



Uganda Coffee  
Development Authority

# COFFEE NEWS

Your quarterly publication highlighting the activities in the Uganda Coffee Sector

[www.ugandacoffee.go.ug](http://www.ugandacoffee.go.ug) | July - September 2020



## Uganda ranked 3rd country with best coffee globally

Uganda Coffee demonstrates high  
resilience despite Covid-19 pandemic

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- Message from Outgoing Chairman - **Perez Bukumunhe**
- Northern Uganda, a new frontier for coffee-growing





## FOREWORD

**C**offee demonstrated resilience to score highly in the economy despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. During this period, Uganda has registered an increase in monthly coffee exports and specifically in July, Uganda coffee exports surpassed the 500,000 60 kg bags for the first time in 3 decades.

In July, Uganda saw the highest increase in coffee exports since the liberalisation of Uganda's coffee industry in 1991. A total of 543,251 60 kg bags of coffee valued at US\$ 49.78 million were exported in July 2020. In August, Uganda exported a total of 519,683 60 kg bags of coffee valued at US\$ 46.06 million and a total of 506,470 60 kg bags of coffee valued at US\$ 44.64 million were exported in September 2020.

Coffee exports for the coffee year (October 2019 to September 2020) totalled to 5,360,859 bags worth US\$12.23 million compared to 4,439,808 bags worth US\$ 433.95 million the previous year. This represents a 21% and 18% increase in quantity and value respectively.

The unprecedented rise in Uganda's coffee exports is largely the result of the fruiting of newly planted coffee and favourable weather.

In the last few months, the rains have been stable, farmers have maintained good agricultural practices and we have seen a lot of enthusiasm from the public with many professionals joining the coffee sector. If we continue on this trajectory, achieving the 20 million bags set out in the Coffee Road Map is possible.

Although the price for coffee has not been so favourable the good news for Uganda is that prices are better than last year. In the last month, we had an increase of 38.9% in price compared to last year. Farmers can earn 75% of the export price if they add value to the coffee. We believe they can earn more and this is the focus of the next five years in line with the agro-industrialisation agenda of the country.

As the situation normalises and government continues to ease the Covid-19 restrictions, I want to thank the entire team at UCDA and all stakeholders in the coffee value chain who are working tirelessly to raise and maintain the exports past the 500,000 60 kg bags mark.

**Dr. Emmanuel Iyamulemye Niyibigira**  
Managing Director - UCDA



**In July, Uganda saw the highest increase in coffee exports since the liberalisation of Uganda's coffee industry in 1991. A total of 543,251 60 kg bags of coffee valued at US\$ 49.78 million were exported in July 2020.**

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# Message from Outgoing Chairman

## Don't Cry for me

By Perez Bukumunhe

I greet you all and trust you are keeping safe. My time at UCDA has come to an official end and that means I shall no longer have the big title of Chairman UCDA. Don't cry for me because I am a fellow sojourner with you along the Coffee Value Chain (CVC). The dub, like the Authority it represents, is big, very big indeed, which is why it is sometimes assumed especially by the less that its bearer(s) must be of physical full figure volume.

**T**he respect and high regard for the Authority others think, should come from what Parliament in its wisdom decided UCDA should be and do or the fact that it is intended to impact a very high percentage of Ugandan house-holds and shape lives. Last time I checked the word Coffee was familiar with 8 out of 11 people between the ages of 6 and 96. The title is awesome.

But all these imagined and real reasons for regarding UCDA being whatever stakeholders say it is, are because of you my fellow sojourners on the CVC. You are the heroes who talk about millions of bags of coffee exported and billions of dollars received, you certify FAQ and talk about the 27 plus flavours of Robusta, cup tasting, the naturals, Bugisu AA; about washed Robusta, about BTC, leaf rust, BHP, CW/Dr K1- K10. You supervise the distribution of seedlings and talk of four or six leaves and gap filling, you spend hours and months debating spacing and whether *ekisansa* should be banned.

Fellow sojourners, you want people to drink Uganda coffee and not just any coffee. So you train baristas to serve African brewed coffee, cap-



Perez Bukumunhe,  
Outgoing Chairman - UCDA

puccinos, espresso, and café au lait. You talk about destoning and grading so much so that the Nation's export keep to the highest standards UG coffee is known for!

You have all in various ways worked with me to support your comrades to do their things: you have ensured that they have the tools needed to perform their tasks, others of you have driven fellow sojourners around near and far. We have worked without anxiety because some of you are dedicated to taking care of our financial and our retirement needs: they prepare salaries and other payments that make among other things, going on leave meaningful and external

training more productive. Then there are those who are joined by the police in the running battles of Task Force engagements. I cannot forget those of you who like senior academics spend hours computing and uncomputing data to monitor and evaluate how we are moving along planned (and sometimes unplanned) paths, these make relevant the Coffee Road Map and the very many strategies and policies UCDA appears to have at any one time.

But I shall particularly miss Mr. W's *sweet and sour* group. Stuck right next to the sensitive area of finance they are a diligent and fascinating group. They are loathed when they say no and loved to the moon when they say yes even when it is their job to do so. You see what I mean.

I have sometimes, like the old woodpecker perched up in tree branches, seen and watched men and women on the fourth and other floors. They are not necessarily less or more sojourners with me than those who in the countryside wake up to toil and interface with farmers and make returns to HQ. Their supervisors may appear like rulers over Principalities.



Perez Bukumunhe on a field visit to Buginyanya Zonal Agricultural Research Institute in 2017

In reality, they are amazing foot soldiers and they all have my respect. But the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>-floor groups have been just wonderful. They have kept my office clean and active serving something to each of my guests. Sometimes they have welcomed guests when I am away and without telling me and I have arrived but had nowhere to work from! But we are family and the Boardroom the largest office and fit for the chairman to work from is also the place where we sit and rejoice, muse, blow hot and cold at each other. We look at the walls and see our ancestors who quietly remind us of the various UCDA Acts, Statutes, Regulations, Policies, you name it. We then cool to the original before getting out.

