

NUCAFE

**REPORT ON THE THIRD UGANDA NATIONAL COFFEE FARMERS'
CONVENTION HELD AT MANDELA NATIONAL STADIUM,
NAMBOOLE – 30TH JULY 2008**

BY

NUCAFE

National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises

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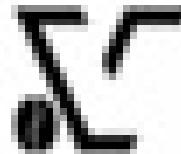
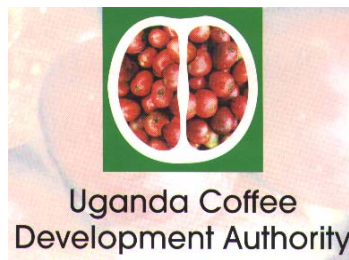
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Convention organized by the National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises (NUCAFE) and sponsored by ASPS DANIDA, Kyagalanyi Coffee Limited, NAADS, UCDA, Bank of Uganda and others, drew a record 3,225 participants including coffee farmers from 32 districts of Uganda, coffee traders, processors, exporters, roasters, agro-input dealers, policy makers, local leaders and other visitors some of whom came from as far as USA, UK and Belgium. It was preceded by the first one held in 2001 and the second in 2005. Such conventions are very beneficial to farmers as they give an opportunity for them to know the global coffee situation and also take stock of achievements made and challenges encountered.

The convention was officially opened by the Right Honorable Prime Minister of Uganda, Professor Apollo Nsibambi who was the Chief Guest. It was graced by other guests including three Honorable Ministers of State: for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries Hon. Bright K. Rwamirama; for Trade, Eng. Gaggawala Wambuzi; and for Finance in charge of Privatization, Hon. Rukia Chikamondo.

The function was also graced by the presence of the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sessional Committee on Agriculture, Hon. Olive Wonekha, other Honorable Members of Parliament, Diplomats, UCDA Managing Director, Mr. Henry Ngabirano and Officials from NAADS, Sector Ministries and Non-Government Organizations (NGO's).

By 8.00 am, coffee farmers had assembled at the venue. The promptness was a manifestation of the keen interest coffee farmers attached to the convention on one hand and excellent mobilization on the other. The meeting started at 10.00 a.m. with both the National and Buganda Anthems.

A questionnaire on the assessment of the effectiveness of radio programmes on coffee development was administered to the participants and data will be analyzed to provide a detailed report at a later stage.

The convention was complemented by an exhibition where companies and farmers showcased their products/services. Notable ones among others included: Kyagalanyi Coffee Ltd., Africa Coffee Academy, Balton (U) Ltd, Twiga Chemicals, 1000 Cups, Star Café Ltd., Brazafric, Techno Relief Services, NOGAMU, Centenary Bank and coffee associations.

2.0 WELCOME SPEECH BY THE NUCAFE CHAIRMAN HON. GERALD SENDAWULA

In his welcome speech to the coffee fraternity, after introducing the NUCAFE Board and the Executive Director, the Chairman, Hon. Gerald Sendaula, informed the delegates that that convention was the largest coffee forum in Africa. He pointed out that NUCAFE is represented in all coffee growing areas in Uganda. He explained that the major aim of NUCAFE is to empower coffee farmers to get more involved in the production and marketing of their coffee in order to improve their incomes. This, he emphasized, is in line with the 3rd convention's theme: **"Coffee is our shared business; together we enhance its sustainability"**. He reiterated that the vision of NUCAFE is: **"Coffee farmers profitably own their coffee along the value chain for sustainable livelihoods"**.

2.1 Objectives of the Convention

The Chairman enumerated the objectives of the Convention as follows: -

- To share what NUCAFE had achieved so that lessons learnt could be replicated in other areas.
- To dialogue on the future of the Uganda coffee sub-sector in view of the global and local challenges.
- To forge a way forward for the betterment of the current and future generations.
- To share information about the world market information.
- To restore hope in farmers that had been lost as a result of the coffee crisis.

2.2 Achievements of NUCAFE

- 125 coffee farmer organizations have been established and legally registered;

- Over 100,000 farming families with over 300,000 individual coffee farmers mobilized to enhance their capacity in adding value, improving quality and marketing coffee directly to exporters;
- The Farmer Ownership Model has been adopted to empower farmers to gradually expand their scope of responsibilities and activities in the coffee value chain, thus improving their farm incomes.
- NUCAFE Farmers have gradually moved away from selling unprocessed coffee to clean coffee (Fair Average Quality) thus receiving higher prices.
- Other countries have embraced the NUCAFE Farmer Ownership Model.

