



FIELD REPORT

ON

**DIALOGUE WITH THE WOMEN FARMERS, COFFEE COOPERATIVES, AND
RESPONSIBLE MINISTRIES ON THE COFFEE SECTOR AND THE COFFEE MOU**

Conducted on 13th -17th JUNE 2022

1. BACKGROUND

Agriculture is one of the most important sectors of the Ugandan economy, approximately employing 72% of the workforce. Relatedly, women constitute 70% of the agricultural labor force.

As the country is heading towards agro-industrialization, there are demands by the government for commercialized agriculture, and we are witnessing an increase in large-scale agricultural production being practiced by large foreign companies. These companies have benefited from incentives such as land, and tax waivers among others.

Whereas we welcome foreign investors into the country, the smallholder farmers have continuously become marginalized hence putting the country at risk of food security.

2. ABOUT THE COFFEE SECTOR.

Coffee plays a leading role in the livelihood of Ugandans and contributes substantially to the national economy. Nearly 42% of farming households grow some coffee and coffee has contributed an average of 30% to the country's foreign exchange earnings over the past 20 years. It is for this reason that the Government of Uganda regards coffee as a strategic commodity whose development should be accelerated to enhance agricultural production and productivity.

Coffee growing in Uganda is being practiced across the different regions of Uganda especially in the Central, Western, South-Western (*produce both Robusta and Arabica*), Northern comprising Mid-North (*produce Robusta*), and North-Western region (*produce Arabica & Robusta*) and Eastern regions comprising Busoga regions (*produce Robusta*) and Mountain Elgon region (*produce Arabica*). This shows that a huge populace of the country is surviving on Coffee farming and production. It also means that the country cannot afford to make mistakes with such a rich source of income which is not only supporting the country's export but the farmers and their households.

The major actors in the coffee value chain range from researchers-seed suppliers' nursery operators-farmers (farmer organizations)-traders-processors (processor & traders'

association)-exporters (exporter association) to Buyers Abroad-retail markets. In terms of market channels, some farmers sell to small middlemen while others sell directly to coffee-buying storemen. Farmer organizations/cooperatives sell directly to exporters.

Even though coffee plays a major role in the country, it has not gotten much attention or has not been discussed widely on the country's agenda, many people lack information on what is happening in the sector. There is a need to awaken the debate and voice of coffee farmers to inform national discussions and agendas.

3. ABOUT COFFEE IN MUBENDE AND MBALE

Mbale district is recognized as one the biggest coffee-producing districts specifically Arabic coffee growing best on the slopes of Mount Elgon and Mount Rwenzori. On the other hand, Mubende district is known for crowning Robuster Coffee. It also harbors the is the only large-scale coffee farm in Uganda, located about 200 km west of the capital, Kampala. The landscape consists of picturesque rolling hills, flanked by two large papyrus swamps, which are typical for this region.

4. THE UGANDA- VINCI COFFEE AGREEMENT

On 10th February 2022, the Government of Uganda represented by the finance minister Matia Kasaija signed an investment agreement with Uganda Vinci Coffee Company Limited UVCC represented by Ms. Enrica Pinetti the Board chairperson of the company. The agreement is in respect to a project implementation agreement Dated 29th April 2015 Addendum N0.1 thereof dated 21 December 2015 and Addendum No.2 thereto dated 17 October 2017.

The controversial agreement triggered debates across the country among the different stakeholders including CSOs, Coffee cooperatives, the private sector, and Coffee value chain actors among others. As a result, the agreement was sent to the committee of trade for investigation, and are expected to report to the House after 45 days.

The committee however has recommended the government reconsider terminating the agreement. The country is yet to see the decision by the government.

5. PURPOSE OF THE DIALOGUE MEETING

Action Aid International Uganda, FRA, and SEATINI Uganda have been engaging in the Coffee MOU and managed to mobilize other CSOs and players in the coffee sector to put up a position paper. The paper was tabled before the parliamentary committee on trade. It is on this basis that Action Aid, FRA, and SEATINI took the discussion to the grassroots with the women coffee farmers and Cooperatives.

The dialogue was to create a platform first for the women farmers planting and selling coffee, especially women coffee farmers, Coffee cooperatives to document their voices on the coffee sector, Coffee MOU deal and disseminate findings with the responsible ministries.

The meeting also created a platform for the coffee women farmers to share their perspectives, views, and recommendations that will inform our next engagements with the coffee cooperatives, ministry of finance, ministry of trade, and Parliamentary committee on trade to inform their next engagements with the investor. This is to promote participation and inclusiveness from the farmers themselves.