Some of you have been with me on the Retirement Benefits Scheme (RBS) where my colleagues on the UCDA Board challenged me by insisting that I should represent the sponsor. Not that the intentions of



**I shall miss you all no matter what. I think UCDA is a great family and the country is lucky that there are so many of you who are keen and able to offer yourselves for the good of the country.**

the Scheme and/or of the Authority were different. I think it was positive and puts the responsibility squarely where it should be. Notwithstanding wearing that hat brought with it a much higher level of responsibility, discretion and balancing. I am especially grateful to your colleagues who worked as volunteers before we got a fulltime Administrator of the Scheme. I cannot wait to handover to the new chairman or back to the Sponsor. In the meantime, I am pleased everything appears to be going well.

You are an amazingly integrated and courageous group to journey with; you do not question the logic of the need to ask Parliament to empower you to do the things they set you up to do in the first place: whether they be regulation-related or research. You sit and wait even when it takes a year to eventually be empowered or rewarded financially. Although you can rightly claim to be the fat cash cow you have taken under-feeding with grace, working under hardship in many instances. I thank you because you keep the entire system oiled and running come rain or shine. C19 or border closure.

Fellow sojourners, because you have done all these, you caused the great Republic of Uganda to regard the UCDA among the top weapons that could be depended upon to defend its people. In the process, you enlivened the Board of the Authority and its only spokesman, the Chairman, me. For six years I have been in this position I have admired your dedication and selfless commitment.

I shall miss you all no matter what. I think UCDA is a great family and the country is lucky that there are so many of you who are keen and able to offer yourselves for the good of the country. When our paths cross as they are bound to sooner than later and I appear not to remember your face or name please shout "Chairman can I say hi?" I promise, I shall do the same if you go passed me unknowingly.

I wish you all the best. Please take care of yourselves. We must survive and enjoy the fruits of our RBS. ☺

**God Bless!**

# Uganda Coffee demonstrates high resilience despite Covid-19 pandemic

To commemorate International Coffee Day which happens on October 1 every year, Uganda Coffee Development Authority organized a webinar which brought together key sector players to discuss the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and how to keep the sector buoyant amidst the pandemic.

**T**he pandemic has come at an overwhelming cost to the Ugandan economy. However, Uganda's coffee sector appears to have been relatively resilient to the crisis to date. Since the onset of the crisis, coffee export quantities and values have remained consistently higher than the previous financial year.

The main speakers at the webinar were Dr. Emmanuel Iyamulemye, Managing Director, Uganda Coffee Development Authority, Owek Robert Wagwa Nsibirwa, board chairman of Uganda Coffee Federation (UCF) and Phil Schluter, Managing Director, Olam Specialty Coffee Ltd.

## The future of Uganda coffee in the new normal

In July, Uganda exported 543,251 60kg bags of coffee worth US\$ 49.78 million (about UGX184.1 billion). This is the highest amount of coffee exports UCDA has registered since the liberalization of the coffee industry in 1991. The biggest share of 152,667 bags was exported to Italy which is the gateway into the European market.

"Our coffee has been on high demand globally and during this period, we managed to displace some of the traditional countries like India which for a long time was the



Coffee ready for export

preferred supplier of coffee to the Italian market," Dr. Emmanuel Iyamulemye, UCDA's managing director said.

Iyamulemye made the remarks on 1 October during a webinar organized by UCDA, and UCF to commemorate International Coffee Day 2020. The theme of the day was Uganda Coffee: Resilient through Covid-19 and the New Normal.

To steer the sector during the pandemic, UCDA put in place a number of measures to keep the industry buoyant.

"We are now using ICT platforms like this one to engage our stakehold-

ers. Our extension workers observe the standard operating procedures during their engagements with farmers," Iyamulemye said.

"We also worked closely with Government to ensure coffee movement continued smoothly despite the nationwide lockdown and the delay of cargo trucks at the border caused by delays in testing drivers for Covid-19," Iyamulemye added.

He, however, noted that the sub-sector still faces challenges like climate change, limited use of fertilizer and limited value addition to coffee which lowers the returns for coffee farmers. UCDA also faces a shortage of extension workers but

the Authority is working closely with other government agencies and district local governments to provide extension services to coffee farmers.

With regard to marketing Uganda coffee, Iyamulemye urged sector players to consider emerging markets such as China. UCDA is working with China to build demand for Ugandan coffee in the Chinese and Asian markets. He tasked Ugandans to use online tools to penetrate the Chinese market.

"We are living in the new normal and we have to look at contingency measures, see how the coffee sector remains resilient amidst the pandemic. Covid-19 is now part of us and we have to learn to live with it," Dr. Iyamulemye said.

### Calls for diversification and value addition

Dr. Iyamulemye also called on farmers to diversify into other crops and go for value addition if they are to remain afloat amidst the pandemic.

In August, there was a 6.3% increase in quantity however the value dropped by almost 50%.

"When you look at the situation over the last three to four years, coffee prices have been dropping globally. With the pandemic on, prices could fall further. Therefore, farmers need to think of how to cope through diversification," said Dr. Iyamulemye.

Iyamulemye said that an important thing to look at is value addition



Dr. Emmanuel Iyamulemye, UCDA's Managing Director

which will help stakeholders get more value for coffee. Following UCDA's recommendations, the government is addressing agro-industrialization in the National Development Plan three (NDP III).

### Impact of Covid-19 on traders and exporters

At the same webinar, Owek Robert Waggwa Nsibirwa, the UCF board Chairman said that the key lesson traders and exporters have learnt during this period is the need to always be prepared and to have a

contingency plan.

When the pandemic happened, everything went into slow motion. Coffee processing factories and exporters were operating at 50% capacity because the movement of human beings and coffee was constrained.

"The cost of transport went up internally because the trucks that were collecting coffee from the countryside and the hulling factories had to go empty in the countryside yet in ordinary times they would be carrying merchandise like cooking oil or soap and then come back with coffee. Now going to pick coffee alone meant that the total cost of transport was borne by the exporters," Nsibirwa said.

