

NARO-NACORI CoCoDEV PROJECT NEWSLETTER



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**Transforming coffee and cocoa value chains
through availing quality planting materials and
related propagation protocols**





EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

The editorial team is pleased to present this first issue of the NaCORI-CoCoDev Project quarterly e-Newsletter. This edition unveils the key objective of the project, ongoing activities and a pictorial from the inception meeting. The editorial desk is thankful to all those who contributed to this edition.

Happy reading!

NaCORI MISSION

To generate , develop and disseminate technologies, methods and knowledge to enhance the productivity and quality of coffee and cocoa in Uganda.

VISION

A competitive coffee and cocoa industry for increased household and national incomes.

MANDATE

To conduct basic and applied research research of strategic nature and national importance on coffee and cocoa.

Editorial Team:

1. Dr. Fred Ssekiwoko
2. Dr. Henry Wagaba
3. Dr. Joan Marunga
4. Ms. Barbra Nambozo

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH



Geoffrey Arinatwe (PhD)

Research plays an important role in driving the development of more efficient production processes, fostering innovation, and creating diverse new products through advanced methodologies. Establishing a functional seed system and implementing good management practices are essential in combating pests and diseases, which are among the primary challenges hindering increased production and productivity in the coffee and cocoa sectors.

The National Coffee Research Institute (NaCORI) is proud to be a key implementing partner of the Coffee and Cocoa Value Chain Development (CoCoDev) Project in Uganda. Officially launched on May 8th, 2024, this initiative aims to transform the coffee and cocoa industries by leveraging modern research facilities and techniques. Our focus is on increasing the availability and accessibility of high-quality foundation seed and seedlings for cocoa, Arabica, and Robusta coffee. These resources will be distributed through

certified systems, such as nursery operators, ensuring that only the best planting materials reach our farmers.

We have made significant strides since the project's inception. Key activities are already in progress, including staff recruitment, the establishment of critical experiments, and the multiplication of foundation planting materials. These efforts are pivotal in achieving the project's objectives and ensuring the sustainability of Uganda's coffee and cocoa value chains.

We extend our gratitude to the European Union, the Uganda Coffee Development Authority, and the National Agricultural Research Organization for their support and funding of research activities. Their partnership enables us to enhance post-harvest handling, improve quality, and elevate the marketing of coffee and cocoa enterprises. Together, we are laying the groundwork for a more resilient and prosperous future for Uganda's coffee and cocoa industries.