6. FOCUS OF THE MEETING

The meeting was conducted to interrogate and learn more about the women's everyday experiences in coffee farming, understand the Uganda-Vinci Coffee agreement and dynamics associated with the cause of farming and business, government support rendered, and document their voices to inform decision-making at national levels.

The conversation aimed at engaging the community in a process of co-creating pathways toward a better coffee sector and sustainable solutions towards challenges in coffee farming.

7. METHODOLOGY USED

The team conducted two dialogue meetings in Mubende and Mbale bringing on board 50 stakeholders comprising Women coffee farmers and women coffee farmer groups, representatives from Coffee corporative, and district officials.

A courtesy call meeting was done at the district in the production office to introduce the team and the intention for the dialogue meeting.

The meeting also adopted one on one interviews with 8 women

8. COMPLEX NARRATIVES

Coffee is power, coffee is life, coffee is my everything, coffee is in my blood, taking away coffee is taking life, coffee speaks, you can't farm coffee without a passion, Coffee speaks.

9. GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What do coffee farmers feel about coffee farming?
2. Do coffee farmers have any challenges in the sector?
3. Is the government giving any help to the coffee farmers?
4. How can the coffee sector be made better for the local farmers?
5. Do the coffee farmers know about the Uganda Vinci MOU and what do they know about it?
6. What do they feel about the MOU?

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Sentimental attachment to coffee

QN. What do coffee farmers feel about coffee farming?

a) Source of livelihood

Coffee plays a leading role in the livelihood of Ugandans and contributes substantially to the national economy. In that regard, Coffee farming remains the main source of livelihood among the women interviewed in Mubende and Mbale. Most of them started coffee farming around 2006 and are farming up to date. Others were introduced to coffee nursery beds by UCDA. Some of the women hail from a coffee farming background which has inspired them to continue with coffee farming.

To these women, coffee is their life as they depend on it for anything including the source of income for medical bills, education, daily meals, and clothing among others. Others termed coffee as life and everything that they have.

One lady in Mubende said:

"To me coffee is power, if it were not for coffee, I couldn't afford to pay tuition for my children, but because of coffee I have a daughter in S.4 at Gayaza high school, one in S.2 in Budo and another in Homisderlin, one day in life I want to buy a car and put a sticker saying COFFEE IS POWER, People should not play around with coffee".

According to the women, coffee growing runs in their blood. Most of them came from a coffee-growing family background. Their parents had the opportunity to educate them, feed them, and clothe them because of coffee.

One lady in Mbale said,

"Our father did not go to school, he had 37 children but of this 27 are graduates"

The Women in both Mubende and Mbale noted that a person cannot start coffee farming if he or she does not have a passion for coffee. A person without passion can easily mismanage the coffee right from the plantation up to the sale. ***They also stated that we should know***

that coffee speaks. At every moment if you do the wrong thing, it will speak. Failure to handle it well in the garden gives you bad coffee beans, failure to handle it well after harvest destroys the aroma, and failure to roast it well spoils the aroma at the end a person can tell the mistake in the coffee and that's how coffee speaks.

One lady mentioned those coffee takers (drinkers) are passionate about coffee and they are so attached to it to the extent that a person can decide which brand of coffee they want to take, either from Uganda or German.

b) Created opportunity for women to buy property

Coffee is a perennial crop that requires a large piece of land for one to make a good harvest. In most cases, it is intercropped with staple food crops: bananas, beans, groundnuts, and shade trees. Intercropping enables households to meet their basic food requirements and generate cash income from their coffee and bananas. Intercropping makes a farming system more resilient, especially at low farming intensities.

Most of the women noted that they started coffee farming on a rented piece of land, while others were on their small piece of land of about 1 -2 acres. They also informed us that together with their husbands, they have been able to purchase more acres of land where they are now producing food like maize, beans, G. nuts among others.

Do coffee farmers have any challenges in the sector?

Farming coffee can mean living an uncertain life filled with coffee production challenges therefore there are numerous obstacles to overcome before the beans have even left their countries of origin.

Failure by UCDA to collect seedlings/supply this session.

Some of the women coffee farmers were introduced to coffee farming by UCDA. These women were introduced to producing seedlings in the nursery bed. UCDA has always collected seedlings every session (March-May) (Sept-Nov) and has supplied them to other coffee growers.