Nsibirwa added that another challenge coffee exporters and traders faced was a delay in processing documents for exporting coffee.

"When exporting coffee, you need to work with a myriad of institutions like UCDA, URA to inspect the coffee, evaluate the coffee, weigh

### Coffee consumption by category as % of the pre-Covid Normal



it, fumigate it and this was a challenge. The manpower shortages at the institutions were made worse by the fact that people had to leave work early to beat the curfew. This created a big challenge for exporters to process documents," Nsibirwa said.

Exporters and traders faced another challenge of financing. Banks were closed or working half-day and boards were not meeting. Everyone was trying to figure out how to continue with business with this challenge.

"Social and commercial lenders reduced short term financing obligations. Everybody was holding onto their funds to watch and see what was going to happen next," Nsibirwa said.

At the export level, the exporters also saw a challenge in terms of containers because the inbound cargo had reduced.

Although conditions are beginning to improve they are not where they were at the pre-lockdown level.

"A trend we have seen up to now is a depression in the demand for specialty and certified coffees," said Nsibirwa. "But we also see a general depression in demand for coffee because of the closure of hotels, restaurants and cafés in the western world."

### Prices paid to farmers

The prices paid to farmers were low because of the increase in costs of moving coffee from the countryside, processing coffee and because of depression in demand

### Consumption trends before and after Covid-19



**In July, Uganda exported 543,251 60kg bags of coffee worth US\$ 49.78 million. This is the highest amount of coffee exports UCDA has registered since the liberalization of the coffee industry in 1991.**

for coffee internationally. The prices were lower than what they should have been but according to Owek Nsibirwa, they are picking up again.

### Positioning Uganda to export more coffee

Speaking about how to position Uganda's coffee and take advantage of the emerging specialty market, Phil Schluter, Managing Director Olam Specialty Coffee Ltd said that the world is going into a global recession so the consumer's wallet will be smaller than it used to be which will influence purchasing patterns.

"I think there will be a gradual move towards looking for cheaper alternatives," Schluter said. "Equally we

are seeing a resilient specialty market which is finding new ways to get specialty coffee to consumers and actually we will see a rise in demand for excellent coffees. Uganda is well placed to capture the increasing demand in the specialty market but also see a downgrade in its volumes and pricing."

Quoting International Coffee Organisation statistics, Schluter said it is estimated that for every 1% drop in the global economy, coffee consumption will drop by 0.95%.

"2019/20 consumption showed a notable shift from Milds to Naturals and from Arabica to Robusta; whether these demand preferences sustain in 2020/21 and forward is a watch-out," Schluter said.

Consumption growth returning to baseline by 2021/22 is contingent predominantly on a full reversal to pre-Covid out of home segment growth and blend preferences. Schluter advised that exporters need to broaden their client base, pivot and send more samples if they are to perform better in the New Normal. ●

## Uganda ranked 3rd country with best coffee globally

**U**ganda coffee was ranked 3rd best in the world behind Ethiopia and Kenya by professional coffee tasters in a survey of the top 16 coffee-growing countries in the world.

The coffee tasters graded 1,229 coffees from around the world that was harvested from 2010 to 2018 with the top three spots going to African countries.

The professional coffee tasters are certified by the Coffee Quality Institute, a non-profit organization that works internationally to improve the quality of coffee and the lives of the people who produce it.

The CQI certified coffee graders must pass 22 tests to prove they



A woman harvesting coffee.

can grade coffee accurately and consistently by its aroma, flavour, acidity, body, balance and more.

A grading scale with a maximum score of 100 was used to score coffees from each of the 16 countries. Ethiopia scored the highest average rating with 84.88, followed by Kenya with an average rating of 84.31 and Uganda came third with an average rating of 84.05.

Out of the Uganda coffees that were tested, Arabica coffee owned by Kabum Trading Company in Kapchwora, Eastern Uganda came top with a score of 86.83.

The quality of Ugandan coffee has been improving over the years following massive sensitization conducted by UCDA among coffee farmers. ☕

## Uganda Coffee monthly exports soar past 500,000 bags

**U**ganda registered an increase in monthly coffee exports in the months of July, August and September surpassing the 500,000 bags mark. The increase is the highest since 1991.

In July, Uganda saw the highest increase in coffee exports since the liberalisation of Uganda's coffee industry in 1991.

A total of 543,251 60 kg bags of coffee valued at US\$ 49.78 million were exported in July 2020. In August, Uganda exported a total of 519,683 60 kg bags of coffee valued

at US\$ 46.06 million and a total of 506,470 60 kg bags of coffee valued at US\$ 44.64 million were exported in September 2020.

The increase in export volumes is a direct result of deliberate efforts undertaken by UCDA to increase coffee production in the country. In 2014, UCDA embarked on a countrywide drive to replant coffee in the country.

In order to revive coffee production that had stagnated at 3.5 million bags, UCDA worked with several stakeholders including the National Coffee Research Institute (NaCO-

RI) to multiply coffee seedlings and Operation Wealth Creation to distribute free seedlings to farmers across the country.

In 2017, coffee exports jumped from 3.5 million bags to 4.7 million bags and the growth trend has continued.

Coffee exports for the coffee year (October 2019 to September 2020) totalled to 5,360,859 bags worth US\$12.23 million compared to 4,439,808 bags worth US\$ 433.95 million the previous year. This represents 21% and 18% increase in quantity and value respectively. ☕



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# UGANDA PRODUCES GREAT COFFEE

## COFFEE MARKET PRICES BY SMS

**Step 1**  On your Phone go to messages

**Step 2**  Type Coffee to access international market prices for Arabica (New York) and Robusta (London) in US\$ per tonne or Type Robusta or Arabica for UCDA indicative prices

**Step 3**  Send to 7197 Across all networks

 Coffee House, Plot 35 Jinja Road,

 [info@ugandacoffee.go.ug](mailto:info@ugandacoffee.go.ug)  [www.ugandacoffee.go.ug](http://www.ugandacoffee.go.ug)  @CoffeeUganda

## Sabiiti's retirement venture

When he got early retirement from his job as an agricultural expert from the Ministry of Agriculture in 1999, Joseph Sabiiti had many options to choose from. After deliberating on his choices, he opted to offer his expertise at the National Agricultural Laboratories Research Institute in Kawanda (NARL) under the national Banana Research Program until 2015.