The Chairman urged farmers to assume more roles as emphasized in the Farmer Ownership Model so that they could be able to lead sustainable livelihoods.

He compared the Farmer Ownership Model to the cooperative movement where farmers used to surrender raw coffee to the cooperative societies and pointed out that the farmer can now own his/her coffee through the process of assuming more roles in the value chain to the time it is surrendered to the exporter. He also enumerated the advantages in benefiting from out turn.

He further explained that the Farmer Ownership Model encourages integration of other crops so that they can have income even when coffee is off season. He gave an example of a success story of the Home Improvement Project in Erussi Sub-county in Nebbi District where coffee farmers who had grass-thatched houses managed to acquire iron sheets in 42 households.

2.3 Challenges

He enumerated the current major challenges as:

- Farmers being offered the same price for the different quality standards;
- Lack of sustainable funding for coffee research especially for the urgent and critical multiplication of the 8 clonal varieties that are tolerant to the Coffee Wilt Disease;

- Lack of a national coffee policy to enable Uganda coffee to be more competitive in the World Market;
- Absence of a Uganda coffee standard which is up to date with the current market requirements (social, economic and environmental);
- Inadequate and incoherent regulatory and institutional framework for the coffee sub-sector that leaves out the key levels: research, farmers (production) and roasters;
- Declining volume and quality of coffee;
- Low domestic coffee consumption;
- Minimal effort in branding Uganda coffee.

2.4 Recommendations

With respect to the challenges enumerated above, the Chairman recommended the following:

- Need for government to develop a national coffee policy owned by all stakeholders.
- Amendment of the UCDA Statute in order to empower UCDA to apply the best regulatory practices and also fund coffee research, production and farmers' organizations and promotion.
- Development of a Uganda coffee standard as an integral part of the UCDA Statute.
- UCDA should ensure sustainable funding of research using cess
- Need for more funding for coffee replanting.
- Government urged to increase support to NUCAFE to popularize the Farmer Ownership Model.
- Government was urged to promote domestic coffee consumption.

For multiplication of the 8 CWD tolerant varieties, the NUCAFE Chairman appealed to the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to urgently avail funds.

In his concluding remarks, the Chairman thanked the NUCAFE Secretariat, sponsors, exhibitors, farmers and other guests after which he called upon Mr. Paschal Nyabuntu, a consultant who had carried out

a study on “Enhancing Competitiveness of Ugandan Coffee on the World market through Good Policy and Regulatory Framework”, to give a brief presentation of his findings.

3.0 ENHANCING COMPETITIVENESS OF UGANDAN COFFEE ON THE WORLD MARKET THROUGH GOOD POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK-MR. PASCAL NYABUNTU

After giving a background on the status of the Ugandan coffee industry in the pre and post liberalization periods, Mr. Paschal Nyabuntu outlined the major constraints facing the coffee industry notable ones being dwindling funding allocated to coffee research more so currently when the country is faced with the Coffee Wilt Disease (CWD), Coffee Leaf Rust and other diseases and pests; a partial regulatory framework which left out key levels: research, farmers (production) and roasters and also weak coordination between public institutions: UCDA, COREC and NAADS/NARS.

He made the following recommendations:

- Examine and review the regulatory framework with a view of strengthening UCDA to play its coffee regulatory and facilitating development roles;
- Research should be demand driven and therefore a regulatory framework that supports institutions involved in research such as NARS/COREC, NAADS should be strengthened.
- There is need to create a coffee desk in MAAIF to liaise with UCDA and coordinate public sector into the coffee sub-sector
- Strengthen the role of MAAIF as the overall parent ministry for policy oversight;
- All coffee research institutions should be put under UCDA and would be accountable to it. In this respect a Coffee Specific Research Fund from cess be established;
- Formulate a national coffee policy that will guide the strategy
- Develop a national coffee standard; and
- Recognize NUCAFE officially as the representative of coffee farmers in Uganda.

After Mr. Nyabuntu’s presentation, the NUCAFE Chairman called the Minister of State for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to make his remarks and later on invite the Chief Guest to address the farmers and other stakeholders.

