



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRIES AND FISHERIES



PRESS RELEASE

COFFEE SEEDLINGS VERIFICATION FOR SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2015 AND MARCH - MAY 2016 PLANTING SEASONS, AND SEEDLINGS AVAILABILITY FOR THE SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2016 PLANTING SEASON

Government of Uganda (GOU), through the guidance of His Excellency, The President, has prioritized coffee, tea and citrus fruits as major strategic commodity enterprises for emphasis in the drive to move the country to middle income status by the year 2020. In this respect, Government desires to accelerate coffee production from the current 3.5 million 60-kg bags to 20 million 60-kg bags by 2020.

In support of the above goal, the coffee Sub-sector is expected to plant 300 million coffee seedlings per year for the next three years (FY 2016/17 to FY 2018/19). This drive is being spearheaded by Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) in collaboration with Operation Wealth Creation (OWC), Local Governments (LGs) and the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU).

PURPOSE

Aware of the changing weather patterns, capacity challenges facing farming households and the need to ensure availability of good quality coffee seedlings for planting during September to November 2016 season, a team comprising officials from UCDA, OWC and District Local Governments) are visiting coffee growing districts mainly to check and assess the following:

1. The survival rate of the coffee seedlings distributed through various Districts to farmers during September to November 2015 and March to May 2016 planting seasons.
2. The effect of weather changes and other farm management practices that could have caused mortality of planted seedlings.
3. The level of farmer preparedness for September to November 2016 coffee planting season.
4. Coffee seedlings availability for September-November 2016 coffee planting season.
5. Land available with Households for new coffee planting or expansion.

Therefore, in light of the above:

- a) The Local Governments (LGs) are requested to receive the teams and support the coffee seedlings verification exercise;
- b) Farmers are requested to welcome the teams and provide information truthfully without any fear;
- c) Information collected by the verification teams shall be used ONLY for purposes of planning and improving the coffee seedlings distribution and enhancement of farmers' coping mechanisms to erratic weather, poor agronomic practices both of which if well managed lead to increased household incomes;
- d) In preparation for the September-November 2016 coffee planting season, all districts need to immediately finalize registration of farmers and their demands for coffee seedlings for that period;
- e) **NOTE:** Coffee Seedlings Allocations to districts for September-November 2016 and subsequent seasons shall be based on registered farmers that have dug the right size holes (2 feet x 2 feet x 2 feet - at spacing of 10 feet x 10 feet for Robusta and 8 feet x 8 feet for Arabica coffee). LGs and OWC Commanders/Officers will take lead on this in accordance with the OWC Standard Operating Procedures.

For Further Information, Contact UCDA

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