in the "NO" campaign a combination that wants Britain to reject the E.U constitution, they want everyone to be aware of policies that might come through the back door. UKIP president want Britain to be the first country to leave the EU, a reflection to the constitution is a sign of a disintegrating Europe.

With EU the major funding Body of Developing Countries, Uganda inclusive, what will be the fate of the LDC's, with such a nightmare arising at such an early stage of development. Source B.B.C



A voter casting a vote in France

HARRY BELAFONTE SPEECH AT EAFCA CONFERENCE

I look at coffee as a commodity and I deal with the market because it is a commodity". And in that simple statement they have already wiped out all of humanity in telling me they have no responsibility to any of this that pays us and in that indifference I think will rise up in the final analysis to haunt every player and even those of us who are not players....

..... You should be who you are and do what you feel you must but, in that journey, if what you do contributes to the degradation of your fellow human being then you have betrayed the

most supreme meaning of life.....

..... As you debate what to do with the commodity, what to do with fair

trade prices, what to do with certification, what to do with

looking back on how to re-engage yourself with quality

coffee as farmers, look to see what they can do to get back into the rhythm and to make life healthier and a more harmonious place and all those things that which you debate

that at its helm sits the necessity to make profit, I would suggest while you look at

..... in that simple statement they have already wiped out all of humanity what to do with fair trade prices, what to do with certification.....



Harry Belafonte at the EAFCA conference in Nairobi - Kenya

the profit that is determined by your bank and your loan institutions you also examine where the profit of your soul may lie and what you are doing about it....(source: EAFCA - Conference report)

UGANDA FARMERS WILLING TO DOUBLE COFFEE PRODUCTION

A survey of farmer opinion commissioned by the SCOPE-facilitated private sector coffee working group to support development of a national business plan for the coffee industry has yielded useful insights with regard to the factors affecting Uganda's coffee production.

Conducted against a backdrop dominated by declining volumes and quality, the key objective of the survey was to yield data that will support formulation of a business strategy that will revitalize Uganda's coffee industry.

The survey sample of 2,500 farmers represented 0.55 of the estimated 500,000 coffee farmers. The survey involved conduct of face-to-face interviews in five coffee growing districts, namely: Mbale for Arabica coffee; Iganga, Mukono, Masaka and Bushenyi for Robusta coffee. Major findings included the following:

The low price of coffee is not the major determining factor for the farmer as s/he makes the decision whether to increase or decrease coffee production: disease and land

availability were cited as being more important.

Sixty-one (61%) of farmers interviewed are willing to increase production by planting more trees; fifty-one (51%) are willing to commit to doubling production. Those farmers who do not intend to increase production plan to maintain their current production levels.

Farmers perceive that government, despite good intentions, have abandoned them in terms of disease control, replanting, and seed distribution activities.

While farmers understand that improvements in quality can lead to increases in income, and they understand the kinds of pre and post-harvest approaches needed to produce quality coffee, the fact that many buyers purchase coffee at the same price regardless of quality is a major disincentive.

In the Robusta areas surveyed, less than 2% of the farmers have access to wet processing facilities, even though wet process approach to quality upgrading is a major government strategy.

Farmers expressed the desire and need to belong to viable farm-level organization but reported that such were non-existent in proximity to the areas surveyed. Production organizations (P.O) participation is highest in Bushenyi (57% of respondents) followed by Mbale (37% of respondents)

Signs that coffee farming is not being pursued by the younger generation: 10% of coffee farmers surveyed were under the age of 30, while 54% were 46 years or over.

The major source of information on market conditions and pricing for farmers is middlemen (traders) - not a situation that favors farmer ability to make educated selling decisions.

...farmers understand that improvements in quality can lead to increases in income...



Coffee farmers undergoing a practical demonstration in the field after a training by Mr. Sentamu (NUCAFE file photo)

Seventy-three (73%) of Uganda farmers do not know how the farm-to-market supply chain works, and they receive no feedback from consumers about their coffee.

Uganda's coffee farmers are the back bone of the country's industry. For the coffee cluster private sector working group, successful strategies to achieve increases in production and quality that will reestablish Uganda's competitiveness will address these and other issues clarified by the survey.

(source: Compete-Uganda, by Mr. Taibu Nakueira)

QUALITY COFFEE PRODUCTION: THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL COFFEE FARMING



NUCAFE's Muwonge David - Now on Training in U.S.A. (NUCAFE photo)

American Coffee, Inc. Houston Texas, USA.

In all the Exporting countries I have worked in that is Kenya, Tanzania and Mexico, the concerns for the coffee farmers have been characterized by the number one problem, the coffee price and the revenue that the farmers obtain. Other issues that always came up as defining factors of the coffee value chain organization and Man-

sized vs. large scale coffee farming, quality of coffee production, sustainability, Fair trade, organic coffee, certification programs, Subsidizing the coffee farmer, domestic consumption among a number of other issues. In different countries these issues have been handled in a similar way however marked differences exist in some and have defined the unique character of the farmer and /or the coffee industry of each of these countries.