**T**he year before he left NARL, he discovered a venture to help ease him into retirement with no hustle. While he had several crops to choose from, Sabiiti says coffee was the best alternative.

"I usually call it a crop for the elderly because it does not require a lot of energy to supervise it. Even when you have grandchildren, they can easily help you out in coffee harvesting and no loss would be incurred than in other crops such as groundnuts which would tempt them to chew," Sabiiti said.

Sabiiti is settled in Kakwese II village, Bugando ward, Nyangahya division, in Masindi Municipality, about 8kms from Masindi town.

Aside from just venturing like other farmers, Sabiiti had an urge.

"I am an agriculturalist and even in retirement, I thought it better to continue practicing my profession because I was good at it," Sabiiti said. He is currently growing coffee on about 8



Mr. Sabiiti Joseph inspecting his coffee trees for pests and diseases.

acres of which 4 acres are mature with a production potential of 7-10kgs of dry cherries per tree per year.

Since he started planting coffee in 2014, Sabiiti has over the years dealt with a number of challenges including poor market, drought, coffee pests and diseases. This he said is inevitable.

"There is no risk-free business," he emphasized. "We are now also facing

a challenge of labour because of the Covid-19 pandemic. By the time the lockdown was imposed, some of our workers, from Western and Eastern Uganda, had gone to visit their families and we are afraid they may not return."

As for the market, Sabiiti says he has been dealing with middle men majorly from Luwero, who he says, are not fully reliable.



Mr. Sabiiti Joseph tends to his 4-acre mature coffee farm. He uses cloned plants partly for gap-filling & expansion.



Mr. Sabiiti Joseph tends to his clonal coffee plantlets which are ready for planting.

## Nursery business

To counter the long period taken before earning from the coffee harvest, Sabiiti has ventured into the propagation of Clonal coffee planting materials which are resistant to the coffee wilt disease. Sabiiti has a well-managed 1.2 acre CWDr mother garden with the capacity to produce 150,000 plantlets for planting by other farmers as well as to expand his production field.

"I ventured into this business 2 years ago after obtaining information from UCDA extension staff. I have so far churned out over 100,000 plantlets for farmers in Masindi and the greater Bunyoro region," Sabiiti said. His farm has now become a referral skilling centre for many farmers on good practices for production of CWDr plantlets as well as Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) on the farm.

"I'm doing my best to use better practices such as mulching, providing shade, pruning, and spacing. In case some do not do well, I do some gap-filling," Sabiiti said.

Alongside coffee, Sabiiti is practicing horticulture, banana growing, live-stock rearing and tree planting to cash in from several streams of income.

To improve on soil nutrition, Sabiiti mulches his soil with maize stover and napier grass stalks from his gardens as well as manure from his farm. As a result, his coffee is always healthy, with big cherries, uniform ripening and generally higher outturn when hulled.

## Impact on community

Just about a kilometer away from Sabiiti's farm is a farmer who joined the coffee sub-sector recently. John Winter Bagada learnt about coffee farming from Sabiiti.

Bagada, commonly known in Masindi for his engagement in mango growing, juice and wine processing, has for two years now been actively embracing coffee practices on a demo plot as he plans to scale-up production. The plot has about 50 trees. Bagada is using urine from goats to add up as manure to the coffee plants.

Handling issues of spacing and coffee wilt have been a challenge but Bagada says he always seeks information from extension officers and other farmers to guide him in managing the challenges. He hopes to expand his coffee to 5 acres and start up a big coffee model farm which would, in turn, contribute to value addition.

Neighboring Sabiiti about half a kilometer from his farm, among several other farmers, is Michael Businge. Businge has gained skills in coffee agronomy to become a community-based facilitator working with Masindi district local government. He has 2 acres of well-managed coffee with the capacity to produce 7-10kgs of dry cherries per tree per year.

"I have gained skills from Sabiiti's farm on coffee pruning, bending, stumping, nutrition, pest and disease management among others which I pass on to other farmers in Kikwanana parish in Masindi district," Businge said. ☪

*Julius Twiine is a Regional Coffee Extension Officer at UCDA*

## SUCCESS STORIES

# Northern Uganda, a new frontier for coffee-growing

Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) introduced commercial coffee production in the non-traditional commercial coffee areas including the Mid-Northern Uganda districts of Apac, Gulu, Kitgum, Lira, Pader, Oyam, Amolatar, Dokolo and Amuru. Despite skepticism from farmers at the start, some persisted and embraced coffee farming. Today they are reaping the rewards. We bring you stories of farmers in northern Uganda who are challenging the narrative.



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# Give us more farm tools, coffee farmers in Oyam ask UCDA

Leois Ogwang, 46, is a coffee farmer living in Ipopong Village, Western ward, Loro Town council, Oyam district with seven other family members. He owns 2 acres of coffee and he belongs to Loro Cooperative Farmers Group.

Ogwang had earlier grown coffee but failed to maintain it due to lack of adequate agronomic knowledge.

It is from this background that he was nominated to use his 1 acre as a technical development site.

UCDA facilitated him with the site establishment costs such as digging of coffee and banana holes, provision of top dressing fertilizer and banana suckers. Each stage of technical site establishment was practically demonstrated in the presence of other farmers.

As a result, Ogwang acquired adequate knowledge of coffee agronomy. His 2-acre coffee farm is promising. The establishment of technical development site has benefited him and the farmers in Ipopong village to practice good agricultural practices.

"I am grateful to UCDA for the support they have given to me and my fellow cooperative members," Ogwang says. "UCDA gave us inputs such as banana suckers, coffee seedlings, top dressing fertilizer, labour for digging and back filling, and labour for planting the technical development site."

