



Completion Report

UGA-JEN-COF-P01, Uganda
Reporting Period: January – August 2017

Caffeinated Empowerment

Budget: Fully Funded - \$30,000

A farmer with seedlings.

Update:

This project provided capital equipment to establish a coffee cooperative on Mt Elgon in eastern Uganda. The project supports farmers with training on growing specialty grade coffee, establishing four coffee cherry processing centres across the mountain and a drying centre. We are pleased to report that a thriving coffee cooperative which is working towards sustainability on an ethical basis has been established.



In the first six months, the first full crop was harvested (a trial crop in 2015 harvested 300kg of coffee). This was a great success, with farmers fully engaging with the concept of creating a quality brand. 25,000 kg of coffee cherries were purchased by the cooperative, and the local farmers received \$15,000 for their product which benefitted over 500 farmers. In addition our partners were able to pay a bonus in the “hungry” season which was extremely well received particularly as June 2017 represented a time of significant hikes in the price of food as a result of the East African drought.

The first shipment of coffee was delivered to buyers in Melbourne with a launch to celebrate in May. The order has been doubled for 2017-8! The coffee is sold at Commonfolk Specialty Roaster and Café in Mornington Victoria. Commonfolk, through their [Cup that Counts](#) campaign, have been big supporters of this project. We encourage you to try some of the coffee if you are in the Mornington area – we certainly will be!

A local market for coffee in Uganda has also developed with over 2,000 bags sold during this period. With 80% of the value of coffee being made in western countries, our partners see a huge potential to retain more of the coffee value chain in Uganda, therefore benefitting the Ugandan economy. There is also interest from buyers in the UK and USA which will be explored going forward. This demonstrates the model is working and has affirmed our partners and farmers in their work practices.

Only top-quality cherries have been used from the outset and this is proving to be the best outcome for farmers who are being paid cash-on-delivery which is not always used in Uganda. Our partners spent time training the farmers on the use of organic fertilizers and this has been embraced as farmers see the benefits in both quality and cost savings.



Our partners are thrilled at the success of the project. The farmers are full partners and the quantity of top-quality coffee cherries provided to the cooperative exceeded all expectations! This first season has demonstrated a viable business model and there is an appetite amongst the poor farming community. The local government are highly supportive and assisting as able, because they can see how this will develop their area.

Thank you for making it possible to for these farmers to earn a sustainable income. We are excited where the coffee project will go in the future!