In Kenya our neighboring country to the East, the coffee price is relatively higher than that of coffee in Uganda. This is attributed to the fact that Kenyan coffee which is Arabica with a unique high acidity has created its quality mark in the world coffee market. Further still the quality offered is very good due to the widely spread wet processing method of primary handling of coffee fairly centralized leading to final sale in the Auction. This creates a more controlled coffee market structure but a distinguished quality. The volume of coffee provided by the cooperatives as compared to Estate coffee has varied a lot. One thing

worthy noting is that the best coffees have always come from the Cooperatives (small producers) but unfortunately, the worst quality coffee comes from the cooperatives as well. This underlines the great possibility that farmer's organizations have on improving quality but also a challenge of eliminating the worst quality coffees.

...the major threat to the small producer... Is the delay in making due payment

The coffee crisis tested the efficiency of the different sizes of coffee producers and its results of having the medium sized farmer almost wiped out point to the fact that very large scale coffee producers and small scale producers are the most efficient, and the future of coffee production in a market where the price is determined by market forces rather than the cost of production belongs to them.

Of course the major threat to the small producer in cooperatives like before liberalization in Uganda and presently in Kenya is the delay in making due payment to the farmer and in worse cases default on the payment. This leaves a very demoralized farmer even in a market where prices are fairly high therefore a large number of abandoned smallholder farms can be seen. On the other hand the loss in quality, the resulting low prices in Uganda point to a historic fact in the coffee Market "you can replace the middle man easily but it is hard to replace his function". This wisdom still stands and points to the



NUCAFE's Muwonge David among colleagues from Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania in a newly planted coffee in Kenya with shade trees

I, Muwonge David having extensively worked in a number of NUCAFE associations I got valuable knowledge on how the Ugandan coffee farmer works, the challenges that he faces and the solutions he has developed to counter some of them. With that background when I was chosen through NUCAFE as the only Ugandan to participate in the prestigious international coffee diploma, Implemented and sponsored by Neumann kaffee Gruppe, I took it up as a challenge to compare and learn from what other coffee farmers in particular and coffee industries in general are doing. My Journey in the coffee diploma has taken me to work with traders and farmers in Kenya, Tanzania and Mexico. At present in order to get a complete picture of the whole coffee chain I am looking at the Import side of coffee, at Inter-

agement are: - cost of production, role of the traders, best marketing system (Liberalized Vs controlled), farmer organization, small scale vs. Medium



Contour planning in Finca la Puebla in México (file photo)

SUCCESSFUL COFFEE FARMING CONTINUED:

losses that have been incurred by the Ugandan coffee farmer due to the loss of the Middle man (cooperatives). It is hard to realistically imagine how a market like Uganda can work for the farmer when his ownership of the coffee is taken before the coffee is even dry enough by the many **non licensed coffee dealers!!** Talk of the Ugandan coffee market being over saturated then points out to the failures of total liberalization of a vital commodity market.

NUCAFE an organization that has a concept of helping the farmers own their coffee and value added to it as far as is profitable in the coffee value chain and acting as an honest broker for the best quality to the best buyer clearly fits in part of the internal Coffee marketing Vacuum left by liberalization and removal of the coffee Marketing Board. Through this role NUCAFE has the potential to cushion the coffee farmers from the exploitative nature of non licensed coffee dealers and offers a unique approach I have not seen in Kenya, Tanzania or México. Arguably, NUCAFE as an honest broker in its quality coffee mar-

ket gives in the farmer-trader relationship and in no way assumes such powers as a regulator. Therefore NUCAFE 's coffee marketing role as a honest broker serves the interests of the farmers with out affecting other stake holders' roles. In this role therefore NUCAFE is the best suited private coffee sector participant that can spear head causes such as sustainability, Fair trade, organic coffee production, certification programs that are vital and only make real sense with real farmer participation.

Briefly, looking at The Tanzania coffee sector in which I have worked in relation to the Ugandan Market situation it is important to note that as the realization of the adverse nature of exploitation from a complete free market on the farmer, more regulation of the coffee transactions is in place. Farmer organizations as well as individual business men are able collect and mill coffee at designated milling stations. This is followed by the commercial qualities being sold through the Auction, and the superior qualities exported as direct



NUCAFE's Muwonge David. Cupping specialty coffee from all over the world at Inter-American Coffee, Inc Houston, Texas USA (NUCAFE file photo)

quality& providing an incentive for quality production through direct sale or export. However the popular disease of delayed payments which threatens the Quality coffee production incentive of the farmers exists and is a real threat to moderate regulation. Can this popular disease be over come and How? An answer to this provides a market in which the farmers' interests are fairly catered for. Could the real answer be an honest broker system? These are questions to which a simple answer may just not simply exist but careful analysis of which may provide the best solution for the coffee farmer.