ABOUT THE COCODEV PROJECT

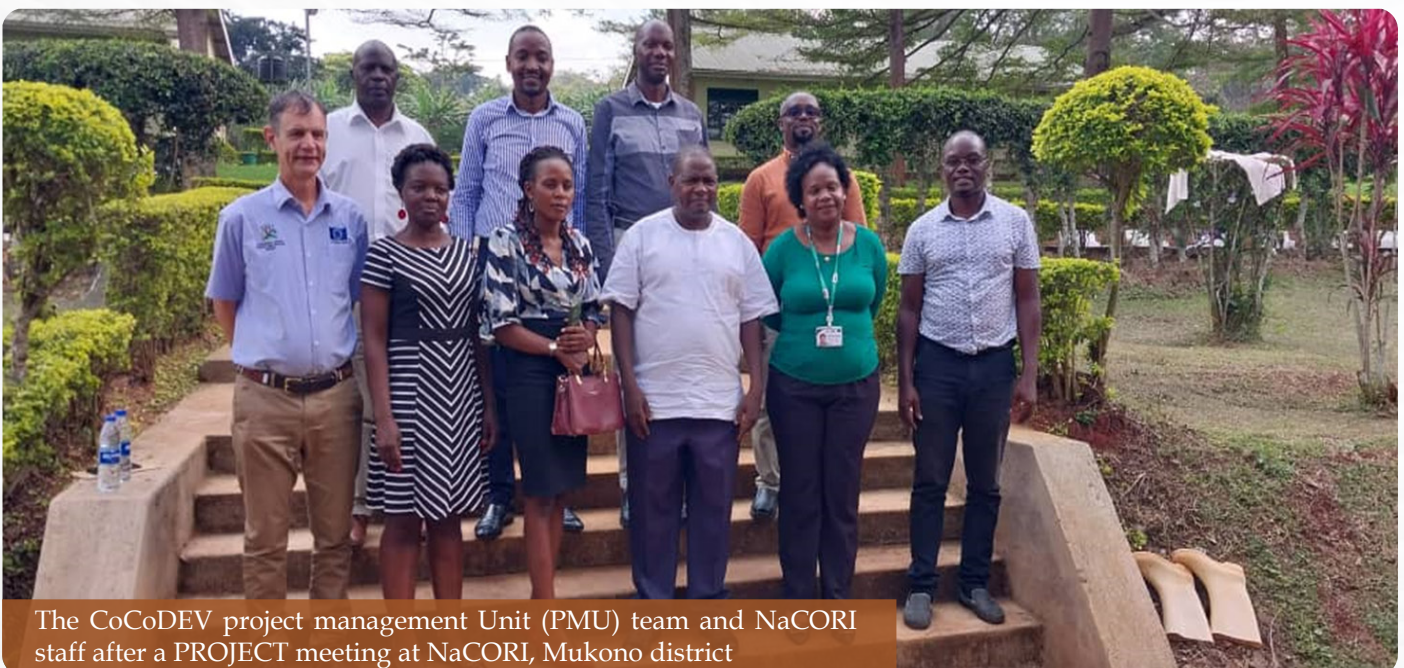
European Union Approves Grant for Development of Climate-Smart Coffee and Cocoa Technologies

At the end of April 2024, the European Union in Kampala approved a grant worth UGX 1,239,887,436 to the National Coffee Research Institute (NaCORI) to develop and promote Climate Smart Technologies aimed at boosting Coffee and Cocoa production and productivity. This grant, administered through the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA), resulted in the signing of the grant agreement on May 1, 2024, between the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO, on behalf of the National Coffee Research Institute, NaCORI) and UCDA to implement a project titled “Climate Smart Technologies for increased Coffee and Cocoa Production and Productivity”. The project is part of a broader grant awarded to the Government of Uganda by the European Union (EU) under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) to support Coffee and Cocoa Value Chain Development (CoCoDev) initiative. This initiative under the Multi Annual Programme Estimate (MAPE) FED/2021/430-533, is a component of the inclusive Green Economy Uptake programme (GreenUP). The general

objective of CoCoDev is to support Uganda’s transition to an inclusive, green, and competitive low-carbon economy, while creating sustainable green jobs in key sectors identified in the Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy.

Under this project, NaCORI will deliver the following:

- Generate foundation stock planting materials for improved coffee and cocoa and availing them to other sector players for upscaling.
- Develop suitable propagation procedures and protocols for coffee and cocoa, which will then be availed to nursery operators for use.
- Train nursery operators on the application of the developed propagation procedures.
- Release three new Arabica varieties in the Elgon region.
- Generate new Arabica and Robusta coffee varieties suited in the Albertine and other regions of Uganda.



The CoCoDEV project management Unit (PMU) team and NaCORI staff after a PROJECT meeting at NaCORI, Mukono district

WORD FROM THE NATIONAL PROJECT COORDINATOR

Securing a Sustainable Supply of High-Quality Coffee and Cocoa



Ronald Kasozi

National Project Coordinator-CoCoDEV

As global warming proceeds, the issue of securing a sustainable supply of high-quality speciality coffee is critical. As such, varieties that maintain high productivity and high quality while responding to climate warming are essential for the survival of coffee and cocoa agro-business across the entire value chain.

