



Coffee Innovation Fund – Uganda

Supporting innovative and scalable solutions to increase profitability and market access of small-holder coffee farmers

Mobile coffee pulping

MARA Agribusiness Limited is a youth-led company engaged in trading and marketing services for agricultural inputs and coffee. The company also provides technical assistance to smallholder farmers in farm establishment and management for coffee and other associated crops. The company is located at Design Hub, 5th Street Industrial Area, Kampala and operates in Mayuge, Kamuli, Luwero, Mityana, and Masaka districts in Uganda.

Access to coffee processing facilities

In the targeted districts, coffee farmers are unable to access post-harvest handling services which could potentially add value to the coffee they sell. Most coffee hulling, pulping and roasting facilities are stationary and located far away from farms which would increase the cost of transport incurred by farmers. As a result, smallholder farmers sell unprocessed coffee to middlemen at meagre prices.

Bringing coffee processing to the farmer

MARA Agribusiness will increase accessibility of these services by creating mobile coffee pulping stations. The pulpers will be mounted on tricycles and moved around the pulping locations by youth at the sub-county level. The initiative will create direct employment opportunities for youth and address post-harvest handling challenges at the production level. The mobile coffee processing services will improve the quality of coffee at farm level, reduce transport costs incurred by coffee farmers and increase profits gained by small-holder farmers from coffee production due to value addition.



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Project overview

Term: 2020-2021
Region: Central and Eastern Uganda
Partner: MARA Agribusiness Limited
Volume: EUR 47,803 (supported by the fund)
EUR 97,460 (total volume)

Goals

- ❖ Minimize post-harvest handling losses and improve the quality of coffee at farm level
- ❖ Attract youth to the coffee industry and provide decent employment opportunities
- ❖ Reduce the transactional costs of farmers and increase the profits of coffee farmers

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