

Organic Coffees
from the Source of the Nile



Kawacom (U) Ltd

Exporter of
Organic Robusta 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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– **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 Bushenyi district in Uganda.

Target group

The direct target groups are smallholder farmers (4,000) in Bushenyi district.

Expected results (by end of project, 2005)

- Bushenyi Robusta is exported.
- Coffee is Utz-Kapeh certified.
- Farmers receive at least 25% higher income than conventional farmers, from premium for organic coffee, improved quality and increased productivity.
- The coffee is marketed in Europe, the US and Japan with the required organic certification labels.

Robusta Coffee, Uganda

(*Coffea canephora*)

The Savannah Organic Coffee is a robusta coffee grown in the Bushenyi district. The coffee is grown under the matoke bananas, the staple food of the indigenous people.

Robusta coffee is a bush-like tree that grows on lower altitudes (600-1100 m). Bushenyi receives a rainfall of about 1,750 mm which is well distributed over the year. A drier period of 2-3 months is necessary for the initiation of flowering.

The white, aromatic coffee blossom does not depend on cross fertilisation. The fruits ripen in 6-8 months. Ripe coffee cherries have a red or orange flesh. The coffee beans are contained within this flesh.

The Robusta coffee is marketed from June to September. Robusta coffee gains 30% higher yields compared to Arabica coffee, but prices of Robusta coffee are lower.



Profile of Bushenyi farmer

Farmers have on average 4.4 acres of land. 41 % of the farmers depend solely on agriculture for their source of income.

Farmers grow, on average, 320 coffee trees on their land as the cash crop. The second crop is Matoke bananas, which is the local food crop. Crops grown for home consumption are beans, maize, cassava, yam and millet. 60 % of the farmers do not have cattle. The others have an average of 3 cattle per family.

The major constraint for the farmers in planting more coffee is the lack of labour. An average homestead has three adults and five children. Houses are built of wattle and iron sheets.

The average annual income per year from coffee sales is 216 US\$ per household. 49% of the farmers have other sources of income like shops, casual labour, being employed, or through relatives.



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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