

Project Title: Sustainable Coffee Production and Income Diversification in Bigasa Sub-County in the Masaka District, Uganda

Location: Bigasa Sub County, Masaka District
 • Production of about 730 MT Kiboko
 • Smallholder production systems
 • Altitude around 1,200 m

Project Partners: International Coffee Partners GmbH (ICP)
 German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
 United States Agency for International Development USAID
 Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCD)
 Ibero (Uganda) Ltd.

Project Duration: 3 Years
 from 07/2004 to 07/2007

Project Value: EURO 650.000
 of which ICP contributes 36%, USAID/APEP 21%, GTZ 22%, Ibero and the farmers 12%, UCDA 8%



Problem Description: Coffee production is the main income source for smallholders in Bigasa sub county, who on average have farm sizes of about 1-2 ha. The production system is the “African Garden” and in addition to coffee, other cash crops, such as maize, cotton, matooke and fruits are grown. The fact that coffee wilt disease has hit the area with the damage having been extensive has led to a decreasing interest in cultivating coffee. Application of agricultural farm inputs is very low and the farmers’ level of education and agronomic know how rather limited resulting in fairly low yields. While coffee production practices are moderately implemented by the farmers the post harvest processing generally tends to decrease the quality of the coffee. Basic social infrastructure is deficient and the rural health service only provides basic medical assistance while inhabitants do not have access to potable water.

Project Approach: The project aims at improving the living conditions of organised small-scale coffee farmers and their families with the objective of increasing the farm income through sustainable coffee farming and promotion of other promising crops. To this end, the quality of the Kiboko will be raised and the farmers will apply enhanced husbandry techniques. Together with the strengthening of organizational structures and the establishment of comprehensive business management capacity, this will improve the marketing options for the farmers and raise the producers’ income. By linking the farmers to the market the coffee flow will become more efficient and product quality will be financially rewarded. Through an Internal Control System and the provision of an extension system, training will be provided to farmer groups and continuous learning established.

Beneficiaries: Direct beneficiaries are about 2500 coffee farmers and their families forming the project's core target group. Additionally, further inhabitants of the community of Bigasa benefit indirectly from project work.

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