4.0 REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES - HON. BRIGHT RWAMIRAMA

After thanking the Hon. Prime Minister, other fellow Ministers, MPs and all those present at the convention for their attendance, the Minister of State for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Hon. Bright Rwamirama, congratulated the coffee farmers for the good performance they put in during the concluded Finance Year – Jul/Jun 2007/08. The coffee sub-sector registered an 18% rise in the volume of coffee exports from 2.54 million 60-kilo bags the previous year to 3.0 million. He thanked the farmers and other players within the coffee chain for their effort. He was also grateful to the farmers who had attended the convention in big numbers providing a critical mass necessary for competitiveness. This, he affirmed, would go a long way in achieving the government's *Bonna Bagaggawale* (Prosperity for All) programme.

He noted that the theme of the coffee farmers' convention: ***Coffee is our shared business; together we enhance its sustainability*** was in tandem with government's programmes.

He reported that in order to implement the *Bonna Bagaggawale* Programme, government through UCDA and the Ministry, initiated a number of programmes geared at increasing productivity and production. The response from farmers, he noted, was very promising as indicated by the overwhelming demand for planting materials. Additionally, under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework, UCDA and UNADA¹ are working together to ensure availability of certified agro-inputs to farmers.

He re-emphasized that government attaches a lot of importance to coffee and would continue giving it a priority in all its development programmes as reflected in the Strategic Investment and Development Plan. He echoed Coffee's pivotal role in the National Export Strategy (NES) 2008-2012 being implemented by Uganda Export Promotion Board (UEPB) in which the new NAADS programme is also embedded. The new NAADS programme has a component on agro-processing; and provision of agro-inputs to farmers, coffee seedlings inclusive.

¹ UNADA-Uganda National Agro-input Dealers Association

He assured farmers that all the issues they had put forward would be discussed at length and solutions sought. He, nonetheless, tackled on the most critical ones as follows:

- To address the decline in production and productivity, MAAIF officially launched a Coffee Production Campaign in 2006 through which exportable production was envisaged to reach 270,000 tonnes (4.5 m bags) by 2015 up from 120,000 tonnes (2.0 m bags) prevailing at the time. The Campaign puts emphasis on: Research, Extension, Farmer organizations and Inputs and Credit. He was very thankful for the establishment of farmer associations some of which had formed SACCOs already.
- On Coffee Wilt Disease (CWD), he was gratified that a breakthrough had been made where scientists had screened 8 lines which had passed all CWD tests for resistance. He noted that they were at the multiplication stages at the Coffee Research Centre (COREC), Kituza ready for release to farmers. He assured them (farmers) that he would ensure that the relevant authorities: the Parliamentary Sessional Committee on Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, NARO, COREC, UCDA and NAADS speed up the process of releasing these resistant varieties.
- He also hinted on value addition at farm level which is being achieved through production of sustainable coffees for the specialty markets and total quality improvement within the supply chain. He noted that farmers who have embraced this are attracting premium prices for their produce through bulk marketing.
- At the industry level, he submitted that value addition continued through roasting for the domestic market, which although small, was growing steadily. He reported on efforts that are being taken by government to establish an Instant soluble coffee plant at the Kampala Industrial Park in Nammanve. He advised farmers to take ownership in the coffee roasting plant.

He briefly tackled on the global warming and high oil prices which would have (or currently having) an adverse effect on the competitiveness of the coffee business and urged farmers to continue planting more coffee trees; practice agro-forestry and mulching.

In his concluding remarks, he urged farmers to seize this opportunity currently when they are receiving high farm gate prices to invest more in good agricultural practices to improve their yield.

He then called upon the Chief Guest to address the congregation and later on open it officially.

5.0 THE OPENING SPEECH BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR, THE RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER, PROF. APOLLO NSIBAMBI

The Right Hon. Prime Minister, Prof. Apollo Nsibambi, thanked the organizers and participants for keeping time. He specifically thanked the NUCAFE Chairman for his commitment to the coffee cause and also the Consultant, Mr. Pascal Nyabuntu, for his presentation on the findings.

He requested for two copies of each of the presentations/speeches for the day and promised to have a Ministerial meeting on Monday 4th August 2008 in his office to address the issues raised and forge a way forward.

He stressed that farmers should access the 8 CWD tolerant varieties. He enquired about the Sh. 17 billion that had been injected in the coffee replanting programme. It was clarified that the funds were expended on purchase and distribution of coffee seedlings.

However, it was noted that the delivery system was not very effective and the Right Hon. Prime Minister promised farmers that it would be improved.