With the imminent threat of climate change and other natural challenges casting a shadow over coffee and cocoa production in Uganda, the livelihoods of families which dependent on these crops are in grave danger. The projected loss of 30-40% of the world's production due to location-specific pests and diseases underscores the urgent need for climate-resilient coffee and cocoa varieties.

Crucial to a thriving coffee and cocoa industry in Uganda is the continuous quest for new and improved varieties with enhanced traits in productivity, pest and disease resistance, drought tolerance, and, increasingly important, specific flavours for the ever-changing global consumer markets. The growing focus on sustainable production systems, social welfare, living income, and value addition necessitates

NaCORI's continuous research into new areas beyond breeding and good agronomic practices (GAPs).

The Uganda Coffee Development Authority UCDA implements the European Union-funded Coffee and Cocoa Development component (CoCoDev)). The project focuses specifically on the coffee and cocoa value chains and intends to make contributions in three result areas:

- 1) strengthening the regulatory framework;
- 2) enhancing commercial coffee and cocoa production and productivity;
- 3) enhancing coffee and cocoa post-harvest handling, quality and marketing of coffee and cocoa.

As part of Result Area 2, the National Coffee Research Institute (NACORI) to is implementing two principal activities:

1. Generating and making available quality foundation stock planting materials and related propagation protocols (climate-smart technologies) to sector players. This upscaling is expected to lead to increased coffee and cocoa production and productivity, thereby improving farmers' livelihoods.

2. Generating and adapting more Arabica and Robusta coffee varieties to new and broader areas in Uganda, potentially leading to significant improvements in coffee and cocoa production and productivity.

This 32 months grant is based on the consideration that NaCORI, a key player responsible for basic, applied, or strategic research on cocoa and coffee under the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARO), will ensure the project's success. The grant will enable NaCORI to establish a national supply of high-quality, disease-resistant, drought-tolerant, and reliable coffee and cocoa planting material. The planting material produced will be innovatively multiplied and availed to registered nursery operators for multiplication to distribute to farmers.

Under the grant, NaCORI will apply modern techniques to generate adequate planting

material for improved Arabica coffee, Robusta coffee and cocoa as initial foundation stock for upscaling by sector players and further evaluate more candidate coffee varieties in more expansive geographical areas for adaptability to biotic and abiotic stress. This activity reinforces NaCORI's achievements and takes stock of the lessons learnt under the EU-funded Mark-UP Programme, where they evaluated and released at least three Arabica coffee varieties, evaluated cocoa clones for on-farm and on-station demonstrations, and conducted a biological assessment of cocoa production in three cocoa-growing regions. Through this applied research, NaCORI will ensure that the CoCoDEV objective of transforming the coffee and cocoa value chains through sustainable farming practices is achieved by mass replicating disease resistant, high-yielding, low-cost coffee and cocoa planting materials.

Project Insights:



Fred Ssekiwoko (PhD)

Investigator -NaCORI CoCoDEV project

We are dedicated to advancing the development of climate resilient coffee and cocoa varieties, foundation stock planting materials, and related multiplication protocols to boost production and improve farmer livelihoods.

We are committed to advancing the development of climate resilient coffee and cocoa varieties, foundation stock planting materials, and related multiplication protocols to boost production and improve farmer livelihoods. In this project, we promised to deliver 50,000 initial stock of Robusta coffee, 3000 initial stock Arabica coffee and 5,000 initial stock of Cocoa to nursery operators for upscaling. We also promised to deliver 5 propagation protocols, then train at least 10 nursery operators in the application of these propagation protocols. The entire technical and support research team at NaCORI is dedicated to the success of this project. The project leverages the diverse expertise within NaCORI; breeding, agronomy, seed multiplication, crop protection, molecular and bio-physio-chemical analysis and value addition.

Progress and Achievements

As we close in the third quarter of the financial year, some achievements have been made. Procurement of critical inputs is already underway, multiplication of foundation planting materials has been initiated, and key experiments have been initiated to inform the procedures that will be followed for mass multiplication of the foundation stock materials by sector players.

