

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE



PRESS STATEMENT

Dodoma

14 January, 2025

THE LAUNCH OF THE 3RD AFRICAN COFFEE SUMMIT

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania is set to host the **3rd G25 African Coffee Summit** in collaboration with Inter Africa Coffee Organisation (IACO). The event will take place at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam on 21–22 February 2025.

The Summit will be hosted by H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, with participation from the Heads of State from African coffee growing countries, Ministers of Agriculture, Senior Government Officials, Private Sector including coffee growers, processors, traders and relevant stakeholders in the coffee value chain.

The theme of the Summit is “***Unlocking employment opportunities for the youth through regeneration of the African coffee industry***’. This Summit aims to outline a collaborative framework involving the African Union, its agencies, African Development Banks and African Financial Institutions to develop programs focused on youth employment and entrepreneurship.

In addition, the Summit will also explore various areas in the coffee value chain that have the potential to create employment opportunities for youth in both coffee-producing and consuming

countries. It will address avenues for accessing finance for coffee-related projects through frameworks such as the AU/AfCFTA and regional financial institutions, including but not limited to the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Export–Import Bank.

The Summit will also recommend the establishment of mechanisms for funding aimed at facilitating youth employment opportunities within the coffee industry.

Notably, the G25 African Coffee Summit initiative emanates from a Resolution adopted at IACO's 61st Annual General Assembly held in Kigali, Rwanda on 18th November 2021 to hold a high-level G25 African Coffee Summit of the 25 African coffee producing countries to re-evaluate the underperformance of the coffee sector in Africa. As such, the first G25 African Coffee Summit was held in Kenya in May 2022 in which the “Nairobi Declaration” was approved and signed to integrate “coffee” as a strategic anchor commodity in the African Union (AU) in harmony with the African Union Agenda 2063. Subsequently, at the 2nd G25 African Coffee Summit held in Kampala, Uganda in August 2023, the “Kampala Declaration” was signed requesting Heads of State of the G25 African Coffee Producing Countries to support the approval and inclusion of “coffee” as a strategic anchor commodity in the AU AGENDA 2063 and the inclusion of IACO as a specialized agency of the African Union at the next Heads of State Assembly of the AU.

At its 37th Ordinary Session held in February 2024 in Addis Ababa, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, adopted the inclusion of coffee as a strategic anchor commodity in the AU AGENDA 2063 as well as the inclusion of IACO as a specialized agency of the African Union. This historic milestone gives IACO leverage to engage with the African Union for policies in agriculture and seek funding for projects in the coffee sector as well as removing trade barriers through the establishment of the Africa Free Trade Agreement in 2018.

The public therefore is invited to participate by registering online via <https://www.g25coffeesummit.or.tz> The registration deadline is **10 February 2025**. Should you encounter any issues during the registration process, please call the Ministry's Call Center +255 733 800200, toll free (+255) 0800 110810, email: G25summit@kilimo.go.tz or notify the IACO Secretariat through the email gnwankwo@iaco-oia.org

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ADDITIONAL VALUABLE INFORMATION:

Africa has a population of 1.5 billion, the youngest in the world with a median age of 15. Coffee is the second largest revenue earner after oil. Half of the countries on the African Continent produce coffee. Production has been on the decline for many years due to various reasons including the youth seeking better pastures hence creating an aging population of farmers.

Africa's production in the 1960s was 25 million bags. Currently it is just 11 million bags. Consumption is on the rise but still very low. Coffee on the Continent should be enjoyed by all not just the rich. Africa needs to find ways to process coffee affordable for domestic consumption.

Tanzania has launched a youth entrepreneurship project of "mobile cafeterias" to boost domestic consumption. This allows the vendor to sell coffee on side streets to passer-by and in public events, universities, hospitals, etc. Establishing Centres of Excellence in conjunction with main stream Universities is very important in order to educate the youth in the full coffee value chain from seed to cup. Education is key to creating opportunities for employment and the coffee sector has a huge potential both in production and value addition. Local processing plants will not only make coffee affordable to low wage earners but also create jobs. Processing coffee locally will create additional jobs in circular economy. There is a huge investment potential in using by-products of coffee to manufacture, for example, coffee oils, writing pads, coffee cups, pencils etc.