



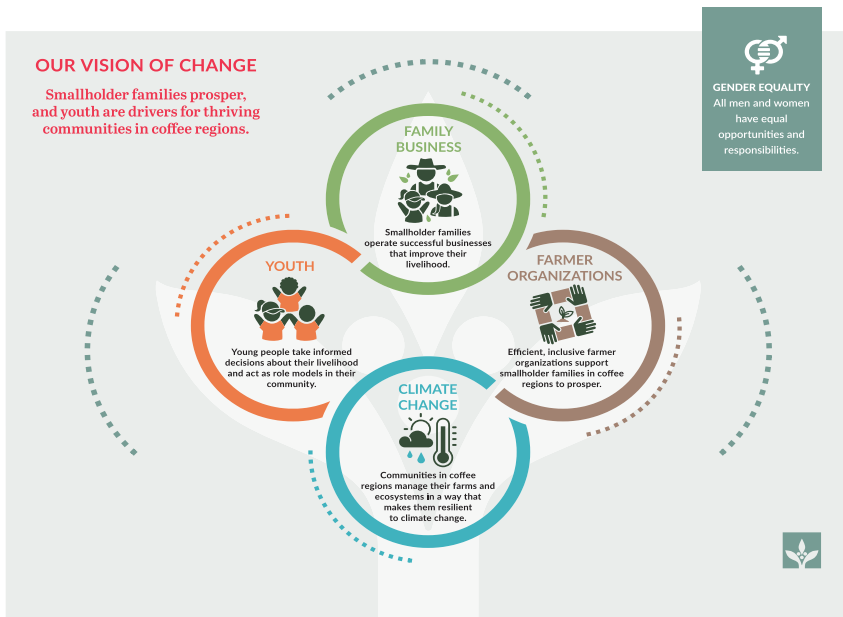
# HRNS' Contribution to Uganda's Development Strategy

## Uganda Country Profile

Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung (HRNS) is an independent foundation that has operated in Uganda since 2005. The aim of the foundation is to improve the social situation of people in tropical countries (especially the producers of agricultural crops such as coffee), the welfare and education of youth, and the protection of nature and the environment. HRNS pursues its objectives through implementing projects/programs in partnerships and cooperation with like-minded organizations from the public and private sector and learning jointly with partners through sharing of experiences and best practices.

Over the past 18 years, HRNS has implemented 22 projects in 17 districts in central and western Uganda focusing on capacity building of smallholder families in coffee communities to improve their livelihood. HRNS supports smallholder families in Uganda to take a proactive role in shaping their lives in an informed and self-determined way. We are convinced that diversified production is the backbone of rural well-being. It reduces risks of internal and external shocks such as price volatility, climate hazards or pests and diseases. Improved agricultural output advances the economic situation and fosters the living standard of smallholder families.

To enable such positive improvements, our approach combines the development of advanced agricultural practices, appropriate farm and household management strategies, adaptation to climate change, and member-oriented farmer organizations. Gender equality, intergenerational dialogue, skills development and entrepreneurship for young people are vital in all our activities. We support the farming communities to advocate for their needs and promote inclusion, respect, and integrity as values of decision-making. As a result, smallholder families are driving prosperous development of their livelihoods for themselves and their communities.



## Our Contribution to Uganda's Development Strategy

### Increase Household Income and Improve Quality of Life

The Ugandan government's Third National Development Plan (NDP III) 2020/21 - 2024/25, places importance on increasing labor productivity for improved quality of life. As most of Uganda's population is engaged in agriculture, HRNS's focus on improving the livelihoods of smallholders through trainings on sustainable farm management is extremely relevant. HRNS goes beyond increased productivity to improve livelihoods but also promotes gender equality, joint-planning and decision-making, especially on how to invest farming proceeds and allocation household resources.

### Enhance Value Addition

Another priority of the NDP III is the improved commercialization of agricultural products and agro-processing. HRNS supports the establishment and development of cooperatives which increases the competitiveness of smallholders' coffee through value addition. Farmer organizations also provide members with access to genuine agricultural inputs, finance, markets, and other essential services.

### Strengthen Gainful Employment of Youth

To promote employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth in the agricultural sector, HRNS' training programs have strong business and financial literacy components. This goes hand in hand with the NDP's objective to address the challenge of low gainful employment particularly among the young population.

### Improve Utilization of Natural Resources

HRNS also directly contributes to the NDP III goals by ensuring thousands of smallholder farming households have access to trainings on climate-smart adaptation practices and sustainable use of natural resource.

## Sharing Experiences and Learnings from the International Coffee Partners and Initiative for Coffee&Climate Projects in Uganda

Coffee plays a significant role in the livelihood of Ugandans and contributes substantially to the national economy. Currently, about 1.7 million households grow coffee in 98 districts of which 55 districts grow Robusta, 28 districts grow Arabica, and 15 districts grow both. Over 10 million individuals depend on coffee for their livelihood when considering all members of the households engaged its coffee value chain. Over the past 20 years, coffee has contributed on average 20-30% to the country's foreign exchange earnings.