Crossing the pacific to look at the farmers in Central America, and specifically looking at México's coffee sector which I had the opportunity to work in, in relation to the Ugandan coffee Market situation it is important to note that growth in domestic coffee consumption may indi-

rectly improve the market price that coffee of a particular country and therefore its farmers obtain. Further still even with liberalization the role of government to support its coffee farmers should not be underestimated. Government may not be a good service provider but is still a relevant and vital source of funding or support leading to funding. This is evidenced by the approach that the Mexican government took in mitigating the effects of price risk on the farmers. Thereby creating a farmers' coffee price risk management tool. The Government support works on the following principle and way.

The principle: - The support is given depending on the international price and an average is applied at the moment of the transaction. To fit the price reference with the international average in US Dollars per quintal (46 kgs of green coffee) during the cropping cycle a threshold is set between a range (for example 50 to 85cts/lb) for the transactions in a specific fiscal year (for example 2002/2003). Support is given of USD 20 per Quintal (46

....Consejo Mexicano Del café the Equivalent of UCDA, the technical agent...



Stumped coffee trees a good coffee husbandry practice in mexico. (NUCAFE - file photo)

keting role through member associations to raise profitably reasonable volumes does not remove the benefits a free mar-

sales. This is in effect a way of trying to increase the farmer ownership of the coffee in the value chain, regulating the

We are on the web:
www.ugandacoffee.org/farmers
www.avban.org/associations/nucafe2

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NUCAFE

**FOR SUSTAINABLE QUALITY
AND COMMERCIALISATION
THROUGH FARMERS'
ORGANISATIONS
DEVELOPMENT**

NUCAFE GETS NEW WEBSITE



**(Kattie
K a m p -
m a n n ,
P r o -
g r a m m e
O f f i c e r
f o r
A f r i c a .
N U C A F E -
f i l e p h o t o)**

NUCAFE is proud to announce that it has been able to acquire a new website **WWW.AVBAN.ORG/ASSOCIATIONS/NUCAFE2**

Using the AVBAN domain name, NUCAFE can now reach its world Wide partners. AVBAN for African Virtual Business Associations Network, is providing these democratic

institutions with online resources and communication tools to help them promote good governance of their associations and their countries, hold governments accountable to their constituents, and demand an economic environment that will increase efficiency and productivity.

By creating a strong business association network across Africa, AVBAN is contributing to the free flow of ideas and experience that can ensure that private business takes its rightful place as the engine of economic growth in Africa

AVBAN provides associations with a forum for sharing information with their members and with a wider audi-

QUALITY COFFEE PRODUCTION CONTINUED:

kgs of Green coffee) when the International coffee price is below 60cts/lb for a maximum of 20 Quintals per Hectare, the Maximum legal limit of small producers of coffee. And above 85 cts/lb the farmers begin paying back through a reduction made on their sales.

This principle and therefore the program is implemented in a complex process involving flow of coffee transactions, documents, funds and responsibilities through the sector participants described above. In brief, Consejo Mexicano Del café (Equivalent of UCDA) the technical agent, works in coordination with the Governments of the coffee producing states and the state delegations of SAGARPA (equivalent of Ministry of Agriculture) makes distribution of the funds. This is done according to the specific objectives of the program that are made to guarantee the best cover and impact with the participation of Councils for sustainable rural development, the state coffee councils or its equivalent, coffee producers, their organizations, middlemen, exporters and roasters. As an added benefit all the producers and participants in the coffee sector

are registered and an Internet based system of entering transactions makes it easy to capture the transactions that go on.

In view of the Ugandan situation, this is not an impossible scheme to adopt for its farmers but realistically Uganda would need a long time to be able to provide such support given the amounts of money involved.

All said one thing still stands out; the key to successful profitable coffee production is production of high quality coffee. Today, my training at Inter-American Coffee, Inc. a member of Neumann Kaffee Gruppe specializing in high quality coffee is helping lean the qualities and the way the USA coffee import market works and further affirms what I have learnt that the key to successful profitable coffee production is "the production of high quality coffee".

(By: Mr. Muwonge David. Now on Training in Texas USA)

ence. This creates opportunities for partnerships for business associations and their members. By taking the lead in the technological revolution and establishing a presence on the Web, business associations can take advantage of new technologies which can improve grassroots business participation in the democratic process and foster the free flow of ideas.

AVBAN is sponsored by CIPE (Center International Private Enterprise) is a non-profit affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and one of the four core institutes of the National Endowment for Democracy. Established in 1983, CIPE's mission is to strengthen

democracy around the globe through the promotion of private enterprise and market-oriented economic reform. CIPE has supported more than 700 local initiatives in over 80 developing countries, involving the private sector in policy advocacy, institutional reform, improving governance, and building understanding of market-based democratic systems.

Kattie Kampmann, the Program officer for Africa was recently on a visit in Uganda, where she personally facilitated over saw the creation of NUCAFE website on the 23rd of April 2005.

(Source: Avban Website)

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