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Photo source: internet.

Speciality Coffee Players Set To Form A Club

Plans are under way by industry players in specialty coffees to form a common body. This follows a series of meetings held at Silver Springs Hotel, in Bugolobi, Kampala during the official end of CBI project support to the members. In an effort to stay networked and working together towards harmonized market visibility, the players have thrown their weight behind forming a platform.

Uganda Coffee federation was unanimously agreed upon to host the startup activities as members set up to achieve this milestone. "I feel that time has come for us to work together as partners as opposed to competitors so as gain from our effort and make the best of Uganda's best coffees visible on the world market" remarked the interim team leader.

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Uganda Coffee Market Watch

Both Arabica and Robusta are on the market. Robustas are largely coming from the central and Busoga regions. Masaka and Luwero sending higher volumes. However, there are moisture issues but this cautioned by fairly good and improving outturns of 75- 80%. Prices as per 29th November were oscillating between 5500-5800UGx/per Kilo for FAQ in Kampala. Drugar 6800- 7200UGx/per Kilo coming from Kasese, Bunyaruguru and Rukungiri. Elgon region is also steadily bringing parchment.

Currency Markets



The Uganda shilling continued to slide touching the lowest level of 3,600shs seen in the recent past undermined by string corporate demand, energy sector and telecoms. The markets shrugged off Bank of Uganda (BoU) intervention early in the week. BoU also auctioned the Treasury Bills and mopped up the targeted amount of shs 165b.

Agriculture Ministry Gets A New Ps



Vincent Rubarema (right) hands over to the new Permanent Secretary Peter Wakabi Kasajja in Entebbe, Nov 22. Centre is Hon. Vincent Sempijja.

(Photo credit; ucda)

St Lawrence Appreciated For Hosting The International Coffee Day.



Tanzania Taste of Harvest



Tanzania hosted the second Taste of Harvest with coffee available to buy at auction. We found to following:

Out of the 37 lots entered, 35 contained a primary defect or more than five secondary defects and so would not qualify as speciality coffee. Primary defects included fungus and server insect damage. The majority of secondary defects included; partial sour, immature, slight fungus damage, broken & chipped and slight insect damage. We could not disqualify 35 of the entrants based on defect count and so cupped all the lots.

In the top cups we found unique flavours

however, in the majority, flavours were masked by defects. The defects caused uniformity issues with high instances of grassy, earthy and straw like flavours.

We compared competition samples with a selection of higher quality direct export coffees. We found the samples entered to the competition were of a similar standard and better than most direct export lots.

The majority of the Tanzanian crop is sold as commercial quality and the good qualities blended. We have shown there

are coffees with unique flavours which could be sold as speciality if more attention to detail is placed on post harvest quality improvement techniques and pest control.

Tanzania urgently needs to invest in improving quality in order to compete with it's neighbours. This presents a tremendous opportunity to grow the total value of the industry. (story by AFCA)

Kenya's coffee thefts blamed on organised cartels, some ends up in Uganda.

Coffee production supports 600,000 Kenyan farmers but their livelihoods are being threatened by a spate of robberies

Photograph: Thomas Mukoya/Reuters

Martin Kamai, a coffee farmer in rural Kenya, was sound asleep when the thieves broke into his warehouse. The 20 armed men jumped the gate, tied up the security guards and escaped with 100 bags of coffee beans – all of Kamai's harvest.



The 29-year-old from Nyeri in central

Kenya is just one of thousands of farmers affected by the country's growing wave of coffee theft. According to Kenya's Coffee Directorate, more than 30,000 kilos of coffee have gone missing since the start of 2016, costing the industry hundreds of thousands of dollars. Escalating robbery is not only threatening the farmers' livelihoods but also international brands that may be re-selling stolen coffee without knowing it.

According to Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, coffee production declined by 16% in 2015 compared to 2011 as farmers sold their lands for construction or switched to more profitable crops. This year, Kenya's coffee yields are expected to drop even lower due to poor weather. Faced with high prices but little produce, greedy merchants are resorting to theft.

Organised cartels

But they are not amateurs, says Esther Murugi Mathenge, a member of parliament for Nyeri, the region witnessing the most coffee thefts.

These criminal groups enter storage facilities at night-time and can be violent. A security guard was recently brutally murdered while trying to protect coffee stock. Thieves then take the bags to a mill to be processed before smuggling the coffee to neighbouring Uganda, or taking it for sale at a Nairobi auction.

Kenya's directorate of criminal investigations has intensified its efforts to find the culprits, auditing millers and looking for consignments that don't match

a particular farm's capacity. But local authorities accuse police officers of being complicit. "It's worrisome that thieves can escape when there are police stationed on the roads [surrounding the storage facilities]," says Murugi.

Farmers say coffee regulations are working against them. Kenya's law makes it easy for moneyed middlemen to trade coffee but almost impossible for small-scale farmers to mill or sell their own beans. (story by Laura Secorun of the guardian newspaper)

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Theo Walcott targets 10 goals before Christmas and coffee machine present

Guardian sport Monday 28 November 2016



Theo Walcott celebrates scoring against Bournemouth. Photograph: Clive Rose/Getty Images

Theo Walcott Arsenal player has set himself the target of 10 goals before Christmas, and the bonus of a coffee machine from his wife, if he can net one more before 25 December following his goal against Bournemouth at the Emirates on Sunday.

Speaking after the Gunners' latest Premier League victory, Walcott explained: "I want to get 10 [goals] so I can get a coffee machine for Christmas from my wife. She said 'if you get 10 goals before Christmas I'll buy you this coffee machine'. So I can't wait for that and hopefully it will happen. (Story from guardian)

Conferences And Workshops



- SEATINI in partnership with “the Hub” and Ministry of EAC Affairs has organized the EAC Common Market implementation update meeting on 1st Dec,2016.
- Uganda Shippers Council held a full day workshop on 25th November 2016 at Imperial Royale Hotel, where there was a review of the Northern Corridor 2014 - 2016 enhancements that have taken place in in Port, Transit and Customs Services.
- Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) organized an insolvency week from 14th to 15th November 2016. During these 2 days, URSB offered advisory Services to all stakeholders.
- High level end of year coffee sector dinner aimed at strengthening PPP at Kampala Serena Hotel.