However according to the women, since this year 2022 started, UCDA has not collected seedlings from the farmers north in Mbale and Mubende. The farmers have not been given any reason by UCDA as to why they have not been able to collect the seedlings. Most of them however believed that it could be a result of the VINCI-Uganda MOU.

The women in Mubende and Mbale also mentioned that they have made a lot of investments in farming seedlings including borrowing loans to be able to pay workers, buy pesticides, and conduct irrigation on the nursery beds. To them, the failure of UCDA to communicate on the issue is challenging as they are left in dilemma.

A lady in Mubende stated that: "*We have seedlings in nursery beds, and the government had been buying these seedlings every year to supply other farmers whose gardens were ready and they are used to receiving seedlings. Now you wake up all of a sudden and UCDA has not collected the seedlings and are quiet*"

Delay in payment by UCDA

The women in Mubende and Mbale mentioned that UCDA always collects their seedlings but does not pay them immediately. Those payments have always affected us even after one or one and a half years. The challenge that is associated with this method of payment is that in most cases the women end up with debts that are paid back with interest the moment UCDA pays them back.

However, they also noted that UCDA always pays them regardless of the period they take to pay back.

Fluctuating prices

The coffee sector is prone to systemic risk and price shocks, occasioned by forces of demand and supply. Another challenge that the women coffee farmers in Mbale and Mubende are confronted with is fluctuating prices. According to the women, the price of coffee is not constant as it depends on harvest and supply in a particular session. So far a kilogram of Coffee beans goes for **4000/=** in Mubende while in Mbale it is at **7000/=** depending on the circumstances. The people of Mbale especially in Bududa feel that the middlemen are cheating them because of the poor road infrastructures.

Poor roads

According to the women in Mbale and Mubende, if only they had better roads they would be able to transport their coffee beans to the cooperatives or any other buyer that would give them a higher purchase price. It was also found that because of bad roads, some of the coffee beans get wasted on the road due to rain which delays transportation for almost 2 days.

Producers not consumers

The coffee-drinking culture in the community is not clear. A significant gap between local coffee consumption and the amount of coffee exported shows that farmers and the general public lose out on coffee nutrition benefits.

Linked to concerns over price and quality is the fact that many producers are unable to value their coffee in the same way that buyers and consumers do. This can make it difficult to both improve farming methods and negotiate with buyers.

One lady explained that the farmers are primarily focused on their basic needs so that they can survive from day to day, as a result, they are not even consumers of their products but they focus on how much they will earn at the end of the sale.

Climate Change

A certain amount of rain is needed to help coffee plants. Currently, climate change is leading to rising temperatures and new rainfall patterns. Producers have no power over changes in the environment. Very few coffee farmers have been able to irrigate and artificially feed their trees, but the vast majority of the producers are at the mercy of Mother Nature, and there's very little they can do to alleviate the problem of a lack of water. However, heavy rain can also present problems too. Rain during harvest is problematic for farmers who rely on the sun upon to dry their beans.

Pests and diseases

According to the women in Mubende and Mbale, disease and pest infestations are always hovering though with the new method of planting (cutting) the level of pests and diseases is reducing.

Is the government giving any support to the coffee farmers?

Farmers acknowledged government help and support for the coffee farming community as well as processing singling out the following;

- Allowing farmers to sell their coffee in dollars has made farmers rich. This was the single most important freedom all farmers agreed on but were scared Vinci might jeopardize this hard-earned progress.
- Increased support in irrigation due to climate change. The implementation is through the matching grant model, with individual beneficiary farmers contributing 25% while the government will provide 75%, which should not exceed Shs. 40m of total investments.

The women noted that UCDA made the irrigation scheme easy for them since the government and the farmers share the cost of the irrigation scheme. One lady mentioned that her irrigation was costing 23m but she paid only 5.6m and the rest of the cost was catered for by the government. However, the women alluded to the fact that not all coffee farmers are benefiting from the irrigation scheme.

That the process of registration for the irrigation scheme is not known by some of the farmers hence they have not been beneficiary of it. Besides the process was given priority to nursery operators over those with the coffee gardens.

- Provision of agricultural extension services. The farmers also alluded to the fact that UCDA has tried its best to train them on how to handle their nursery gardens and the district leadership has been of help to them too.

- Provision of peace and security etc. the women also believe that the existence of peace and security has created enabling environment for them to carry out their coffee activities.
- Created markets and spaces for them. The women especially in Mbale noted that they have been able to travel the world because of the opportunities that have been created for them by the government to showcase their products.

How can the coffee sector be made better for the local farmers?

