



strategies for international development

330 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003

202.544.1115 phone 202.543.5288 fax sid@sidworld.org

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Dear Friend of SID,

Uganda is a coffee country, and SID is helping Ugandan coffee farmers graduate from poverty.

Uganda is the birthplace of Robusta coffee; 85% of the farmers grow Robusta; and 1.7 million farm families depend on coffee production for their income (Uganda Coffee Development Authority, 2019). The price for Arabica is higher than the price for Robusta; but Robusta has twice the amount of caffeine. As such it is preferred for making espresso, and it has a devoted clientele. Also, most importantly for Uganda, it grows at low altitudes and most of Uganda is lowland.

The Central region has the highest concentration of Robusta coffee farmers, with 38% of the total, and SID's project is located in Luweero District, in the heart of the Central region. Luweero has 618 coffee-producing villages and more than 13,000 coffee-farming families.

Farmers are poor because they produce 406 Kilos of coffee per acre when the minimum for good coffee farming is 2,250 Kilos. Also, the great majority dries their cherries and sells them to local intermediaries rather than hulling the dried cherries and selling them directly to exporters for a 40% higher price. Average income is \$416 per year when farmers could make \$1,200.

We began our Uganda project in March, we are now helping farmers in 72 villages to conserve their land and increase their income, and the project has begun to produce results.

Fred Ssebina, from Giriyaanda village, says "SID has taught us to grow coffee as a business. We are learning to increase productivity by pruning and stumping the coffee; how to conserve water by digging water retention bands; and the dangers of weeds. Coffee branches are growing longer and they have more cherries."

Dan Berman of the J&K Berman Memorial Foundation, a donor for our Guatemala project, gave us a grant to start the project in Uganda. But the project requires much more funding.

Dan says "My long search for a results-oriented NGO working in agricultural development ended with SID. I am so proud to support this lean organization that works in ways others do not. Please join me!"

Your donation will go a long way and make a big difference. You can make a donation by check or through our website, using the Donate Now button, at www.sidworld.org.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hirschhorn
President of the Board

Charles Patterson
Executive Director

Judith Russo
Program Director