

ABC Fund invests EUR€800,000 into Ugandan coffee supplier JKCC

- JKCC General Supplies Ltd purchases quality coffee beans from over 3,700 smallholder coffee farmers
- JKCC is a private company established in 2017. It sources high-quality coffee directly from farmers and helps them improve their yields and quality, in sustainable ways
- JKCC also promotes the Ugandan coffee industry through technical assistance and credit programs for coffee producing farmers; and through marketing and promotion of coffee for domestic and export markets

Luxembourg, 23 October 2023 – The Agri-Business Capital Fund (“ABC Fund”) today announced it has invested EUR€800,000 into JKCC General Supplies (“JKCC”), a Ugandan based coffee trader.

JKCC commenced its operations in 2017 and specializes in sourcing high-quality coffee beans directly from more than 3,700 smallholder farmers across 16 districts in Uganda. These smallholder farmers are formally registered with the Consortium of Central and Western Farmers Association (COCEWEFA), which has a Memorandum of Understanding with JKCC. This arrangement allows the farmers to sell all their produce to JKCC, which, in turn, distributes the products, particularly ground coffee, in plastic jars to the local market, including shops, and restaurants, primarily serving tourists, hotels, and local enterprises.

This direct sourcing arrangement cuts out often exploitative “middlemen”, and in so doing gives farmers greater returns and helps the farmers develop and embed more sustainable practices into their coffee bean farming methods which produce larger higher quality yields.

In 2020, JKCC secured its coffee export license and initiated coffee processing. Since then, JKCC has recorded a significant improvement in sales volumes, driven by increased international demand. JKCC now exports around 80 per cent of its produce and also produces roast and ground coffee on a small scale under the brand name JK Coffee Roasters. The upward trajectory of JKCC’s growth is expected to continue in the short-to-medium term.

JKCC General Supplies is currently in the process of receiving fairtrade certification for 1,687 farmers for the first time by the end of 2023.

The ABC Fund is a blended-finance impact fund which provides catalytic financing to underserved yet profitable segments of agribusiness value chains in developing countries. The ABC Fund deploys investments in farmer organisations, rural SMEs and financial institutions that have potential for high growth and can drive job creation and social development for their communities and countries but lack the capital they need to grow their businesses.

The investment into JKCC General Supplies follows two repeat investments from the ABC Fund. An investment of EUR€2 million has been made into UNACREP, a microfinance institution in Benin, West Africa, which provides short- and long-term loans and microcredits to its members, collects deposits and savings from its members and clients and trains and builds capacity of its members. Also, a further EUR€4 million has been invested into Anatrans, a cashew nut processor based in Burkina Faso.

David Grimaud, CEO, Bamboo Capital Partners, commented: “As the CEO of Bamboo Capital Partners, I am proud the [ABC Fund has financed 28 organisations supporting nearly 600,000 smallholder farmers since 2019](#). It is great to see the ABC Fund once again fulfilling its mission to invest in farmer supporting organisations and rural SMEs that have the potential to grow and create jobs, by investing in JKCC General Supplies. JKCC provides an essential service for coffee farmers, empowering them to secure a higher income for their produce, improving their livelihoods. This investment of the ABC Fund in JKCC also follows on from two repeat investments – a EUR€ 2 million investment in UNACREP, a microfinance institution in Benin, and a EUR€4 million investment in Anatrans, a cashew nut processor based in Burkina Faso.”

Jerry Parkes, CEO, Injaro Investments Limited, commented: “We’re thrilled to invest in the growth of JKCC, a promising SME in Uganda’s coffee sector, and to continue the ABC Fund’s support for

Anatrans through another crop cycle. These investments enable local enterprises to upgrade their operations, promote sustainability, and drive economic development. We remain unwavering in our commitment to elevate agri-SMEs and the communities they serve.”

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Notes to Editors:

About the ABC Fund

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About JKCC General Supplies

JKCC was born out of a small family with coffee growing background that saw the need for streamlining and improving coffee markets, stop farmer exploitation by big companies or middle-men. JKCC's mission is to provide a sustainable livelihood of its supplier farmers through adapting better farming practices, market and crop finance. JKCC's vision is to be the leading processors and exporters of quality coffee in Uganda. JKCC's story began in 2017 in the founding family's village of [Nsangi](#) in Uganda. Right from the start the primary aim of JKCC was to help local farmers get the most value by eliminating exploitative middlemen. This has allowed JKCC to expand our reach to almost all coffee growing regions in Uganda. It now operates in over 16 districts and 4674 farmers across Uganda. JKCC purchases coffee beans instead of dried coffee cherries, or KKibokos, enables smallholder coffee farmers to secure higher income for their coffee through value addition of the primary processing, which helps improve their livelihoods. Farmers are responsible for drying coffee cherries after harvesting. Coffee beans in the form of KKiboko (dried cherries) are taken to local coffee mills which are equipped with coffee hulling machines. These milling centres serve as collection centres for JKCC. <https://jkccgeneralsuppliesltd.com>

About UNACREP

UNACREP has one of the most extensive rural networks in Benin and has set up agricultural financing hubs in areas with limited bank access and some of the lowest financial inclusion rates. It has been involved in agricultural financing for almost three decades. Its agri loan portfolio is estimated at 61 per cent, plus an estimated 13 per cent of loans are awarded to traders of agriculture produce. Cooperatives and groups constitute approximately 40 per cent of the agri loan portfolio. <https://unacrep.bj/>

About Anatrans

Anatrans is a raw cashew nuts processor based in Burkina-Faso. The company purchases raw cashew nuts from a network of farmer groups and cooperatives and is responsible for the sorting, drying, shelling, packaging, and the sale of the processed products to export markets. Anatrans' finished products are mainly cashew kernels – 99 per cent of production. The finished product is exported in 50 lbs (~22.7 Kg) boxes to major clients in Europe and the USA. Due to its certifications, Anatrans can source and supply FAIRTRADE and Organic nuts. The factory employs over 1,500 people of whom 94 per cent are women. The company has a production facility with a capacity of up to 12,000 tonnes per year located in Bobo – Dioulasso, the South-Western Region of the country. <https://www.africancashewalliance.com/en/anatrans-sarl>

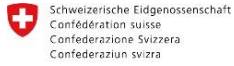
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