



Coffee Companies Join Forces to Finance Farmer Health at Scale in Uganda



Coffee farmers in Uganda, where the new consortium will expand access to healthcare across coffee-growing communities. Photo: © Nyiragongo Ngoma Production

The new pre-competitive consortium brings together coffee companies, public and philanthropic partners to improve healthcare access for farming communities and strengthen the resilience of Uganda's coffee sector.

Kampala, 23 September 2026 — A health financing approach first tested by pioneering coffee companies in Uganda has grown into a pre-competitive health consortium, called the **Uganda Coffee Farmer Health Consortium**, spanning the Greater Masaka, Ankole and Rwenzori regions. It brings together public, private and philanthropic partners to finance farmer health at scale, reaching around 15,000 people directly in the supply chain and a further 50,000 people across surrounding coffee-growing communities.

The work began in 2025 with two parallel projects testing whether pooling resources to deliver healthcare in coffee-growing communities could work: one with Sucafina and JDE Peet's, and another with Export Trading Group (ETG), Ndugu and Pure Africa, each partnering with social enterprise Elucid and supported by funding from the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). With proof of principle established across both, Olam Food Ingredients (ofi) joined to help open the

approach to the wider sector, marking the first time coffee companies have come together pre-competitively to finance farmer health in Uganda.

Today, the consortium brings together coffee companies **Agri Evolve, Caffè Borbone, ETG, JDE Peet's, ofi, Sucafina and Touton**, alongside **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, HereWeGrow, KIT Institute and UBS Optimus Foundation**, with **Elucid** as implementation partner. They are united around a simple principle: farmer health should not be the grounds upon which companies compete.

Paulo van der Ven, Head of Coffee Sustainability, Africa, ofi

"Healthy farming communities underpin resilient, reliable supply chains. Drawing on years of direct engagement with more than 14,000 coffee farmers in Uganda and implementing health and well-being initiatives through ofi's Healthy Living Programme, we saw an opportunity with Elucid to unite the sector around this shared challenge. We're proud to have helped turn that ambition into a consortium with the potential to drive action at scale."

Louisa Marie Truss, Head of Global Partnerships, Elucid

"Healthy farming communities are a shared interest across the coffee sector. By pooling resources, companies can share healthcare costs, unlock catalytic capital and build evidence on the returns. Ultimately, we want to move farmer health from individual projects into responsible coffee procurement, with a model that can sustain and scale it."

Why farmer health?

For coffee-farming households, a single illness can mean lost workdays, delayed harvests and financial pressure, with consequences extending from household income to the wider supply chain. A [baseline study conducted under the AFYA project](#) found that 47% of households delayed medical care, the majority due to cost, while one in four pre-sold coffee at reduced prices to cover health expenses.

One shared platform for farmer health

Through the consortium, companies finance cashless access to vetted clinics and pharmacies for essential, maternal, and emergency care, complemented by mobile clinics offering services such as eye screenings and other preventive care. Elucid manages implementation, from household enrolment and service delivery to claims and results tracking.

The model is pre-competitive: companies pool resources around farmer health while continuing to compete commercially. Each tracks progress in its own supply chain, while the consortium reports results collectively. New companies can join the shared infrastructure without building a separate programme from scratch.

More than €2.5 million for health in Uganda's coffee communities

The initiative represents an investment of more than €2.5 million over three years, combining coffee-sector, public, and philanthropic funding. HereWeGrow will support learning and broader community reach, while Gavi's Matching Fund, supported by the Dutch government and UBS Optimus Foundation, will fund vaccination and health-system strengthening.

Building the evidence together

The consortium will build evidence on the relationship between healthcare access and farmer income, farmer loyalty, productivity, and resilience. A **Community of Practice convened by KIT Institute** will bring together participating companies, technical partners, and Elucid to review findings, share lessons, and refine the model – helping turn evidence from Uganda into practical insights for scaling farmer health across the coffee sector.

Timeline

Phase A began in September 2026, bringing consortium members together to establish a shared impact framework and prepare for implementation. The consortium remains open to additional coffee companies during this phase, ahead of the full three-year programme launch in January 2027.

Consortium partners

Confirmed coffee traders:

[Agri Evolve](#); [Export Trading Group](#); [ofi](#); [Sucafina](#); [Touton](#)

Confirmed coffee roasters:

[Caffè Borbone](#); [JDE Peet's](#)

Confirmed public and philanthropic partners:

[Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance](#); [HereWeGrow](#); [UBS Optimus Foundation](#)

Implementation partner:

[Elucid](#)

Community of Practice Convener:

[KIT Institute](#)

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