He assured the farmers that the NUCAFE Board Chairman and his Vice were to be appointed to the UCDA Board to improve the delivery system.

He urged farmers to utilize the numerous radio stations and discuss issues related to economic development and improvement of household incomes in line with the Bonna Bagaggawale (Prosperity For All) Programme. He also requested the radio stations to allocate more air time on development issues including coffee.

He reiterated that enhanced household incomes will enable farmers to overcome the numerous challenges faced. He also encouraged stakeholders in the coffee sub-sector to feel free to seek assistance from his office but he cautioned them to always pass through the Sector Ministries.

The Prime Minister explained the merits and demerits of liberalization of the coffee industry and pointed out that fixing of coffee prices before liberalization was a way of protecting farmers from global marketing changes but farmers were being poorly paid for their coffee. He therefore stressed the need to teach farmers to guard against shocks in the global market during this era of liberalization and globalization.

He expressed his happiness that despite the prevailing challenges, farmers have not abandoned their coffee and he thus pledged Government support in tackling the challenges in the coffee sub-sector.

He hailed NUCAFE for innovatively coming up with **the Farmer Ownership Model** that is intended to empower coffee farmers to have stake within the coffee value chain.

He further made the following directives:

- That the problems and challenges in the coffee industry be summarized and presented to him in the meeting on Monday 4th August at 11 am. Immediately, a copy of the findings and recommendations from the review of the coffee policy and regulatory framework was submitted to the RH. Prime Minister.
- That a coffee policy be formulated to enable the sub-sector to grapple with new challenges and should be ready by 30th October 2008;
- That the policy must take into account the proposals from the private sector on how to effectively address the challenges facing the coffee sub-sector.

On the regulatory and institutional framework, the Prime Minister advised the concerned Agencies i.e. UCDA, NARO, UNBS through the line Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to review and amend the UCDA statute to incorporate the necessary standards and to bring the coffee research agency under UCDA and to make sure that UCDA is better placed to regulate the entire coffee sector and also provide funding and technical assistance to production, farmer organization and promotion of Uganda coffee within and outside the country.

Regarding coffee consumption, he hailed the Government's proposal to promote domestic consumption of coffee by establishing the coffee roasting facility. He advised MAAIF to ensure that coffee farmers take

ownership in that facility as it would enhance the NUCAFE Farmer Ownership Model even much more. He further urged the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and UCDA to take note of that as they facilitate the establishment of this facility.

6.0 TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JACK BIGIRWA

The NUCAFE Chairman requested the coffee fraternity to observe a moment of silence to reflect on the contributions made by the former NUCAFE Chairman, the Late Jack Bigirwa, who died in a motor accident in December, 2007. A present was awarded to the late Jack Bigirwa's sons; Mr. Brian Bigirwa and Mr. Sany Bigirwa for the commitment their father had in uplifting the standards of living of the coffee farmers. His legacy will leave on, a prayer was said.

7.0 WHO GETS WHAT IN THE COFFEE VALUE CHAIN AND WHAT IS NUCAFE'S OFFER TO FARMERS? BY MR. JOSEPH NKANDU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NUCAFE

Mr. Joseph Nkandu gave a presentation on "Who gets what in the coffee chain and what is NUCAFE's offer to farmers?". He illustrated how coffee is traced right from the farmer to the final consumer and how value is added at each level within the coffee supply and consumption chain. What was apparent was the wide gap between the price of a cup of coffee in a London café (costing GBP 3 equivalent to Shs. 9,000/=) and at the Ugandan coffee shop consumed at Shs. 4,000/=. With a conversion of 2.6 kg of green coffee to 1 kg of instant coffee, he demonstrated that for 2.6 kg of green coffee, a coffee shop would earn Sh. 320,000/= in Kampala and about Sh. 720,000/= in London.

He also compared how much a kilogramme of coffee was sold in the producing countries in 2006/07 when farmers enjoyed relatively higher prices and what the retail price was and also at a time when global farm gate prices were at their lowest (2001). The gap between producer and retail prices was incredibly wide in both periods. He posed a question to the farmers who is (was) gaining in the coffee value chain.

He then shared information on the global trends of the fundamentals: coffee supply, consumption and revenues. He pointed out that out of the global coffee revenue of US \$ 90 billion realized in 2006/07; only US\$ 9 billion was shared by all producing countries making them very

vulnerable. Out of the US\$ 9 billion, Uganda received only US\$ 257 million while farmers received US\$ 151 million. He asked farmers whether it was possible for them to increase their market share.