Enhancing Visibility and Awareness

The project has actively embraced any opportunity to enhance visibility and create awareness among the sector player through various events and activities organized by NaCORI. By using promotional materials such as pull-up banners, media coverage, the project has effectively communicated its objectives and the role of European Union partners to a wider audience. These efforts have so far reached and educated over 1,000 participants, providing valuable insights into the project's objectives and its significance for the coffee and cocoa sector.



NaCORI CoCoDEV Project Launch:

The NaCORI-CoCoDev project activities were launched on 8th May, 2024 at Esella Hotel, in Kira-Najjera Kampala. Over 100 stakeholders, including those from the European Union office in Kampala, the National Authorising Office in the Ministry of Finance, Planning and economic Development, Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries, the Uganda Coffee Development Authority, National Agricultural Research Organization Secetariat and the staff of the National Coffee research Institute attended the event. Others included: representatives of coffee and cocoa farmers, representatives of women groups and representatives of nursery operators.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Dr. Fred Ssekiwoko, the NaCORI-COCODEV Project

Principal Investigator, said over 50,000 initial stock of Robusta coffee, 3000 initial stock of Arabica coffee and 5,000 initial stock of Cocoa planting material will be given to 10 nursery operators selected from Kigezi, Greater Masaka, West Nile and the Elgon region.

“We are putting in place mechanisms to generate quality planting materials for nursery operators to multiply and avail to farmers within their localities. We have new varieties of Robusta and Arabica coffee being tested in different areas of Uganda to see how suitable they can perform in these areas and after evaluation, they will be released for uptake by farmers to increase on the area under coffee production,” Dr. Ssekiwoko explained.


Pictorial Highlights from the Project Launch:







Some of the participants at the NaCORI-CoCoDEV Project launch meeting at Esella Hotel

Project Updates:

	Name:	Ampaire Jonah
	Position:	Accounts and Administrative assistant
	Profile:	Has 2 years' work experience in similar position. Holds a master's degree in business administration and accounting

	Name:	Wanyonyi Wilber
	Position:	Technician Tissue culture
	Profile:	Holds a Bsc Technology- biology degree of Kyambogo University. Has 2 years' experience in coffee tissue culture techniques and over 5 years' experience in supporting crop research.

	Name:	Joan Marunga, Ph.D
	Position:	Project scientist
	Profile:	She is a distinguished Biotechnology expert with over a decade of extensive research experience and a robust education background. With a Ph.D in Agricultural Biotechnology from Seoul National University, Dr. Marunga is known for a multidisciplinary approach that spans both plants and human research with diverse publications on microbial systems and pharmacology

	Name:	Kagezi Sharif
	Position:	Technician (Plant breeding)
	Profile:	Has over 5 years' work experience, having served as field officer at a seed company, field support consultant in a food processing company and a student on coffee breeding. Holds a Bsc in Agriculture of Makerere University

Appendix:

Some of the project information and publicity materials already produced are indicated below:



National Coffee Research Ins... · 56s

@NaCORIUganda hosted the Project Management Unit for the Coffee and Cocoa Value Chains Development Project. Discussed the progress of project activities.
#DevelopingQualityCoffeeCocoaVarieties
#EnhancingFarmerAccess2QualitySeed.
@EUinUG
@MAAIF_Uganda
@CoffeeUganda
@BioInnovate



National Coffee Research... · 16 May

YouTube



EUROPEAN UNION TO SUPPORT COFFEE AND COCOA NURSERY...

The European Union under the green up project initiative wants to support Coffee and Cocoa nursery operators to have easy access to inputs to spur high produc...

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CONTACT:

National Coffee Research Institute
P. O BOX 185, Mukono-Uganda.
Tel. Office: +256 414 69 76 59
Email: directornacori@gmail.com