There is no easy solution to the challenges that women coffee farmers are confronted with. But as consumers, buyers, and roasters, we need to ask for more than a cup of coffee. We can choose where we spend our money and ask how much producers are paid and protected. The women coffee farmers, therefore, made the following resolution;

Capacity and knowledge building among farmers.

Greater education regarding how best to use the land and regenerate crops may help to boost coffee production in the future. The women and their leaders mentioned that most coffee farmers need to know how to manage their land so that they don't fall into food insecurity. They should be taught land use management so that they practice farming for other food crops. There should be a need for continuous help from UCDA to communicate with farmers about policies related to coffee quality seed and collect seedlings from nursery bed farmers in time.

Branding of Uganda Coffee

There is a need to sloganize and promote local consumption through coffee days which can indirectly build momentum around coffee discussions. Uganda's coffee has its uniqueness which needs to be given a brand .eg Uganda Coffee or something else but should be able to differentiate Ugandan Coffee from other countries. This will improve market opportunities for Uganda.

Do the coffee farmers know about the Uganda Vinci MOU and what do they know about it?

On 10th February 2022, the Government of Uganda represented by Finance Minister Matia Kasaija signed an investment agreement with Uganda Vinci Coffee Company Limited UVCC represented by Ms. Enrica Pinetti the Board chairperson of the company. The agreement is in respect to a project implementation agreement Dated 29th April 2015 Addendum N0.1 thereof dated 21 December 2015 and Addendum No.2 thereto dated 17 October 2017.

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When asked about the Uganda Vinci Coffee MOU- the women in both Mubende and Mbale informed us that they do know about the MOU. The majority said they heard about the MOU from the Radio, TV, and from fellow coffee farmers.

Regarding what they know about the content of the MOU, the women had this to say:

- That the MOU was giving out all their coffee plantations and land to Vinci to carry out their activities.
- Vinci will be the sole coffee buyer in the country and will set the purchase price.
- All licenses of coffee middlemen will be canceled.
- Farmers referred to the MOU as a bill.

The women coffee farmers were asked to share their feelings about the MOU and these were their responses;

- It's okay for Vinci to be in business but should be like any other player and not be given any special attention.
- What is it that Vinci is bringing to the market that the local farmers and investors are not doing
- Government should give support to the local farmers to undertake what Vinci intends to do since some of the farmers are already processing their coffee.

- It's unfair to give Vinci all the tax incentives, and electricity discounts when the Ugandan farmers are not getting such benefits.
- It's unfair to give Vinci land yet the poor coffee farmers in the country are also looking for land to enhance their production.

A summary of major knowledge gaps and general assessment of farmers' views about the Uganda Vinci Coffee agreement identified included;

- Miss communication between the government, sector players, and farmers as many respondents referred to the agreement as a bill, others referred to it as an Act of parliament yet others refer to it as a law. Clarity was made and correct information was provided to the respondents.
- Unreliable knowledge on what and how the agreement can address the main issue it was fronted for by the government which is value addition. Government promotes value addition but through observation many farmers perceive it to be very sophisticated and there is a need to render it comprehensible and practical to them. The team identified entry points at primary processing levels of value addition and shared extensively with respondents.
- Experienced farmers and coffee processors who are the major stakeholders have never read or been briefed in detail about the agreement apart from hear-say on talk shows and at local ceremonies, among others. The team comprehensively explained the agreement and heard mostly positive feedback.

Secondly is the summary of major coffee value chain quality standards and trade obstacles:

- Unfavorable clauses in the coffee agreement that prioritizes supplying Uganda Vinci coffee company with superior quality coffee affect quality standards and fair competition for other stakeholders in the sector.
- Inadequate knowledge of primary and secondary value-addition practices was observed. Women farmers have very limited ability to engage in coffee value addition although it was observed that most farmers understand the implications of value

addition on boosting finances and profits from coffee. The team shared entry points on coffee value addition that farmers can utilize at primary processing.

- Low access to standards manuals both at primary and secondary processing where the issue of quality, safety, branding, documentation, etc. becomes a major huddle for traders dealing in coffee processing.

