



Muhamad Bosa a vanilla farmer in Kayunga district has benefited from CRS trainings which has boosted his yields. Photo by Martin Jumba for CRS.

VINES

TRANSFORMING UGANDA’S VANILLA SECTOR BY ENHANCING THE PRODUCTION OF SAFE, PURE UGANDAN VANILLA AND FACILITATING SUSTAINABLE MARKET LINKAGES

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Vines is a five-year USDA-funded Food for Progress project designed to make Uganda the world’s next leading supplier of high-quality vanilla, increasing exports from 50 Metric Tonnes (MT) to 350MT per year by 2025. Vines is collaborating with both the private and public sector to increase vanilla production, improve quality, strengthen compliance with food safety standards and develop sustainable market linkages with both U.S. and global vanilla companies. The program aims to directly transform the lives of 16,200 farmers, create 15,820 new jobs, and strengthen 836 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as well as 25 processing companies that support the market system.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Sustainably increase farmer productivity while managing risk.
- Expand the trade of safe, high-quality Ugandan vanilla.
- Strengthen the enabling environment for vanilla.

QUICK FACTS

Project Period	October 2020 - September 2025
Project Goals	Make Uganda the world’s next leading supplier of quality vanilla
Target Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vanilla farmers ▪ Input and service providers ▪ Vanilla processors
Project Location	Key vanilla producing districts - Bundibugyo, Buikwe, Bunyangabo, Ibanda, Kasese, Kayunga, Mukono and Rubirizi (see map below)
Resources	Increase vanilla export from 50 MT to 350MT per year by 2025.

PROJECT STRATEGY

Vines will be implemented through two reinforcing strategies to build demand and supply:

1. **Targeted supply chain upgrading** tailored support to 12+ Ugandan processor/global buyer partnerships committed to making strategic investments that enable them to satisfy demand by strengthening linkages with and expanding services to farmers, enhancing quality, addressing traceability and certification requirements, and improving food safety. *These interventions will increase production for 16,200 (30% female) farmers and improve export quality.*
2. **Sector-wide interventions:** Market actor capacity building to unlock systemic constraints to productivity, quality and food safety compliance and strengthen industry coordination, develop a unique Uganda vanilla brand strategy for the international market and accelerate the roll-out of a regulatory framework. These activities will unlock production and exports and *impact the livelihoods of 32,856 project participants.*

EXPECTED RESULTS

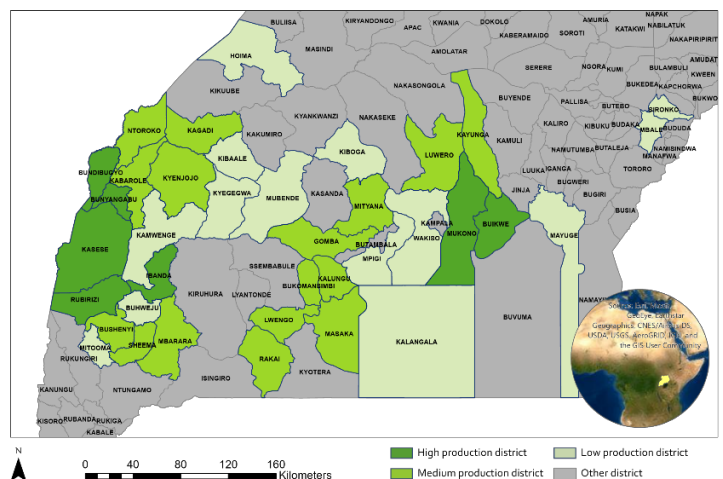
- 9,300 Hectares under improved management and practices that promote climate risk reduction and enhanced natural resource management.
- 75 fee-for-service extension agents delivering training and services to farmers within processor-led supply chains.
- Skills of 245 youth and women micro-entrepreneurs built.
- 25 processors audited against food safety and sustainability standards adopting best practices.
- Business relationships and market linkages strengthened by upgrading target supply chains.
- 16,200 farmers participating in Savings and Internal Lending Communities.
- A focused vanilla policy and regulatory framework established and enforced.

VINES CONSORTIUM AND COLLABORATING ENTITIES

- **Catholic Relief Services** – management, production, Small and Medium Enterprise strengthening, access to finance, food safety and policy.
- **TechnoServe** – entrepreneurship and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise strengthening.
- **Frontier Co-op** – food safety and quality.
- **Sustainable Vanilla Initiative** – markets, policy and branding.
- **Virginia Dare** – markets and quality.
- **Purdue University** – research and learning.
- **The Association of Vanilla Exporters of Uganda (VANEX)** – private sector engagement.



Vanilla production in Uganda



Caption: High vanilla production districts include Rubirizi, Kasese, Bunyangabo, Bundibugyo, Ibanda, Mukono, Buikwe, Kayunga while low production districts include Kabarole, Ntoroko, Kyenjojo, Kagadi, Bushenyi, Sheema, Mbarara, Rakai, Masaka, Lwengo, Bukomansimbi, Kalungu, Gomba, Mityana, Luwero and Mityana.

ABOUT CRS

CRS has been working in Uganda since 1965 in partnership with the local Catholic Church and Caritas to reach the most vulnerable people. Our current programs are in all regions of Uganda. Strategic Priority Areas include Health and Social Services Systems Strengthening, Resilient Food Systems, Emergency Preparedness and Management, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, and Local Leadership. The Strategic Priority Areas are supported by four cross-cutting priorities mainstreamed into programs. These include youth, gender, social cohesion, and safe and dignified programming. To date, CRS has supported over one million Ugandans and refugees.