

Organic Coffees
from the Source of the Nile



Kawacom (U) Ltd

Exporter of
Organic Arabica Coffee in Uganda

Kawacom (Uganda) Ltd. is a member of the Ecom Coffee Group, one of the leading Coffee trading houses in the world. Ecom Coffee Group maintains a wide variety of operations in milling, warehousing, exporting and trading of coffee.



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Supported by the Sida programme
– **EPOPA** – www.epopa.info
Export Promotion of Organic Products from Africa



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A Win-Win Project

Kawacom participate in the EPOPA project to enhance their export of smallholder organic coffee from Nebbi and Kapchorwa districts in Uganda.

Target group

The direct target groups are smallholder farmers in Nebbi (5,000) district in the West Nile region and Kapchorwa (6,000) district and Mount Elgon region.

Arabica Coffee, Uganda

(Coffea arabica)

The White Nile Organic Coffee (Okoro coffee) is a washed Arabica coffee which grows in Nebbi in the West Nile region of Uganda. This project started in April 1998. The project has grown from 500 to over 5,500 farmers.

Washed Arabica coffee grown in the Kapchorwa region on the mountain shambas of Mt Elgon is known as **Sipi Falls Coffe** (Bugisu coffee).

Arabica coffee grows on altitudes of 1500 to 2000 meters with temperatures ranging from 18° to 24° C.

The coffees are well managed with application of mulch, soil fertility improvement techniques, pruning, replanting of seedlings and planting of shade trees.

Ripe cherries are picked by hand. The coffee is floated, pulped, fermented, washed and dried on raised platforms.

Bugisu coffee is marketed from September to March while Okoro coffee is marketed from October to March.



Expected results (by end of project, 2005)

- 200 tons of Okoro Arabica coffee and 500 tons of Bugisu Arabica coffee has been exported.
- Farmers receive at least 25% higher income than neighbouring conventional farmer, from premium received for organic coffee, improved quality, and increase in productivity.
- The coffee is marketed in Europe, the US and Japan with the required organic certification labels.
- Coffee is Utz Kapeh Certified.

Profile of Nebbi farmer

Farmers have an average of 6 acres of land, of which they cultivate 4 acres. The number of coffee trees grown per family household is on average 551. The food crops grown by the farmers are groundnuts, maize, millet and cassava.

The average homestead has 2,5 adults with 4,5 children. They live in mud or wattle houses with grass roofs. 34% of the farmers own a bicycle.



EXPORT PROMOTION OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS FROM AFRICA

EPOPA – Development through Organic Trade

Export Promotion of Organic Products from Africa (EPOPA) is a programme created by the Swedish international Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in 1994. The programme has projects present in Uganda and Tanzania.

The EPOPA programme aims to give African smallholder farmers better conditions through developing the exports of organic products from Africa. The rural communities, thus the farmers, get a premium price for their crop, they get a more transparent price setting from the exporter who buys more directly and they are paid cash in hand.

Participating countries are given the opportunity to increase and diversify their exports, while at the same time expose the agricultural sector to innovative and environmentally sound farming techniques.

The programme has since it started in 1994 proven to be a valid instrument for African exporters to improve their business and for thousands of farmers to improve their livelihood.

The execution of the EPOPA Programme is subcontracted to a consortium of two consultancies, AgroEco from the Netherlands and GroLink from Sweden. Both consultancies have great experience of working with international organic production issues worldwide.

More information

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