



**Better.** Rubirizi District vice chairperson John Mubangizi (left) and other district officials look at some of the processed coffee at Katanda agro-processing facility in Rubirizi District recently. PHOTO BY FELIX AINEBYOONA

# Agro-processing, road projects transform Rubirizi communities

**Employment.** The agro-processing facilities have provided employment to more than 100 locals.

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**RUBIRIZI.** Farmers and residents of Rubirizi District have reason to smile following the installation of agro-processing facilities in the area.

The facilities were installed under a government programme dubbed Community Agriculture Infrastructure Improvement Programme (CAIIP), which was extended to the district in 2014.

The programme seeks to enhance farmers' access to markets, attract competitive prices and increase incomes through improvement in rural infrastructure and infrastructure management by well mobilised com-

The counties of Kicwamba, Katerera and Katanda have each received agro-processing facilities, all valued at Shs1.5b, according to Mr Frank Nyerinde, the CAIIP programme support officer. Kicwamba and Katanda have received a coffee huller each, while Katerera got a milling machine.

They started operating in November last year.

The hullers are managed by tenders supervised by a committee of selected community members. The milling machine is run by Rukoma Farming Cooperative Society.

The three facilities have provided employment to more than 100 locals, who work as security officers, machine operators, casual workers, sales agents, cleaners, packers, grading workers, labeling and branding workers, accountants and secretaries.

A total of 137.5km of community roads have been constructed in the three sub-counties under the pro-

## ABOUT CAIIP

Community Agriculture Infrastructure Improvement Programme (CAIIP) seeks to enhance farmers' access to markets, attract competitive prices and increase incomes through improvement in rural infrastructure. The programme has so far been implemented in 68 sub-counties in 31 districts in the country since 2011 when the programme started.

gramme.

Hulling (removing husks) a kilogramme of coffee costs Shs80, while at privately owned machines, they charge Shs100. At the facilities, farmers sell processed coffee at between Shs6,500 and Shs7,000 compared to the Shs4,800 at private facilities, according to Mr Nyerinde.

Milling a kilogramme of maize costs Shs250, while private millers charge between Shs280 and Shs300.

Mr Nyerinde said the community access roads have created access to markets and boosted prices for agricultural produce.

"The main purpose of agro-processing facilities is value addition to coffee and maize in the area and to improve incomes for the farmers. Farmers' economic status was not improving because of low prices due to poor access to markets and sell-

## briefly

### DEO decries defilement

**NTUNGAMO:** The Ntungamo District education officer, Mr Odo Arigye, has decried the increasing cases of defilement in the district. Speaking to *Daily Monitor* on Monday, Mr Arigye said at least 92 girls in the district missed sitting for their Primary Leaving Examinations last year over defilement cases. He said 70 of these were reportedly married off before the age of 18. Mr Arigye said his office, together with the police, are hunting for a teacher from Kibebo Primary School for allegedly arranging marriage for a pupil. [Perez Rumanzi]

### Councillors jubilant

**KAMWENGE:** Councillors of Kamwenge Town Council on Tuesday turned the council hall into a venue for celebration following the transfer of their town clerk, Mr Mathew Tumushabe. Mr Tumushabe, who had served as a town clerk for Kamwenge Town Council for two years, was transferred to Kahunge Town Council in Kamwenge District. The councillors have been accusing Mr Tumushabe of embezzling town council funds and causing a mechanical breakdown of a town council vehicle. [Ferdinand Tuhamwe]

CONTINUES TO PAGE 34

## Agro-processing project transforms communities

FROM PAGE 33

ing their products in raw form," Mr Nyerinde said.

Mr Tadeo Agaba, a resident of Katokori II, Kyankandwa parish, Katerera Sub-county, said: "It is now easy to access markets and traders. We were being cheated by traders claiming the roads are poor."

Mr Appollo Natumanya, the chairperson of Rukooma Farming Cooperative Society, said the farmers are now earning more from their produce.

A kilogramme of maize now goes for Shs700, while that of maize flour is sold at Shs1,200.

"Farmers no longer sell maize; they sell maize flour after processing from here, which fetches more money for them," Mr Natumanya said.

The Rubirizi District production officer, Mr Mwesigye Musazi, said majority maize, cotton, coffee and vanilla farmers produce on small scale but he is now optimistic that the agro-processing facilities will motivate them to produce on large scale.

The district vice chairperson, Mr John Mubangizi, said each of the two coffee hullers can process one tonne of coffee per hour.

This is a challenge to farmers to ensure steady supply.

The Rubirizi Resident Commissioner, Mr Kule Muranga, said parish and sub-county chiefs, with the help of crime preventers, should apprehend farmers caught drying coffee on bare ground because this affects the quality of coffee not only for the district but the country in general.

Katanda Sub-county produced 1,440 tonnes of coffee, while Kicwamba Sub-county produced 2,500 tonnes in 2016. Katerera Sub-county produced 2,700 tonnes of unprocessed maize.

Rubirizi District produced a total of 20,420.4 tonnes of coffee and 9,260 tonnes of unprocessed maize in 2016.

Rubirizi now has 76 agro processing machines. There are 23 (21 privately owned) coffee hullers, 52 maize and millet milling machines (51 privately owned) and one cotton ginnery (privately owned).

### Voices



"We would walk for more than 15km to the miller and after weighing the maize or millet, they would sometimes tell you they would not mill your produce because it is late. That meant leaving your maize or millet behind and come back the next day. Sometime you would find it had been stolen,"

CLEMENSIA SUPA,  
RESIDENT



"Now that we have received the hullers, all the sub-county chiefs and parish chiefs should be on alert to arrest anybody caught drying coffee on bare ground because it lowers the quality of coffee for the country on the world market."

KULE MURANGA,  
RUBIRIZI RESIDENT  
DISTRICT  
COMMISSIONER