



## *Press Release as of 14Sep17*

**NKG BLOOM Uganda: Transforming smallholder farmers' livelihoods through a sustainable, commercial coffee sourcing strategy**

[Neumann Kaffee Gruppe](#) (NKG) – the leading green coffee service group worldwide – has together with the leading stakeholders in the project presented [NKG BLOOM](#) Uganda in its Hamburg head-office today.

NKG BLOOM is an innovative and sustainable coffee sourcing strategy that NKG has begun implementing in Uganda. It includes a combination of micro-finance, delivery of fertilizers, improved market access and agronomy training for smallholder coffee farmers in Uganda. The initiative is part of NKG's long-term commitment to improving sustainable production at farm level and will enable thousands of smallholders to increase their income generation capacity significantly over the next years. The new strategy builds on the decade-long work of the non-for-profit foundation [Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung](#) and its public and private sector partners, in particular the formation and professionalization of farmer groups and the second-tier organization [UCFA \(Uganda Coffee Farmers Alliance\)](#).

In 2016, [Ibero Uganda Ltd.](#), with the active support of its sister company [Bernhard Rothfos GmbH](#) in Hamburg – both wholly owned companies of NKG – was selected as one of the winners of the [Fund for Rural Prosperity \(FRP\)](#) Innovation Competition of the Toronto-based [Mastercard Foundation](#). During 2017 and 2018, Ibero Uganda Ltd. will be granted a total of USD 1 million to support the start-up costs of launching this new business initiative, including the set-up of a fully-fledged Farmer Financing Unit within its coffee export operation in Uganda. The FRP funding represents 70% of the overall investment costs in the first two years and the other 30% is paid for by Ibero Uganda Ltd. The project initial investments include cutting edge information technology from [Field Buzz](#) to reach atomized smallholder farmers in off-grid rural areas, as well as agricultural finance expertise from one of the sector's leading firm [IPC - Internationale Projekt Consult GmbH](#).

In addition, NKG BLOOM Uganda counts with a system of partner organizations that create synergies to make this initiative work. [IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative](#), is providing a first loss guarantee on the portfolio of loans to farmers, in a sophisticated transaction structured together with the Impact Banking

**Neumann Gruppe GmbH**

Coffee Plaza · Am Sandtorpark 4  
20457 Hamburg · Germany  
Tel. + 49 (40) 361230 · Fax + 49 (40) 36123400  
board@nghh.de · www.nkg.net

Geschäftsführung: David M. Neumann  
Pablo García C. · Peter Sielmann  
Jörn Severloh

Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats: Dr. Claus-Georg Nette  
Amtsgericht Hamburg · HRB 66888



team of [ABN Amro Bank N.V.](#), who provides the Revolving Credit Facility and also shares in the risk of farmer default. [Yara International](#) provides the fertilizer products and solutions that enable farmers to use the fertilizer properly, such as demo-plots and train-the-trainers sessions. Frankfurt-based [Quipu](#) supplies specialized software for small-loan tracking, which is fully integrated with the above-mentioned Field Buzz software that runs as an App in the field.

Finally, Ibero's sister company Bernhard Rothfos GmbH and the importer of all of Ibero Uganda's coffee, has entered a development partnership with the [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH](#) in the scope of the [develoPPP.de program](#) by the [German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#). GIZ provides on-the-ground support in the regions of Mityana and Masaka, develops a comprehensive training curriculum and commissions Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung for the provision of training and coaching to farmers and farmer groups. In 2018, GIZ will further advise Ibero Uganda on refining the farmer financing strategy through expert consultants.

NKG BLOOM has been active since January 2017, so an official kick-off is well overdue. With the purpose of enhancing communication and deepening networks, Neumann Gruppe GmbH has therefore invited all project partners to a half day workshop and a small reception to Hamburg.

For more information on NKG BLOOM please visit [www.nkg-bloom.com](http://www.nkg-bloom.com) or contact us at [corp.communications@nggh.de](mailto:corp.communications@nggh.de)

**End of press release**

Please download pictures and the NKG BLOOM-logo for press circulation [here](#).

V.i.S.d.P: Hanns-Christian Neumann, Neumann Gruppe GmbH, Am Sandtorpark 4, 20457 Hamburg