

COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES

Press Release

April 2009

COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES TO FINANCE CAPACITY BUILDING IN COFFEE CERTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION FOR SPECIALTY COFFEE FARMERS IN EAFCA COUNTRIES

The Executive Board of the Common Fund for Commodities, an intergovernmental financial institution established by the United Nations, approved a project worth USD 4,495,000 to support capacity building under the project “ Building Capacity in Coffee Certification and Verification for Specialty Coffee Farmers in Eastern Africa” on 7th April 2009. The Common Fund (CFC) and Eastern African Fine Coffee Association (EAFCA) in collaboration with the National Coffee Institutions in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe will work towards increasing the quality and quantity of certified/verified coffee produced and processed with the EAFCA producing countries.

The project objective is to improve the skills of the farmers to meet certification standards. It has been proven that farmers who receive training and skills in good agricultural and sustainability practices will be better equipped to produce socially acceptable, environmentally friendly and economically successful coffee and can better meet certification and verification standards. The training of the staff of national coffee institutions with the skills to carry out the farmer-training program will allow the project to have a more sustainable effect. The region will also have a cadre of well-trained professional coffee certifiers as a knock-on effect. It has been noted that the Market is demanding “branded” sustainable coffee but there is a yawning gap between desire and reality in coffee producing regions. The coffee supply chain starts with growers and there is real need to develop capacity at this level so that the farmers are able to respond to the market demand. African farmers and other stakeholders can be empowered to produce not only higher quality coffee, but also coffee that is produced with attention to social, economic, and environmental concerns.

In order to build capacity within the National Coffee Institutions in the region, training of staff from these institutions as Master Trainers and Trainers will ensure a sustainable base for the work of good agricultural and sustainability practices.

The total cost of the project is USD 4,495,725 of which the Common Fund will directly contributing USD 2 million with USD 1,5 million is expected from the European Union ACP Commodities Program and the balance will be paid by the National Institutions.

Note to the Editor: The Common Fund for Commodities is an intergovernmental financial institution established by the United Nations. Its main objective is to assist Developing Countries, which are dependent on the production of primary commodities. The projects of the Common Fund are small to medium sized (USD 1 to 5 million) and are mainly grant financed, supplemented by loan financing. The main target groups are commodity producers in Least Developed Countries and the poorer strata of the population in other Developing Countries. The Common Fund is headquartered in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

For further information, please contact:

Tel no: (31 20) 575 4941 Fax no: (31 20) 676 0231

e-mail: Manging.Director@common-fund.org