



# **APCCO Coffee Agroforestry Project Training, Research and Community Outreach Activities Report**

**Prepared by**

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**Robusta Coffee Agroforestry system in Nakaseke District, Uganda**

## **Title: The Agroforestry Paradox: Climate clever coffee – APCCO Project**

**Purpose:** This report provides an update on ongoing training, research and community engagement activities being done under the DANIDA-funded APCCO Coffee Agroforestry Project that is being implemented at Makerere University under collaboration with NARO-University of Copenhagen (UCPH), National Coffee Research Institute Uganda (NaCORI), Mukono Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MuZARDI), CURAD Incubator, GrowGrounds, NewForesight, and Regen Farmer. This report highlights part of students' PhD research studies being conducted in Mukono and Nakaseke districts focused on understanding how Robusta Coffee Agroforestry systems can contribute to improving smallholder livelihoods, closing the living income gap, and enhancing climate resilience. The APCCO project seeks to promote sustainable coffee agroforestry systems that deliver environmental benefits such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience, while also improving household welfare. Integrating trees into Robusta coffee farms is a proven strategy to enhance smallholder productivity and build resilience to climate variability. As a multi-benefit nature-based solution, tree integration can improve ecosystem services, support climate adaptation, and strengthen livelihoods when effectively managed. However, its adoption remains uneven, constrained by gaps in farmers' knowledge, socio-cultural and economic barriers, and misconceptions, particularly under increasing climate pressures. This project aims to investigate farmers' knowledge of tree species, the factors influencing their integration and the performance of Robusta coffee in central Uganda.

**Research and student Training activities:** The APCCO Project recruited 4 PhD students working on different Coffee Agroforestry research aspects ranging from socio-economics and Agronomic aspects.



**MAK - Academic / Research supervisors interacting with one of the PhD students concerning the shade intensity evaluation experiment at NARO-NaCORI, Mukono district**



**MAK Academic Supervisors Interacting with APCCO PhD student at NaCORI Coffee Research Institute, Mukono District**



**The NARO-MAK team interacting with the coffee farmers during the tree inventory in Nakaseke District.**

**APCCO Project Contribution to Makerere University mission:** Consistent with Makerere University's mission of providing transformative and innovative teaching, learning, research, and services responsive to dynamic national and global needs, the APCCO Project research activities will generate information and innovations that bridge science, policy, and practice in sustainable agriculture and climate adaptation. Specifically, the research contributes in the following ways:

- **Knowledge generation for transformation:** It documents and analyses farmers' indigenous and experiential knowledge systems, including management practices, and perceptions of ecosystem services and disservices, thereby expanding scientific understanding of agroforestry systems from a local knowledge perspective.
- **Research-led solutions for sustainability:** The studies will generate evidence on socio-economic, institutional, cultural, and ecological drivers of tree integration, thus supporting sustainable agroforestry interventions.
- **Policy-relevant innovation:** The findings inform national and global policy frameworks, including Uganda's NDPs, NDCs, and NAPs, as well as SDGs 1, 2, 8, 13, and 15, thereby contributing to evidence-based agricultural and climate policy formulation.
- **Societal transformation and climate resilience:** By demonstrating how farmers use trees as adaptive strategies under climate variability, the studies will support practical approaches for strengthening resilience in smallholder coffee systems.

**Community Outreach and Engagement:** The research engages directly with farming communities and development actors to co-produce relevant solutions. The integration of rigorous research with active community outreach ensures that the project remains both academically robust and socially relevant, contributing to sustainable rural development and climate action. Fieldwork under this project involve extensive community engagement with coffee farming households, farmer groups, and local leaders across Nakaseke and Mukono districts in Uganda as reflected in the photos below. These engagements are essential for co-producing knowledge, validating findings, and strengthening trust between researchers and farming communities. Key outreach contributions include a plan to hold feedback sessions with communities to share preliminary findings and encourage reflection on tree use decisions in coffee systems. The Project Team also has planned dissemination of results through holding meetings within the coffee farming communities. These engagements will and contribute to mutual learning, enhance farmer awareness of agroforestry benefits and trade-offs, and support locally grounded discussions on sustainable coffee production approaches.



**Farmer demonstrating how the wilt disease is impacting his coffee**



**Farmer discussion session with researchers**

**Dissemination of APCCO Project Findings to institutional actors in agricultural development:**

In February 2026, the APCCO Project Team representatives attended a Knowledge Exchange Seminar on Green Agricultural Development at the Royal Danish Embassy, Kampala, Uganda to share project findings with relevant stakeholders (Feb 2026). On 27 February 2026, Dr Jenipher Bisikwa and Project PhD student (John Mugonya) delivered a targeted research presentation at the Royal Danish Embassy to a diverse group of stakeholders. The presentation focused on the Agroforestry Paradox—the phenomenon where agroforestry is proven beneficial for resilience and income, yet its adoption remains uneven across Ugandan Robusta coffee landscapes. The seminar facilitated a critical dialogue between researchers, development partners, and financiers, including:

- Development partners & financiers: aBi Development, aBi Finance, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), IFAD, and FAO
- Researchers from Makerere University
- Embassy and Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) staff
- Private sector innovation partners.



**Makerere University, APCCO Project Coordinator (Dr. Jenipher Bisikwa) and Project PhD student (Mr. John Mugonya) delivering a presentation at the Royal Danish Embassy in Kampala, Feb 2026**