



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

ON

**STRATEGIES AND NEW STEPS TOWARDS INCREASED PRODUCTION OF COFFEE FOR
EXPORT**

WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON NATIONAL TARGETS AND NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH VIETNAM

**Distinguished Guests,
Fellow Countrymen,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I greet you all on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

We have convened this Press Conference with the main objective of informing the general public about new strategies and steps being taken to increase production of coffee for export with special focus on new partnerships, particularly with the

As you may all know, in April of 2017, His Excellency the President of Uganda launched the coffee sub-sector roadmap with a national target of reaching 20 million bags of coffee exported per year by 2025.

Coffee was also maintained among the 12 Priority Commodities in the Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan and the National Development Plan that was designed to guide Uganda's development to Middle Income Status.

This prioritisation by Government has contributed to growth in both quantity and quality of Coffee Exported from Uganda thereby creating more jobs and creating more wealth for our people.

By 2014, Coffee generated over \$410.1 million which is 31.7% of the agricultural export revenues and maintained its position as the biggest agricultural export from Uganda with fish and fish products in second position, having generated over \$134.8 million which is 10.4% of the total.

Due this continued support and prioritisation of the sub-sector by Government through the Ministry and Agencies led by the Uganda Coffee Development Authority, Coffee fetched over \$492 million in the last Financial Year alone.

This represents a 19.9% increase in value of exports between 2014 and now.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries remains committed to leading this drive through promotion of production of coffee in the country and forging strategic partnerships with nations that have exhibited exemplary progress in exporting coffee.

More recently, the Ministry has been seeking official collaboration with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam which is known to have experienced an increase in coffee exports from less than 2 million bags in 1991 to 27.5 million bags per year, making the Coffee subsector in Vietnam worth US Dollars 3.2 Billion.

The Ministry was represented in the bi-lateral engagements with Vietnam by Hon. Christopher Kibanzanga the State Minister for Agriculture who was accompanied by Board Chairman and Director for Development Services of the Uganda Coffee Development Authority which is the Coffee subsector Agency of the Ministry.

During the engagements that went on from the 18th to the 24th of March 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Uganda was signed.

The Memorandum of Understanding which was signed by the State Minister from MAAIF and Mr. Le Quoc Doanh the Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development covers 14 main areas in the broad categories of Coffee production, animal health and Plant Protection:

- exchange of technicians and researchers
- study and elaboration of projects of technical assistance
- exchange of scientific and technical information in the field of agricultural research conducted in the two countries
- training involving courses, seminars, study tours and other necessary professional training
- utilization of laboratory facilities involving the participation of private institutions in the area of livestock and plant protection
- exchange of programs for the improvement of animal and plant production and soil fertility, storage and processing
- market development and the promotion of international trade relations.
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- market development and the promotion of international trade relations.

While Government continues to engage such partners with the guidance of the vision of **“A Competitive, Profitable and Sustainable Agricultural Sector”** more emphasis is going to be put on the following areas to boost coffee production.

1. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries is stepping up efforts towards promoting increased availability and access to Water for Agricultural Production. This is being undertaken through the newly-instituted Department of Agricultural Infrastructure, Mechanisation and Water for Agricultural Production. This Department is nearing completion of new irrigation models for Coffee and the work done through the same Department will be supported by Senior Agricultural Engineers who are currently being recruited in every District.

2. The Ministry will also reinforce promotion of appropriate use of fertilisers to increase productivity of Coffee. From experience in economies that are performing better, application of fertilisers can double the productivity per tree of Coffee. Fertiliser use in Uganda is currently estimated at about 4 kilograms per hectare, while in Vietnam it was reported to be about 1,200 kilograms per hectare.
3. We are also stepping up sensitisation of farmers through the Agricultural Extension System that now covers more sub-counties across the country. As earlier communicated, the Ministry has so far recruited 3,811 out of the initial target of 5000 extension workers across the country. The current extension worker to farming household ratio is about 1:1800. This is an improvement from the initial ratio of 1:5000 in the 2014/15 at the time of reform. The internationally accepted ratio is 1:500.
4. We have also stepped up training and agricultural education through institutions like Bukalasa Agricultural College, the National Farmers Leadership Centre (NFLC) and District Agricultural Training and Information Centres.

As I conclude, I call upon farmers to work closely with the agricultural extension officers and to join registered farmer groups so as to benefit from bulk marketing, bulk selling and enhanced access to Government services and projects.

This campaign for increasing coffee exports will continue through the above steps and more programmes being rolled out in partnership with the media and development partners.

I thank you,

For God and my Country.

Hon. Vincent Bamulangaki Ssempijja (MP)

Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries