

Concept Dossier

**6th Uganda Coffee Day 2015
1st October 2015**

**Great Lakes Agricultural Development Farm
aka
GLAD FARM LTD
Kapeka – Nakaseke District**

**Theme: “Focus on Production and Productivity: The Coffee Sector
at the Climate Change Front Line”**

I. INTRODUCTION

Coffee production in Uganda has been one of the major economic activities among the rural population. Besides production, an estimated 70 per cent of the world’s coffee production comes from small-scale producers in an industry with over 25 million growers. If you also include coffee harvesters, processors, and industry workers, the total is closer to 100 million people whose livelihoods depend on the crop in some way¹. Coffee is a big business with a high concentration of youths not only at the aggregation stage but also at value addition.

However, climate change has added new dimensions and challenges in the coffee sub-sector. The forces that shape climate are also critical to coffee production and productivity. Elevated temperatures, droughts, floods and abnormal weather have been causing changes in the ecosystem balance, particularly in mode of production, seasonality, pests and diseases behaviors and occurrence among others. The link especially between climate change and pest/disease scenarios are not well known, and much less known are adaptation options that may be adopted by agricultural policy makers and farmers to reduce vulnerability.

Relatively high investments have been made into the coffee sector however little has been done to date to support climate adaptation along entire value chain. Yet to secure sustainable investments in value chain development, decision-makers at all levels in the public and private sectors need to ensure that climate risks are managed not just at the

¹ Martha Caswell and others: Food security and smallholder coffee production: current issues and future directions (The University of Vermont, 2012)

production level, but also throughout the entire value chain, from production through marketing to the final consumer. This is particularly relevant for commodity-dependent developing countries, such as Uganda.

Against this backdrop, this Coffee Day will bring together experts on climate change, pests and disease management, including national partners to discuss how the coffee industry, farmers in particular, can cope with the challenges brought about by climate change amidst the growing demand for coffee at both the national and global arena.

Another area will be to know what actions, measures and strategies can be jointly pursued to secure the livelihoods of farmers and maintain food security under climate change.

The Coffee Day will consist mainly of presentations and discussions from the model farmers especially those in the Climate Change Project, and guided tour of GLAD Farm.

II. Purpose

To enhance the capacity of coffee stakeholders and other policymakers in obtaining reliable climate change information, interpretation of risks, application of resulting knowledge for mainstreaming climate change adaptation in coffee sectoral planning and ability to choose suitable mitigation measures.

This coffee Day aims to:

- Share evidence and experience on climate-smart agriculture among stakeholders from research, practice and policy that will lead to successful adaptation programs and measures across key vulnerable areas and stakeholders;
- Create awareness of the tools, methods and policies available to assess the impacts of climate change on agriculture and key adaptation strategies and modify them according to the specific needs of countries.

III. Desired Outcomes

The event will have the following outputs based on presentations and discussions during the workshop:

- Raised awareness and enhanced understanding of synergies and trade-offs associated with Coffee Sector and the value of integrating research, practice and policy dimensions
- Improved capacity of participants to acquire and analyze necessary climate information, design and implement climate change adaptation measures at all sectoral level;
- Identification of appropriate impact assessment tools and adaptation action plans;
- Process for developing adaptation strategies that will reduce the vulnerability of coffee farmer especially in regard to losses due to drought, pests and diseases.

- Policy statements by senior officials and summary of proceedings.

IV. ACTIVITIES

- Presentations from selected speakers;
- Promoting coffee consumption – serving coffee to not only participants but other people as well;
- Exhibition from various stakeholders;
- Guided tour of GLAD Farm;
- Other activities by Youth club entertainment programmes.

VII. CONCLUSION

Climate change is now a reality and is impacting on the production, productivity, livelihoods of farmers, return on investment of traders and consequently the economy of Uganda in general.

It is critical to share evidence and experience on climate-smart agriculture among stakeholders from research, practice and policy that will lead to successful adaptation programs and measures across key vulnerable areas at the grassroot levels including other stakeholders in order to restore the coffee industry to its former glory.