

Best coffee farmers to be rewarded

By Christopher Bendana

The Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) is to introduce rewards for the best coffee farmers in each sub-county in the coffee growing areas.

The winners will receive a heifer or piglet starting this financial year, according to Emmanuel Iyamulemye, the executive director of UCDA.

He made the remarks while speaking at a joint agricultural sector agency meeting with MPs at Parliament yesterday.

He said the move is intended to promote integrated farming in coffee-producing districts, where cow dung can be used as manure in coffee plantations.

He said coffee was being grown in 99 districts in the country.

Iyamulemye and his team were at Parliament to brief the MPs on the status of coffee production in the country.

Coffee production has recently been affected by poor harvest practices, including the harvesting of immature coffee beans and poor drying techniques.

He revealed that the country produced 5.4 million bags in 2016/17, up from 4.5m bags in 2015/16. Iyamulemye said their target is 6.2 million bags this financial year.

Coffee brought in about \$450m (about sh1.6trillion) accounting for 20% of the total foreign earnings, according to Iyamulemye.