Ogwang now trains fellow farmers about coffee agronomic practices



Leois Ogwang standing in the middle of his 2-acre coffee farm. He champions Good Agricultural Practices among his fellow farmers.

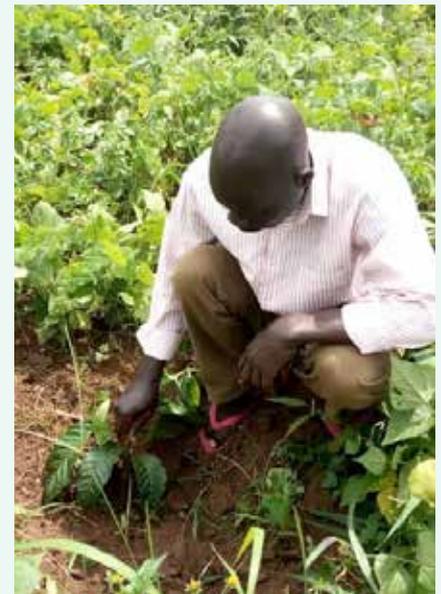


"I am grateful to UCDA for the support they have given to me and my fellow cooperative members," - Leois Ogwang

such as right size coffee hole digging and intercropping coffee with banana and beans. Ogwang will soon start selling banana suckers to other farmers as these suckers are on high demand in Oyam and Lango sub-region.

## Recommendations

He recommends that UCDA should increase support to farmers in Oyam, through supply of farm tools, fertilizer supply and construction of a coffee store in Loro as a bulking center for all coffee farmers.



He also requests UCDA to support the farmers with small irrigation systems that would help provide water especially during the long dry season that Oyam faces which affects seed survivability rate. 🌱

# Dr. Kidega, Gulu's model coffee farmer

Dr. Tonny Kidega, 39, is from Gulu county village, Pakwelo parish, Onyama sub county in Gulu district. He owns 40 acres of land. Twenty acres are planned for coffee-growing. On the other 20 acres he grows feeds for his dairy farm and food for domestic consumption.

**H**e is a dairy farmer. He owns a model farm with 70 Friesian cows and milks 24 cows every day. His main business was dairy farming before he diversified into coffee.

## How I started

Dr. Kidega's interest in growing coffee started when his neighbor Aber Harriet started a coffee nursery. Many people kept coming to his farm to pick manure to put in their coffee gardens.

"I didn't give it much thought until one day I asked myself whether the manure people were buying from me couldn't be useful to me too," he says.

So he talked to Harriet. She gave him phone numbers for Uganda Coffee Development Authority and Uganda Export Promotion Board. She told him that coffee-growing in northern Uganda was a virgin area and worth trying. However when she told him that coffee takes three years to start fruiting, Dr. Kidega remained hesitant because he considered three years a long time.

Harriet kept sending him statistics on how Uganda's coffee was performing. Over time he developed interest in growing coffee. As a business person, he realized that there was a lot of potential in coffee.



Kidega explaining how he ventured into coffee farming. Coffee growing is taking root in Gulu.

One day an Indian visited his farm and collected 10 tonnes of manure to apply in his coffee nursery. That was his turning point. He was convinced that this was a serious venture to get into. So he took the first step.

## Training from UCDA

He invited the UCDA Regional Coffee Extension Officer (RCEO), Winfred Oyella to his farm. He showed her the land where he wanted to grow coffee and requested to be trained on coffee-growing.

Oyella told Dr. Kidega that for one to succeed as a coffee farmer, they need passion, manure, water and

land. Fortunately, he had these in plenty. She then trained him on field preparation and planting. The RCEO told Dr. Kidega to visit a nursery operator where he learnt how to handle the coffee seedlings. He then requested the RCEO for 1,400 seedlings.

Dr. Kidega says that he benefited greatly from the training he received from Oyella. After the training he was able to dig the proper holes with proper spacing and applied manure and mulch as he had been advised.

Oyella visited the farm regularly and trained the employees that worked on the farm on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) for coffee such as how to bend the coffee trees to increase their productivity.

Dr. Kidega notes that Oyella's frequent visits helped him remain on track and look after his coffee better.

## Fighting drought

Dr. Kidega planted his coffee during the onset of rains. He put a small shade around each young plant to protect it from drought stress and the scorching sunshine. He ring-mulched to keep the soil around the plant moist. This improved the survivability of his coffee. He also pruned his coffee trees, an activity that was at first difficult for him.



**Kidega's coffee farm. He intercroops the coffee with bananas which provide shade and food for consumption.**

However, immediately after pruning, the trees fruited more.

He dug ponds to trap water during the rainy season. He used this water to irrigate the coffee plants during the dry season as he was trained and he had 80% survival rate of the seedlings he planted.

He employs three women to focus specifically on his 20 acre coffee farm. Because of good agricultural practices, his coffee was able to start flowering before 3 years.

UCDA provided him with shade trees called *albisia coriaria* which he planted in the coffee farm. The farmer also received over 1,000 banana suckers from UCDA, which he planted to act as shade trees as well as provide food for consumption. He has harvested bananas from these suckers and he has even been able to sell suckers to other farmers for planting.

Dr. Kidega is excited that even before he harvests the coffee, he is earning

from the bananas that he intercropped with coffee. This is a motivation to him and his employees.

He joined a group of coffee enthusiasts that who give useful tips on coffee which he uses to improve his farm.

He has also integrated his dairy farm with his coffee plantation. He uses the cow dung from his dairy farm as fertilizer for his coffee and this saves him a lot of money on fertilizer.

He has 10 acres of maize. Once he harvests the maize, he uses the stover for mulching the coffee



**Dr. Kidega's interest in growing coffee started when his neighbor Aber Harriet started a coffee nursery. Many people kept coming to his farm to pick manure to put in their coffee gardens.**

trees. His plan is to increase coffee farm coverage to 30 acres. He also plans to establish a bigger mother garden.