Despite its importance to the country and for its people, coffee production and productivity is lower than its potential; yields/tree is less than 0.5 kg compared to the recommended potential of 0.8-1.5kg/tree. The low yield is attributed to by multitudes of challenges including low adoption of good agricultural practices coupled with the negative effects of climate change to which farmers are unable to adapt, difficulties to access formal financial services to support investment in climate smart practices; weak farmers organizational structures resulting in poor market; high levels of gender inequality resulting in poor household planning and investment decisions; low interest by the youth to engage in agriculture, hence limited generational change in coffee farming.

For the past 18 years, HRNS has been implementing projects to support smallholder families to take proactive roles in addressing these bottlenecks. One of the projects is the coffee&climate phase III and International Coffee Partners project implemented in Luwero, Nakasongola, and Nakaseke districts from November 2020 to December 2023 with the main objective of enhancing livelihoods, gender responsiveness, and climate resilience of coffee farming households and youth inclusion.

During the breakfast meeting held at Golf Course Hotel on

15th December 2023 that showcased remarkable results from the project, Mr Felix Opio, the Co-Country Manager of HRNS says "the project supported 5,222 smallholder families and 12 cooperatives representing 218 Producer Organizations."

Adding "HRNS collaborated with local stakeholders to fosters knowledge generation through testing climate innovations, sharing results and integrating trainings on climate-smart practices, agrochemical safety, financial literacy, and record keeping delivered through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) approach."

The project promoted adoption of the gender household approach (GHA) at the household level, empowering farming couples as change agents for gender equality in their communities.

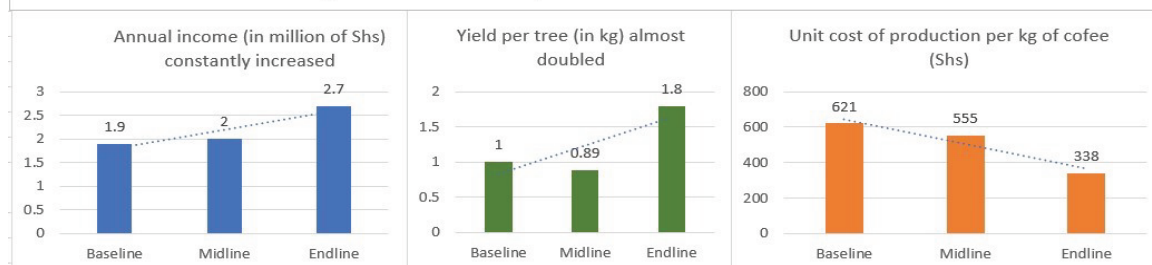
To support development coffee farmers cooperatives, "we first assessed their capacity and performance using the Organisational Development (OD) scorecard tool and identified their strengths and weaknesses". The results of the assessment informed the development and implementation of the Cooperative Improvement Action Plans (CIAPs) to bridge the capacity and performance gaps identified" he says.

### Project Impact.

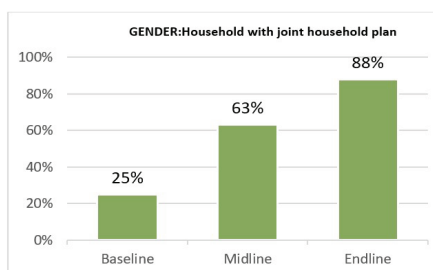
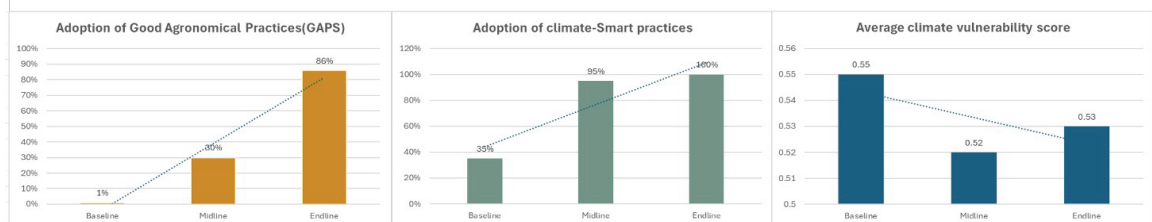
The project was impactful on farmers income, productivities, cost of production,

According to the farmers, smart farming is the only way to ensure sustainable production their coffee and other crops from planting, routine management, harvesting, and post-harvest handling until the coffee is ready for marketing.

## Farming families managed to decrease production costs of coffee while increasing income and yield between 2021 and 2023.



## Observed increase in adoption of Good Agronomical Practices (GAPS), Climate Smart Practices, leading to a reduction in climate vulnerability among farming families between 2021 and 2023



### Safe use of agrochemicals