He noted that world coffee consumption is growing rapidly in Asia, Central America, Eastern Europe and South Africa. World production was projected at 118 million bags in 2007/08 compared to 126 million in 2006/07 while world consumption was estimated at 125 million bags, reflecting a deficit of 8 million bags. He posed a question whether farmers were prepared to produce for these markets. He illustrated a positive trend in domestic coffee consumption in some producing countries that would act as a stimulant to interest farmers to also consume the coffee they produce.

He then presented statistics on coffee and health that reflected that non-consumption of coffee especially in Africa would lead to a high probability of getting type II diabetes. He cautioned farmers on the types of food they eat which can result into obesity.

He then outlined how NUCAFE can play a pivotal role in addressing the above constraints and seize the opportunities that exist. This, he said, would be done by farmers embracing the Farmer Ownership Model-empowering them to position themselves better in the coffee value chain where a farmer is a price negotiator rather than a price taker.

He concluded by emphasizing the need for farmers to restrain from selling flowers, unripe cherries, ripe cherries, kiboko or parchment and graduate to selling clean coffee (Fair Average Quality) and possibly graded coffee in order to maximize their profits. This, he noted, is possible if farmers are mobilized into business groups which are economically viable and able to receive extension services on a demand driven basis and also engage in bulk marketing. Competitiveness of the farmers would inevitably require acquisition of tools such as tarpaulins, weighing scales and moisture meters in order to enhance quality.

8.0 SPEECH BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HON. OLIVE WONEKHA

In her speech, Hon. Woneka expressed her gratitude for being honoured to be at the convention to share experiences, ideas and issues related to coffee sector development. She appreciated use of

SMS mobile facility which farmers are using to access price information daily.

She reported that the role of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture is to advocate to Government to make pro-farmer policies and programmes. In this regard, she promised to remind the Prime Minister and the sector ministers of the promises they made during the convention.

She emphasized the need for Government to regard farmers as partners in the Public-Private Partnership and help them to access coffee plantlets.

She urged Government to give enough money to scientists for them to do their job of research and development.

She reiterated NUCAFE's role in the value addition process and quality improvement.

In her concluding remarks, Hon. Woneka cautioned farmers that in order for them to be able to own their good quality coffee and have more competitive and profitable businesses, they should refrain from selling flowers and drying coffee on bare ground.

9.0 EMERGING ISSUES IN THE COFFEE SECTOR; WHAT IS THE WAY FORWARD? BY MR. HENRY NGABIRANO, MANAGING DIRECTOR, UCDA

The UCDA Managing Director, Mr. Henry Ngabirano, after thanking the coffee farmers for coming in big numbers, emphasized that since other presentations had dwelt more on current issues, his would concentrate on the key emerging issues both external and internal, which would make the coffee sector more competitive or uncompetitive (opportunities & threats) and what the industry can do to address them.

He outlined the external emerging issues as:

- Rise in global demand
- Traceability
- Food Safety
- Demand for specialty coffees
- Global warming
- Rise in oil and food prices and

- Price volatility

He explained how each of them would affect the coffee industry and how they impinge on the competitiveness of the sector and how farmers can benefit from the opportunities that arise from this.

On rising global demand, he illustrated the positive trend in which the global coffee consumption would reach 143.8 million bags by 2015 against a production of 125 million bags, providing a gap in supply which farmers should take advantage of. He also pointed out how global consumption and pricing had been influenced by significant increases in consumption from coffee producing countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, among others. This, he reported, was adding on the increased demand from Eastern European countries and Asia where growth in soluble coffee has been substantial.

Regarding internal emerging issues, he outlined the following:

- Decline in coffee production
- Decline in quality
- Declining research funding
- Insufficient number of research scientists
- Urbanization
- Youth involvement in coffee
- Diversification
- Limited number of Farm Level Organizations
- Weak institutional framework for supply of agro-inputs.
- Low domestic coffee consumption

He noted the growing demand in specialty coffees which are exhibiting highest growth rates. He appealed farmers to also seize this opportunity and produce for these niche markets.

He alluded to the earlier submissions to review the regulatory framework in order to fund research more sustainably as is done in Kenya (Kenya Research Foundation) which even has a Coffee School.

He also reiterated the need to create a critical mass of coffee professionals, scientists inclusive.

He urged farmers and other stakeholders to explore the possibility of using small roasting facilities as it was done in Germany.

