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CLIMATE AND SUSTANABLE AGRCULTURE

To assist its coffee producers in increasing their annual yields, Bukonzo Joint Cooperative's management will help its members master the use of organic manure. Over the last 10 years, coffee yields have reduced to less than 2kg of fresh cherry per plant, due to lack of proper, required nutrients in the soil because of erosion and the effects of climate change.

THE STEPS TO BE FOLLOWED

1. Control water and soil erosion
2. Train our farmers to make the appropriate compost manure which will have all the soil nutrients required.
3. Support our farmers in planting and maintaining coffee shade trees which have been destroyed over the last 10 years. The effect of the loss of the shade trees is that Bukonzo Joint farmers are now seeing the consequences of climate change.
4. Other methodology will follow to support farmers in climate change adoption

VISIT TO PERU IN LATIN AMERICA

Recently, Mr. Paineto Baluku, the Managing Director of Bukonzo Joint Cooperative, visited farmers in Peru with four other delegates from Africa and two from Twin Trading in the UK.

To inform Bukonzo Joint Cooperative members about what he learned on the trip, the Managing Director called together farmers delegates and the co-op's staff for three days of meetings which started on 21st March 2013. In the meetings he discussed what he saw and learned, and the methods that can be beneficial to Bukonzo farmers if put in practice.

After his presentation farmers delegates and the staff came up with the following strategy;

- Bukonzo Joint Cooperative will build one organic compost plant system to help farmers get ready-made manure for use immediately.

- The Coffee Rehabilitations programme will start as soon as Bukonzo get funds to support coffee farmers via long term loans. The project will offer three years of credit to farmers who will agree to stamp their coffee. This credit will enable parents to pay some necessary expenses, such as their children's school fees .
- There will also be a focused effort made to develop a youth programme. Bukonzo Joint will make it a priority to motivating the young people to participate in these efforts.

DID YOU KNOW? BUKONZO JOINT OWEMBA COFFEE'S EXCELLENT CUPPING SCORES

Bukonzo Joint Owemba coffee is one of the best quality coffees on the world market! Bukonzo Joint coffee cupping for the 2012-13 season has achieved 85% from Atlas, the Seattle, USA coffee buyer.

Bukonzo Joint Cooperative is now sensitizing all coffee stakeholders in the importance of maintaining this quality so that the co-op's coffee remains competitive in both micro and mini washing stations in every village and parish where we have operations. The co-op strongly encourages its members to work hand in hand with local government officials, especially NAADS, and other stakeholders in government to support the campaigns of organic and quality issues within our work place.

THE COFFEE VALUE CHAIN STARTS AT THE NURSERY

In order to have quality coffee, the work must start at the nursery bed. Bukonzo Joint is managing its own coffee nursery beds in Bukonzo County, Kasese District to ensure coffee qualities to its members.

Through this initiative Bukonzo Joint is working with Hima cement to distribute new seedlings to farmers so that :

- a) Farmers receive improved quality seedlings which will grow faster, then give improved yield. This results in good quality coffee that in turn leads to high levels of production, which gives farmers increased income.
- b) Bukonzo Joint field staff will support the best agricultural practices which, will help farmers increase yield on existing land to increase farmers income

THE KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The project's key objectives are to improve productivity, improve the quality of the coffee and its grade, and increase production – to ensure high incomes for our coffee farmers. This will in turn improve their standard of living and the community at large.

DID YOU KNOW? BUKONZO JOINT COFFEE FARMERS BUILD SURGERY THEATRE!

Over 3800 coffee of our farmers, 85% of whom are women, have received Fair-trade certification and 1500 farmers have received USDA Organic certification. This is a great advance for all of our farmers.

As coffee from Bukonzo Joint Cooperative has started attracting premium prices, farmers have made the following proposals;

- First priority: Health center be built since most of co-op's farmers are women paying heavy bills for medicine to other hospitals, we requested that the local government of Kyarumba sub county work in partnership, the theater construction is now at the ring beam stage.

- Second priority: Building community coffee micro washing stations. Farmers proposed that since our washed coffee is attracting higher prices --including +Fair-trade, +Organic, and + quality -- 21 micro stations have been constructed, and more are in process.

GOOD NEWS – RICH COFFEE HARVEST COMING FROM UGANDA IN COMING SEASON!

From the March 25 edition of Uganda's New Vision newspaper:

"Heavy rains in Uganda are expected to produce a rich coffee harvest between June and September and could see the country beat its export forecast of 3 million 60-kg bags for the 2012/2013 season, according to a senior industry official. Weather forecasters in Africa's No.1 coffee exporter have said most parts of the country will experience above normal rains between March and May after a dry spell in the first two months of the year. "These rains should guarantee a bumper crop between June and September," said David Muwonge, marketing and production manager at the National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises (NUCAFE). "In those months harvesting will be underway in western and southwestern regions and I think we're likely to see a significantly high yield from those areas. Healthy rains at this stage will help beans to form and mature well and I am actually confident that if these rains continue as predicted this season's output might exceed 3 million bags," Muwonge said .