



Sustainable and Secure Smallholder Systems At Scale Programme (4S@Scale)

Context:

More than 70% of coffee in Uganda is sourced from smallholder farmers. Over 1.3 smallholder farmers in Uganda are engaged in coffee farming. While coffee remains a dominant cash crop in Uganda generating over \$228 million USD Million in export, smallholder farmers are still grappling with fluctuating prices, decline in government extension service and effects of climate change. Poor farming methods have led to an increase in disease and pest infestation. With little access to credit and minimal investments made to support the smallholder farmers, coffee farmers find themselves continuously in a vicious cycle of poverty and need.



Sustainable and Secure Smallholder Systems at Scale (4S @ Scale) is a four year ECOM/ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs funded project managed by HIVOS and being implemented by SNV in partnership with KAWACOM and Biogas Solutions Uganda. The overall goal of the project is to create viable smallholder coffee farming systems that will revitalize the sector in Uganda and provide long-term business opportunities for 20,000 smallholder coffee farmers. The project aims at addressing the following:

Good agricultural practices: Helping farmers to improve production and quality so as to increase their profitability. Through the project farmers will be supported to increase their competitiveness in the coffee sector through; Training in good agricultural practices, the use of bio-slurry to enhance productivity and maintaining good quality beans during post-harvest.

Gender and youth: Both men and women will be trained on how to balance benefits accrued in coffee along the value chain with key emphasis in joint decision making. The use of biogas as an alternative cooking fuel source will be promoted to reduce the work load of women. Youth will be trained to identify potential business opportunities within the coffee value chain and other entrepreneurial initiatives.

Income diversification: Other agricultural commodities like banana and dairy production that can grow alongside coffee will also be promoted. This will not only increase the resilience of farmers but will boost their food security status.

Access to finance: Facilitating access to financial services for coffee farmers is critical. ECOM will make available finances through a credit facility for farmers to; construct biogas digesters, improve their farming system and diversify their income through other agricultural commodities.

Awareness of biogas and bio slurry fertilizer: SNV will also promote the use of biogas and bio slurry to improve the lives of coffee farmers, while integrating the benefits of renewable energy to the agricultural sector. The target is to install biogas digesters at farmer's homesteads and promote the use of bio-slurry as a fertilizer to improve crop yield, support innovative financing incentives to make the biogas digesters more affordable, and encourage youth within the coffee value chain to take up biogas masonry as a business.