Mr. Henry Ngabirano lastly advised farmers and other investors to first look at the initial capital outlay and liquidity which the middlemen readily have in order to assume the ownership role more effectively.

10.0 AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

During the Convention, several awards were presented to the following:

- Kibinge Coffee Farmers' Association was presented with a Utz Certified certificate for having complied with one of the internationally recognized code of conduct on sustainability of coffee business and as the only farmer association in Uganda holding such a certificate;
- The old NUCAFE Board was also awarded with presents in recognition of their distinguished role in rekindling farmers' hope in coffee production. These included; the late Jack Bigirwa, former NUCAFE Chairman, Mr. Livingstone Mpimbe, Mr. Philip Luyombo, Mr. Davis Mundayi, Mrs. Harriet Taitika, Mrs. Alice Nyanzi, Mr. Paul Kisoro, Mr. Constantine Nsubuga. Mr. John Francis Ggaanya, Mr. Emmanuel Muligi Ntambi and the late Mungu Acel.
- Mr. Joseph Nkandu the NUCAFE Executive Director was awarded by the NUCAFE Board with a plaque in recognition of his efforts as an effective Executive Director in the establishment of NUCAFE as a truly representative organization of the Uganda coffee farmers.
- 16 farmers were also presented with certificates of appreciation and gifts of T-shirts, caps and packets of coffee for their distinguished performance in coffee quality improvement, mobilizing fellow farmers and marketing together.

11.0 RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants made the following resolutions and recommendations:

- i. Need for government to develop a national coffee policy owned by all stakeholders.

- ii. The policy must take into account the proposals from the private sector on how to effectively address the challenges facing the coffee sub-sector;
- iii. UCDA Statute should be amended in order to empower UCDA to apply the best regulatory practices and also fund coffee research, production and farmers' organizations and promotion;
- iv. A Uganda coffee standard should be developed as an integral part of the UCDA Statute;
- v. UCDA should ensure sustainable funding of research using cess;
- vi. Need for more funding for coffee replanting;
- vii. Government was requested to provide support to NUCAFE to popularize the Farmer Ownership Model;
- viii. Recognize NUCAFE officially as the representative of coffee farmers in Uganda;
- ix. Increase the yield of coffee per tree;
- x. Encourage the youth to get into the coffee production business;
- xi. The Convention should be held in different coffee districts on a rotational basis;
- xii. Agricultural inputs should be tax exempted;
- xiii. In order to promote domestic coffee consumption, Government was requested to increase funding while Ugandans were urged to develop a coffee drinking culture;
- xiv. Document, strengthen and enforce the coffee law;
- xv. Institute credit and savings schemes in the coffee associations;
- xvi. Registering and licensing of all coffee middlemen and monitor their weighing scales;
- xvii. Grade West Nile coffee as Okoro Coffee in the same way as Bugisu coffee;
- xviii. Diversification into other farm enterprises;
- xix. Radio programmes should be increased in number and airtime length;
- xx. Coffee farmers were encouraged to effectively utilize radio programs on coffee development;
- xxi. Local Councils should be empowered to ensure good coffee harvesting practices;
- xxii. Local authorities were encouraged to develop ordinances on coffee;
- xxiii. Strengthen the control of the Coffee Wilt Disease;
- xxiv. Reinstate the Luweero District Coffee Office;
- xxv. Farmers' associations without bank accounts should open them;
- xxvi. There is need to establish an agricultural bank;
- xxvii. Market linkage fees should be monitored and efficiently utilized;
- xxviii. Need to increase the number of UCDA staff in the field;
- xxix. Government should increase funding to UCDA and NUCAFE; and

- xxx. More assistance is required to constantly monitor the soil status in coffee areas in order to replenish leached soil nutrients; bearing in mind that coffee is a heavy feeder.

12.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the profile of the participants led by the Right Hon. Prime Minister and high profile dignitaries, the large number of farmers from almost all coffee growing districts, the speeches and presentations as well as the discussions and recommendations advanced, the objectives of the convention were achieved. Development of a national coffee policy, a national coffee standard as well as a review in the regulatory framework to ensure sustained funding for research were underpinned. In this regard, there is need to quicken release of the 8 Coffee Wilt Disease tolerant varieties to farmers. Strengthening the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) was also seen as one of the viable means of enhancing competitiveness. What remains is to ensure that time frames on specific action areas mentioned in this report are adhered to.