### **Plans for a coffee factory**

Given that there is no coffee processed in the region currently, his plan is to set up a coffee factory. Dr. Kidega has already acquired the land for establishing the coffee factory. He noted that this will be the first in Gulu and in the region and it will motivate and inspire more people to plant coffee since there is a ready market for it.

He says that his farm has become a learning center and is open to other farmers. He is ready to have his coffee farm established as a technology demonstration site, because his desire is to have as many farmers as possible grow coffee in the region. He appreciates the support from UCDA and the constant visits from the UCDA officers although he would like them to be even more frequent.

His request is that UCDA organizes more farmer tours so that upcoming farmers can learn from traditional farmers who have prospered in this field. He also recommends that they join groups where they are able to learn from each other.

"There is need to strengthen monitoring and follow up of farmers to ensure that they follow the right procedures at planting, harvesting and beyond," he says.

Dr. Kidega is a very ambitious and enthusiastic farmer, who is looking forward to having a hulling factory operating in Northern Uganda. 🌱

# I am ready to expand my coffee farm

Tonny Ogwang, 54, grew up on a coffee farm in Luweero. As a young boy he enjoyed working with his father on the 40-acre coffee farm his old man run. In 1987, war broke out. The area was insecure. Fearing for their lives they abandoned everything and moved back to the village in Dokolo district.

**T**here was a lot of coffee in Luweero and this is where my love for growing coffee started. When we were leaving Dokolo, I came back with some coffee stems which I planted here at home," narrates Ogwang.

Ogwang always wanted to grow more coffee but there was nowhere to get coffee seedlings in Dokolo. So, in 2004, he heard that UCDA was giving out free coffee seedlings to farmers in Lira.

"I boarded a pick up from Dokolo to Lira. I was given 120 seedlings which I planted. While most died, 10 coffee trees survived. Out of these, three trees stand out," Ogwang says

"I planted these trees close to my house. I harvest 150 kg of coffee cherries from the three coffee trees every season and every one wonders how this is possible. People here didn't believe coffee could perform so well here in Dokolo. This has inspired him to even plant more coffee," Ogwang adds.

In 2007 he planted 1000 coffee trees and 130 survived. In 2017, he planted 10,000 coffees and the survival rate is over 90%.

Currently Ogwang has 12,000 coffee trees on 5 parcels of land with more room for expansion. Last year he harvested and sold his coffee



Tonny Ogwang and his son harvesting coffee from one of the coffee trees.

and was able to take his children to school. He has also been able to construct a semi-permanent house for himself.

Ogwang's aspiration is to have every home in his village grow coffee seeing that most of them depend on annual crops such as simsim, sunflower and cassava.

His recommendation is for UCDA to support farmers with fertilisers and an irrigation system to help farmers during the dry season in Dokolo which affects their crops a great deal.

He noted that the whole of Dokolo district does not have a coffee huller and they are forced to sell their

coffee at low prices to buyers that come from Luweero.

Ogwang has also helped his 80-year father Mr. Andrew Ogwec, who owns 4 acres of coffee to apply the knowledge he acquired from the trainings organized by UCDA.

Ogwec earned 4 million from the coffee he sold last year. He has been able to construct 2 commercial houses and 1 residential house in Dokolo. He attributes his achievements to coffee-growing although he complained about the low prices given that coffee is not processed in the district. He requested UCDA to support the farmers with a coffee huller. ☪



## The president's call inspired me to grow coffee in Kitgum

Langoya Sisto, 54, is a coffee farmer living in Mucwini village, Mucwini sub-county, Kitgum district. Sisto has 1,300 coffee trees on 4 acres of land. His household composition is 13 members, 7 male, 6 female and he belongs to Gene Ber Village Savings and Loan Association.

**S**isto started farming in 1987, mainly growing tomatoes and sugar cane, and other annual crops like simsim and tomatoes. He then ventured into growing sunflower and soya beans.

"My interest in coffee developed when H.E the President Yoweri K. Museveni visited Kitgum for *Tarehe Sita* celebrations and encouraged the farmers to venture into coffee farming citing the economic value

of coffee, the ready market, and the support from Government that farmers will get from growing coffee," he narrates. "This ignited the passion in me to grow coffee."

Sisto inquiring where he could access coffee seedlings, and was directed to the district local government premises where he met Beatrice Alela, the UCDA Regional Coffee Extension Officer.

"She inspected my land where

I planned to grow coffee, and the land was approved for coffee-growing," he says. "After the approval, I had planned to plant 1,000 coffee trees, but I could only dig 100 holes. I planted 100 coffee plants. 97 coffee plants survived, and 3 died. The high survival rate was because I irrigated the coffee plants every morning."

Last year when the president went to Orom, he talked about farming and emphasized coffee farming. This made Sisto realize that coffee can survive in Kitgum. This inspired him the more, and he decided to plant more coffee.

"I planted 300 coffee plants in 2019 and this year, 2020, I increased the number and planted 900 coffee trees. I plan to plant more in the coming years, but right now, I have about 1,300 coffee plants," Sisto says.

Through UCDA trainings and farm visits by the UCDA extension officer, he learnt that to achieve high survival rate of his coffee plants, he had to practice good agricultural practices.

"I basically use organic manure from my goat farm. Am also rearing goats, and some poultry, so I collect the droppings from the goats and poultry, and apply them in the coffee plantation, and this has greatly contributed to the survival of the coffee plants," adds Sisto.

Looking at the benefits Sisto anticipates to enjoy from his coffee farm, he says that coffee will improve his standard of living and his livelihood.

"Coffee will help me to pay school fees for my children especially now



**My interest in coffee developed when President Yoweri K. Museveni visited Kitgum for Tarehe Sita celebrations and encouraged the farmers to venture into coffee farming citing the economic value of coffee, the ready market, and the support from Government**

that I intercrop coffee and legumes. This helps sustain soil moisture and I will sell both the legumes and coffee to supplement my income."

Sisto is inspiring other people to grow coffee.

"I am already sensitizing the farmers, and my coffee plantation, has become a demonstration farm, where people come see, and learn," he says. "As a result, one farmer has already planted 100 coffee plants, and another one has planted 50 coffee plants, and many people are

picking interest in coffee as they visit my plantation."

