

Coffee traders supported to grow export volumes

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KAMPALA. More than 2,000 coffee roasters, traders, and producers around the world will gather in Kampala next week to glean lessons on increasing coffee production in the country.

The Annual Fine Conference and exhibition which will take place next week in Kampala, is expected to help Ugandan farmers and traders along the value chain to share notes on increasing Uganda's export coffee volumes.

The chairman of the African Fine Coffee Association Haj. Ishak Lukenge, is optimistic that the conference will provide a platform for the Ugandan coffee producers to learn how to produce good quality coffee for the international market.

"This is a good venture because it is go-

ing to help Ugandan coffee producers to minimise on the costs incurred to look for the market abroad," Mr Lukenge said.

Coffee conference

He said the conference will attract delegates from 11 countries including, United States of America, South Africa, Vietnam, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda, among others.

Currently, Uganda produces about 4.6 million bags of coffee, which government targets to increase to 20 million bags by 2025.

Coffee is Uganda's leading export commodity contributing about 30 per cent of the country's total export earnings. This has earned the country second position as Africa's leading exporter after Ethiopia.

But the country's coffee consumption



Exposure. This conference is an opportunity for Uganda to showcase its achievements in coffee and to position Uganda's coffee to the top professionals with connoisseurs from around world," MR JULIUS KAKEETO, MANAGING DIRECTOR, ORIENT BANK

has stagnated at less than 3 per cent compared to other big producers such as Ethiopia that consume more than 50 per cent of what they produce.

The Government is set to offer skills training to selected coffee farmers across the country ahead of the annual 'Taste of Harvest' competition which aims at promoting high quality coffee production.