Additional Information Given

- Arabica is more expensive than robusta due to flavor quality and is the pride of the people from the East but there is a growing fear that farmers will abandon the coffee crop and resort to other seasonal crops that are not regulated this way with unclear agreements.
- The end implementers of government work are the district therefore on Uganda Vinci coffee agreement issues, the district is waiting for the government to pronounce its position after the three months it was given in which to respond. The district work will be the implement the agreement or not as per the central government pronouncement.
- We have produced coffee for ages and have local experienced coffee personnel but lack adequate infrastructure and machinery. Despite these hardships, they have contributed immensely to the Ugandan economy but the Uganda Vinci coffee agreement does not show how it's going to add value to Uganda's coffee, generate jobs or contribute to the national economy. Bugisu coffee cooperative union defines coffee as wealth. The cooperative is popular in the coffee business and also processes and sales coffee beverages branded as Elgon pride He noted;
- Bugisu is blessed with high altitude, the higher the farm the better the coffee and that's why our coffee from Bugisu is more expensive compared to robusta coffee. The difference in flavor and quality is due to many factors but majorly water and temperature. At higher altitudes, cooler temperatures slow down the growth rate of the coffee plant. At a slower growth rate, the plants focus more on reproduction.
- We process our coffee which is popular on the local market under the brand name of Elgon pride which comes in different varieties such as medium roast blend etc. We

ensure that only sorted and graded green coffee beans form the only ingredient in Elgon pride.

- Coffee sales through the union have extended grants to traditional schools. In fact funds from coffee, sales facilitated Uganda's independence from the colonialists but we don't know why the government is against the sector nowadays by imposing unfair agreements like the one for Uganda Vinci coffee agreement.
- The cooperative exports 80% and the remaining are for local consumption but the coffee-drinking culture in Uganda is either low or not promoted. There is a need to sloganize and promote local consumption.
- We like all individuals to enjoy the pleasure and peace of mind bought on by drinking high-quality arabica coffee to feel its stimulating and stress relieving attributes. Successes registered in coffee are many and so are gaps that need to be addressed, and these include;
- The deteriorating quality of Uganda's coffees limits our competitive advantages in the global market. Washing stations are not being utilized effectively which has left them decapitated. Poor practices by the middle men especially from West Nile who mix coffee from that area with our arabica since the two are quite similar. These adulteration practices compromise standards and trade.
- Un Reliable Communication between the government and other stakeholders on regulations and agreements confuses farmers. Coffee farming is energy and time intensive and needs a passion for a farmer to stay on track but the government is doing the contrary.
- Registration of coffee farms, Inspection, and certification is challenging for the coffee business and these need to be streamlined.
- The Transport system in the east is very challenging since the area is hilly and most farmers lack capable lorries to move their coffee and it's even worse on rainy days.
- Coffee farming is abandoned by youths resorting to boda-boda riding creating a labor imbalance in the agricultural sector. Others have engaged in unruly behavior.
- Women never rush while handling coffee at all stages. During harvest, women are keen to pick only the mature and ripe cherries which form the best flavor profiles,

hull well, and don't lump on crushing. Farmers should not rush for money by harvesting immature cherries because they crush during hulling and don't pulp well. Also, the flavor profile degrades and can't compete well on cupping tests and trade qualities.

- Government works with groups through the parish development model but getting genuine ones is next to impossible. Fraudsters are very alert, and connected and always apply first in every government program which is unfair to local farmers.
- Advisory services are not up to date sometimes in emerging areas affecting farmers such as climate change and how to use digital platforms for coffee monitoring, value addition as well as trade.
- Limited interaction between agricultural officers and farmers also limits knowledge transfer which is necessary for the identification of fake seeds, poor fertilizer, etc. I realized most farmers can't distinguish soil conditions from real fertilizers.

EXPERIENCE SHARING

Mrs. Priscilla a businesswoman and one of the proprietors of Murembe Kaffee shared her visions in the coffee trade noting that they buy coffee from farmers as long as it's of good quality and promote it on international markets. Also, participate in coffee tourism by barcoding stories of Ugandan coffee on the packages for the buyers in Europe to be able to trace its origin and possibly visit the gardens.

Ms. Scovia a coffee farmer identifies with coffee as the major cash crop in Bugisu especially for her from a polygamous family of more than 37 children that were all educated through school based on coffee sales from their family farm. She noted that the coffee harvest season is happy and indeed they are living healthy because of the coffee. Without coffee, we lose our sight. Any good thing does not come without challenges and this applies also to coffee where she said the following.

- We lack adequate information about the agreements and bills between the Uganda Vinci coffee government since no one has ever consulted farmers. Am against the agreement because the stories around it don't favor us.
- Delayed payment from coffee unions/ cooperatives and the government exposes vulnerable farmers to being exploited by middlemen who pay little cash.
- Climate change is also destructive to our farms and incomes.

