

Collaboration and co-creation × Sustainable sourcing

Prospects for a Nature Positive Approach

Sustainable coffee production project in Tanzania in partnership with IFAD*

* International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Building a stable supply chain through sustainable coffee production projects

As part of its Nature Positive Approach, the UCC Group has partnered with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on a new sustainability initiative funded by Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). This initiative, known as the Enhanced Linkages between Private Sector and Small-scale producers (ELPS) initiative, aims to strengthen partnerships between businesses and small-scale producers to build more stable and sustainable supply chains globally. Tanzania's coffee sector was selected as the first official project under the ELPS framework. Together with Marubeni, UCC is contributing to a newly launched sustainable coffee production project in the region.

Identifying and addressing challenges in Tanzanian coffee production

Tanzania is widely recognised as one of the world's premier coffee producers, especially known for its Kilimanjaro beans, which are also popular in Japan. It is also a strategic focus country under UCC's Nature Positive Approach. However, in the last decade, yields per hectare have steadily declined, presenting critical challenges to long-term sustainability. To understand the root causes behind the lack of growth in production efficiency, the UCC Group, together with IFAD and Marubeni, conducted joint field surveys of nine smallholder cooperatives across three key regions in Tanzania.

The two-week research mission, carried out in June and July 2024, revealed a wide range of issues. For example, some areas in the southern region suffer from high humidity and the spread of crop diseases, while others face water scarcity due to limited access to clean water. The findings made clear that a one-size-fits-all solution is not enough. Tailored support must be delivered to meet the unique environmental and agricultural needs of each community.

Empowering Producers Through Technical Assistance

90% of coffee producers in Tanzania are small-scale producers. Many of these farmers face mounting challenges, including adapting to climate change and modernising production techniques. To address this, IFAD, Marubeni, and the UCC Group are working together to deliver technical support on compost production and soil water retention. The project has set a clear target to double farmer production volumes over the next three years.

IFAD
Responsible for overall project coordination, infrastructure development, and provision of materials required for technical training



Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Oversees the overall planning of the ELPS Initiative and provides financial support to IFAD

Roles and responsibilities

UCC Group
Provides technical training on seedling cultivation, environmentally low-impact farming methods, compost production, and post-harvest processing



Marubeni
Conducts research into locally available materials for compost production, and manages on-site monitoring and progress reporting

In Tanzania



His Excellency Baraka Haran Luvanda
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Republic of Tanzania to Japan

Partnering for Tanzania Coffee Sustainability

Tanzania is proud to engage in a collaborative partnership with UCC to promote sustainable coffee practices. This initiative is designed to empower local farmers, improve the quality of our coffee, and safeguard the environment. We greatly value UCC's dedication to ethical sourcing and inclusive development. With joint efforts with UCC, we aspire to cultivate a future where Tanzanian coffee, famous known as Kilimanjaro Coffee in Japan, both flourishes on the global stage and enhances the well-being of our communities at home.



Rick van der Kamp
Global Lead on Markets and Value Chains, IFAD

Investing in small-scale producers in developing countries for sustainability and resilience

IFAD is the only international organization that focuses exclusively on revitalizing rural economies and making food systems more resilient by investing in small-scale producers in rural areas of developing countries. Since its establishment in 1977, IFAD has been acting as a catalyst for enhancing public and private investments to empower small-scale producers and strengthening global food security. Our initiative in Tanzania not only improves the yield and quality of coffee but also considers the producers' well-being and establishes a win-win relationship between farmers, the companies involved, and the country's government. It has been an honor for IFAD to coordinate this "Public-Private-Producer Partnerships (4Ps)" with amazing Japanese partners.



Naomi Nakahira
Head of Agricultural Research Office Sustainability Management Division

Creating a sustainable future of good coffee together with our farmers

UCC aims to support the livelihoods of local small-scale farmers through projects that build mutually beneficial partnerships and strengthen the coffee supply chain. This includes establishing nurseries to provide affordable, sustainable coffee and shade trees, as well as developing composting technologies and distribution networks that maximise the use of locally available organic materials. We are committed to promoting responsible farming practices that reduce environmental impact and improve productivity to build a brighter future for both farmers and the coffee industry as a whole.

Timeline of the sustainable coffee production Project in Tanzania

