

Project aims to make Uganda's coffee value chain more resilient to climate risks



Women farmers in Kapchorwa district, Uganda. Photo: Julie Dekens

KAMPALA—April 5, 2013—An innovative new pilot project in Uganda seeks to manage the impacts of climate risk at all levels of the coffee value chain.

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC), Makerere University and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) will work together through August 2013 to provide a platform for dialogue on climate risk management among actors along the coffee value chain — from producers to exporters. The project leaders will work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and the Climate Change Unit at the Ministry of Water and Environment. The work will also complement ongoing related initiatives at MTIC, such as the sustainable land management mainstreaming initiative through the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

The overall goals of the project to support the mainstreaming of climate risk management into agriculture value chains and promote the sustainable and equitable growth of agriculture sub-sectors in Uganda. Uganda's economy is largely dependent on a few agro-commodities, which are predominantly rain-fed and grown by smallholders with limited access to external inputs such as fertilizers.

Climate change poses a wide range of risks to agricultural production and livelihoods, as well as the sustainability of supply volumes for trade. It should be a concern for all sectors that rely on the country's productive capacity to increase economic growth and address poverty reduction.

Three 'dialogue theatres' shall be convened to foster the exchange of ideas and information among stakeholders. These dialogues will improve awareness and understanding of the issues affecting different stakeholders along the value chain, and the strategies currently used to address climate risks. The aim is to build the capacity of stakeholders to manage those risks.

The initiative will also include a national workshop, organized as a means to disseminate the findings, serve as a planning forum to prioritize issues and guide the development of a proposal for the second phase of the project. This second phase could support the implementation of the results and apply lessons learned to other agricultural value chains in Uganda.

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