Ms. Wandera Annet from Budadili shared her experience as a school dropout and a mother of six children whom she supported and paid school fees using income generated from coffee and now has 4 graduates noted the following;

- The government provides support to farmers in terms of tump-lines fertilizers etc. but is still inadequate and now it wants to give our coffee to Uganda Vinci coffee company. I feel we are losing all the benefits of coffee.
- Unclear sections and paragraphs in the proposed coffee agreement

Mr. Ronald highlighted the following issues;

- Recognized the team that is working on building the momentum around the contentious Vinci-Uganda coffee agreement emphasizing that even the colonial government did not negotiate deals of a kind.
- Uganda once upon a time almost lost its coffee but the government intervened and created elite coffee which came about after 1992 after coffee wilt disease had destroyed 80% of cultivars. National Agricultural Coffee Research Institute (Kituzu) established gardens to produce seeds for propagation and later use of cuttings started because the variability of the plant propagated from cuttings is minimal and quality products are ensured. Also, cuttings are high yielding and resistant to disease.
- Noted that not all women understand the Uganda Vinci coffee agreement and there was a need to explain the articles to them to empower their civic competence in agitating for better and clear reforms. Uganda Vinci agreement violates the rights of vulnerable farmers because they were left out.
- Shared information on coffee prices and indicated that unhulled beans (Kiboko) currently are costing 4,000/= and the hulled cherries cost 7,000/= (Kase) a kilo.
- Investors should compete for coffee purchases through auctions dictating on quality, quantity, delivery time, etc. but not through far-fetched agreements.

Mrs. Nampala Harriet a passionate certified coffee nursery bed operator and also working as the district chief financial officer considers coffee farming as her primary source of income that has largely contributed to all her family investments in other fields. She noted the following;

- Implications of the Uganda Vinci coffee agreement on nursery operators shall be dire. The wave is being felt already because for this season of Jan – May government has not bought any seedlings from us. The seedlings have grown in the beds and are drying up. Government buys coffee seedlings through UCDA but for this season we have been informed that the procurement was transferred to PDM.
- PDM requires farmers to form groups of 10-30 members and we have heard each parish shall receive 17 million which is very little compared to the amount of money

for example my group of around 150 farmers can earn from 3.5-4 billion a season. So the government can't send 15-100 million besides we have no agreements with PDM on how to access finances.

- Certificates for nursery operators are due for renewal but the process is not expedited as we expect this time around. Seedling/cuttings currently cost 1,500/= but the government has not ordered any yet and are drying up in the beds. The government encouraged the growing of coffee at a large scale with starting area of 5 arches and farmers responded to its request by preparing gardens for the next planting season, each hole is dug at 1,000/=, applied fertilizers and all that cost is likely to have no returns on investment if the government does don't make orders.

Mrs. Kyesimre Poddy is a coffee farmer and a wife to a more solid mother of six. Started coffee growing in the Kawadisa group and later separated establishing her coffee plantation from which she managed to construct her own house. Coffee and enable me to pay my children's school fees and buy additional land of 20 hectares to expand her family farm.

Other local success stories and views of women farmers in the coffee sector were recorded on camera throughout the dialogue and are evidence that coffee has been thrilling amidst the many challenges, only for the challenges to be acerbated by the Uganda Vinci coffee agreement.

Conclusion

It is pertinent that when the government is undertaking critical decision that affects the citizens, there must be transparency and a consultative process adopted so that the information is not miscommunicated to the citizens.

ANNEXURE 1: QUESTION GUIDE

SENTIMENTAL ATTACHMENTS TO COFFEE:

1. When did you start growing Coffee? And on how many pieces of land?
2. What does coffee mean to you?
3. How much do you produce and sell?
4. Where do you sell them from?
5. How much do you sell them for?
6. Do you receive help from the government in producing coffee?
7. Are there any problems met when producing coffee?
8. What is your dream for the coffee sector?
9. What do you need for your coffee dream to come through?
10. What message do you have for the government regarding coffee?

COFFEE MOU

1. Have you ever heard about the Uganda Vinci Coffee MOU?
2. If yes, what have you heard?
3. How do you feel about it?

IF NO IDEA ABOUT THE MOU: Tell them briefly about it and let them give their take on it.

ANNEXURE 2: PICTORIALS

Pictorial



Figure 1 Mubende women coffee farmers' dialogue meeting



Figure 3 coffee seedlings drying in the nursery beds



Figure 2 mbale women coffee farmers' dialogue meeting