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The move is expected to strengthen bilateral trade ties and increase revenue from coffee.

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Uganda's coffee sector is gaining fresh momentum on the global stage, with new trade and investment proposals coming from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Ukraine, expanding the export markets and value-addition opportunities for the country's coffee.

The renewed interest follows a high-level meeting between President Museveni and a Saudi delegation led by Mr Ali O Alswayeh at State House, Entebbe on Tuesday. According to a State House statement, the Saudi team reaffirmed its commitment to expand investments in Uganda's agricultural sector, particularly in coffee value addition.

President Museveni welcomed the move, restating that exporting finished products rather than raw materials remains central to Uganda's industrialisation strategy.

"We have been working together for a long time, but we have not fully engaged to maximise our investment opportunities," he said, explaining that value addition is critical for increasing export earnings and creating jobs.

Both parties discussed the Value at Source Coffee Project (VASP), an agro-industrial initiative spearheaded by Nonda Coffee, which seeks to transition Uganda from exporting raw coffee beans to exporting branded, high-value

Saudi Arabia, Ukraine open doors for Ugandan coffee



President Museveni speaks to a delegation from Saudi Arabia at State House, Entebbe, on Tuesday. PHOTO/PPU

finished coffee products.

At the centre of this transformation is the proposed Luweero Coffee Park, an integrated industrial complex in Luweero District with a projected annual processing capacity of 42,000 metric tonnes of coffee and a targeted annual revenue of \$850m (Shs3 trillion).

The facility will handle the full coffee

LUWEERO COFFEE PARK

The project is expected to create about 1,500 direct jobs, 3,000 indirect jobs and integrate more than 100,000 coffee farming households.

value chain, including cleaning, grading, roasting, grinding, soluble and specialty coffee production, packaging, branding, and export of finished products.

Uganda's coffee industry is a vital sector of the economy, with significant contributions to export revenues and rural livelihoods. However, it faces several challenges such as fluctuating

global coffee prices, climate change and environmental degradation, limited access to finance and inputs, market volatility, pests and diseases, and limited value addition.

The Saudi market is, therefore, seen as a strategic gateway into the broader Middle East, one of the fastest-growing coffee consumption regions globally.

Meanwhile, fresh diplomatic engagement with Ukraine is also opening new prospects for Ugandan coffee and tea exports.

Speaking at the inauguration of Ukraine's consulate in Kampala, newly appointed Consul Jay Patel said there was significant potential for cooperation in agricultural value chains, technology transfer and mechanisation.

"Uganda and Ukraine share a common vision for growth. We see vast potential in agricultural value addition, moving beyond raw exports and processing, and technology exchange, whether it is Ukrainian machinery helping Ugandan farmers increase their yields or seeing world-class Ugandan coffee and tea reaching Ukrainian homes," he said.

Uganda's Minister for the Presidency Milly Babalanda said Ukraine's expertise in large-scale agriculture, grain production, irrigation systems and agro-processing aligns with Uganda's push for agricultural modernisation and industrial park development.