The challenge he faces is transporting manure from the livestock farm to the coffee plantation. He adds that animals normally destroy the coffee plants, so he needs to fence the plantation.

### Future plans

Sisto's future plan is to drill his own water source which will enable him irrigate the coffee plantation in the dry season. He says that sharing the same water source with the community for irrigation is challenging as one cannot have control over the source.

He requests UCDA to increase the number of officers on ground and to embark on an information sharing campaign about the benefits of growing coffee given that Kitgum is still virgin and most people grow more of annual crops.

With more sensitization, he believes that the number of people growing coffee in the communities will increase. 🌱



Langoya showing community members how he takes care of his coffee. He also keeps poultry and uses the manure from the chicken to boost his coffee production.



John Charles Owot explaining why he stumped his old coffee trees.

## Stumping old coffee trees for better yields

Mr. John Charles Owot, 58, is a coffee farmer from Aboloneno A Village, Western ward, Loro town council in Oyam district.

**H**e owns 5 acres of land and he grows coffee on 2 acres. Owot belongs to Loro Cooperative Farmers Group.

Initially, his 2 acres of coffee plantation were giving very low yields of 1 kg of coffee cherries per tree. The low yield continuously discouraged him, however he never gave up and kept seeking advice on how to overcome the challenge.

Owot says that before UCDA's intervention, he would hear about coffee stumping but did not know its importance and how to practi-



Stumping is a practice that improves the yield of an old tree. Farmers are encouraged to use fertiliser after stumping.



**John Charles Owot recommends that UCDA should support farmers with fertilizers in order to motivate more of them to stump old coffee trees.**

cally apply it. He was worried about losing his coffee trees.

Last year he made up his mind to stump his coffee after receiving training about coffee stumping from UCDA. UCDA provided him with the stumping tools including a bow saw and pruning saw. Owot's coffee farm was 12 years old at the time.

He was advised to split the garden into four parts. This will help him to stagger the stumping of his coffee trees. The first section has been stumped and already new suckers are visible. The fresh suckers will automatically translate to increase in coffee yields because the old coffee trees have been rejuvenated.

Owot said it was difficult having to cut down his coffee trees in anticipation of high yield but he still had it done and is so grateful to UCDA for the support provided.

He recommends that UCDA should support farmers with fertilizers in order to motivate more of them to stump old coffee trees. He also recommends that UCDA should construct a coffee store in Loro as a bulking center for all coffee farmers. He asks that UCDA provide a revolving fund in form of simple and cost effective irrigation systems. 🌱

# I don't regret clearing my land to plant coffee

Mr Jimmy Atum, 41, is a coffee farmer living in Ajaa B village, Okwangodul parish in Okwangodul sub county, Dokolo district.

**H**e belongs to Okwangodul Ajaa B Coffee Association/Group with 40 members so far. His house composition is 12members.

Atum owns 4 acres of land on which he has his coffee planted and intercropped with bananas and legumes. Prior to this, he was planting cassava, soya beans, sorghum, and sunflower.

Atum's inspiration to grow coffee started in 2005 when he visited a friend's coffee farm in Entebbe.

"I saw how he was earning from coffee and at that point, I vowed to grow coffee," Atum said.

When he left Entebbe, he went back to Dokolo inspired to start coffee planting. Unfortunately, when he got home, there was nowhere to get coffee seedlings in northern Uganda. So Atum shelved his ideas.

In 2017, Atum heard that UCDA was giving out seedlings to farmers. So he got in touch with UCDA's Regional Coffee Extension Officer (RCEO) James Magona in 2017. The first time he received 2,000 coffee seedlings from UCDA. With the help of the RCEO and friends, he dug the first holes and planted the coffee.

Atum has never regretted having



**Atum is proud to be a coffee farmer. In addition to the trainings from UCDA he got a wheelbarrow, two spades, two hand hoes, garden tools (secateurs and hand saw) from the Authority.**

cleared his land to plant coffee even amidst discouragement from community members given that coffee was a new crop in Dokolo.

From the UCDA programs like training that Atum has been greatly engaged in, his coffee garden was made a Technology Demonstration Site from which other farmers are training on Good Agricultural Practices. The trainings are conducted by the RCEO and the district production staff.

Atum is proud to be a coffee farmer. In addition to the trainings from UCDA he got a wheelbarrow, two spades, two hand hoes, garden tools (secateurs and hand saw) from the Authority. These have been of great help during pruning, de-suckering and carrying manure to his farm.

He says he acquired a lot of knowledge during the trainings organized by UCDA. He was sensitized in pruning coffee trees, differentiating between healthy and disease-affected coffee and how to deal with the latter. He was educated about different pests and how to control them.

Today, Atum's coffee looks healthy and promises high yield this year. Atum was able to intercrop his coffee with bananas and legumes such as beans and groundnuts and as he awaits to earn from coffee, he has gained from the bananas and the beans he planted. He says this has been a huge motivation.

Atum's aspiration is to become the biggest and best coffee farmer not just in Dokolo district but also in the whole northern region. He recommends increased trainings from UCDA, more support with farm inputs such as spray pumps, fertilizers and pesticides. He is also interested in farm exchange visits where farmers can learn from other more experienced farmers. 🌱

# COFFEE TRENDS

September 2020



## Key Highlights



A total of **506,470-kilo bags** of coffee valued at **US\$ 44.64 million** were exported in September 2020 at an average weighted price of US\$ 1.47 /kilo, 1 cent lower than US\$ 1.48 / kilo in August 2020. This was an increase of **39.82%** and **28.63%** in quantity and value respectively compared to the same period last year.



Farm-gate prices for Robusta Kiboko averaged **UGX 2,100** per kilo; FAQ **UGX 4,100** per kilo, Arabica parchment **UGX 4,900** per kilo and Drugar **UGX 4,250** per kilo.



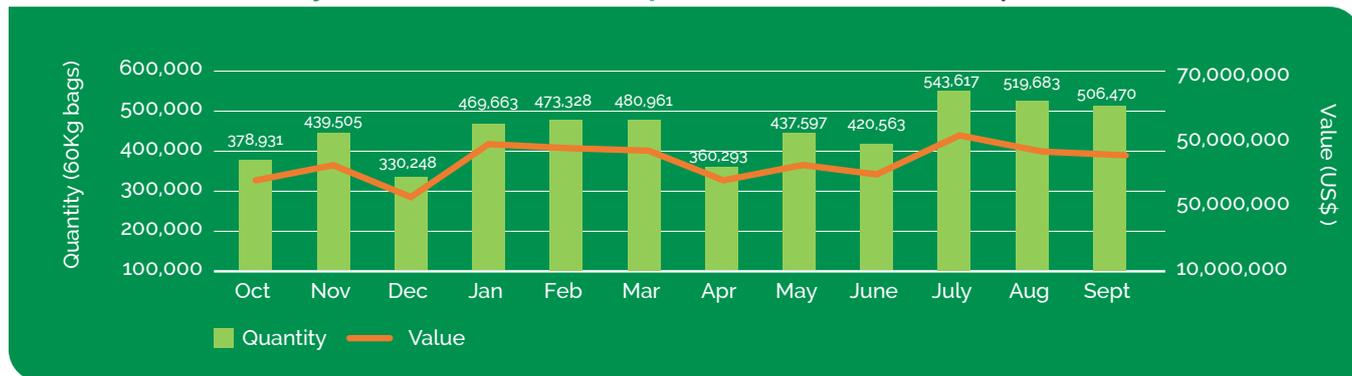
Coffee exports for the coffee year (October 2019 to September 2020) totalled to **5,360,859 bags** worth **US\$ 512.23 million** compared to **4,439,808 bags** worth **US\$ 433.95 million** the previous year. This represents 21% and 18% increase in quantity and value respectively.



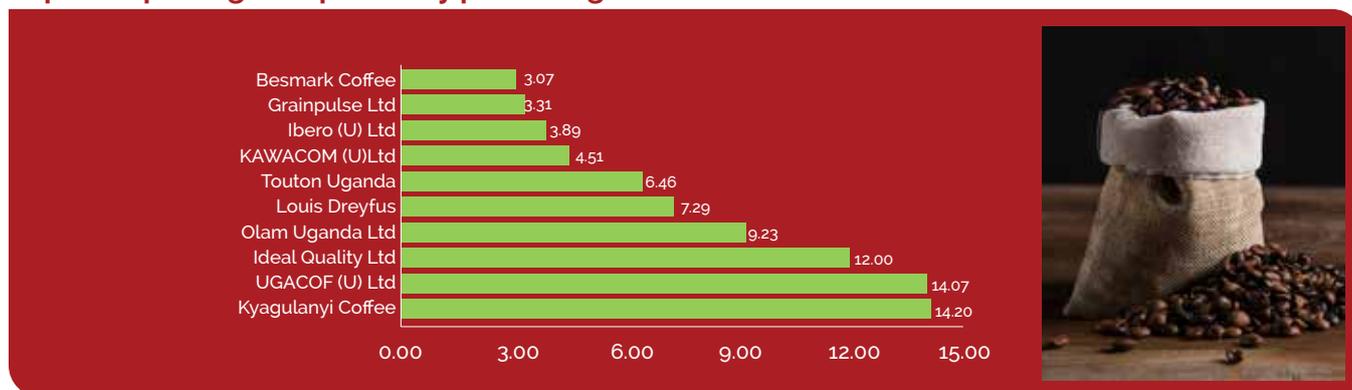
**78.01%** of the total volume was exported by 10 exporters, out of 37 companies which performed during the month compared to 76.35% in August 2020, reflecting increasing concentration. Wugar fetched the highest price at US\$ 2.70 per kilo..

▲ The ICO Composite Indicator price increased by **10.7%** to **114.78 US cents/lb** in August 2020 from US cents/lb 103.66 in July 2020

## Trend of Total Quantity and Value of Coffee Exported: October 2019- September 2020



## Top 10 Exporting Companies by percentage market share





**SUCCESS STORIES**

**ICO Indicator Prices - September 2020 (US cents/lb)**

	ICO composite indicator	Colombian Milds	Other Milds	Brazilian Naturals	Robustas
01-Sep	123.29	178.42	175.71	123.00	75.89
02-Sep	122.79	178.16	175.42	122.74	75.00
03-Sep	122.76	178.15	175.58	123.01	74.63
04-Sep	124.32	180.74	177.97	125.23	74.85
07-Sep	124.49	181.51	178.21	125.91	74.36
08-Sep	122.75	178.79	176.56	123.29	73.59
09-Sep	120.94	175.62	173.66	120.40	73.72
10-Sep	122.67	178.22	176.00	122.73	74.33
11-Sep	123.36	179.20	176.84	123.89	74.47
14-Sep	116.97	169.44	168.05	114.90	72.63
15-Sep	119.48	170.76	167.98	117.30	77.10
16-Sep	115.00	166.29	164.99	111.83	72.58
17-Sep	113.91	164.96	163.29	110.10	72.43
18-Sep	110.89	160.58	159.22	106.06	71.25
21-Sep	109.92	159.02	157.68	105.21	70.70
22-Sep	108.89	157.55	156.33	103.56	70.52
23-Sep	109.76	158.06	158.03	104.86	70.66
24-Sep	109.31	157.95	156.77	104.20	70.73
25-Sep	111.12	159.87	159.17	106.40	71.86
28-Sep	108.19	156.33	155.32	102.66	70.31
29-Sep	108.09	156.55	155.18	102.74	69.98
30-Sep	108.65	157.84	156.46	103.89	69.42
Average	116.25	168.36	166.56	113.81	72.77
High	124.49	181.51	178.21	125.91	77.10
Low	108.09	156.33	155.18	102.66	69.42

**ICO composite indicator price - September 2020**



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# COFFEE EXPORT PROCEDURE



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