

**12<sup>TH</sup> AFRICAN FINE COFFEE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION (AFCA) 12<sup>TH</sup>-14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015**

**JANET MAUNDU-SCHEME MANAGER AND LEAD AUDITOR/VERIFIER**

**AFRICERT LIMITED-CERTIFICATION BODY**

**INTRODUCING SESSION 7 ON 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015**

**SESSION SPONSORED BY ECOM AND AFCA**

**TOPIC:-THE ROLE OF COFFEE FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS/NGOS, REGULATORY BODIES AND PRIVATE SECTOR IN INCREASING COFFEE PRODUCTION AND MARKETS**

**CHAIR: - PRIMUS KIMARYO**

**PANELIST:-DAVID OJWANG, KAMAU KURIA, MR. PATRICK GOUKA AND MR. JIM TERSTEEG**

**SESSION OPENING REMARKS**

Introductory remarks relating certification to productivity and markets

First and foremost we would like to thank AFCA and the sponsor for this session ECOM. Africert Limited is a Kenyan based certification body started in 2004 with support from GIZ. We work in African continent and some parts of Asia. We certify farmer groups, estates, mills and exporters including large companies as well as medium and small scale. The company is ISO 17065 accredited.

We audit food safety and sustainability standards such as Rainforest (Sustainable Agriculture Network standards) and related climate module, UTZ certified, CAFÉ practices, 4C as sustainable agriculture standards, Leaf Marque, GlobalG.A.P and Albert Heijn as well as verification of cotton standards such as Better Cotton Initiative BCI and Cotton Made In Africa CMiA.

So far we have certified up to 400000 farmers in 20 crops including a few coffee, tea, cocoa, flowers, macadamia, vegetables and fruits just to name a few.

Standards play a big positive role in terms of social, environment, economic and social welfare aspects. The standard requirements include training as a major aspect to comply with. The training topics training on Good Agricultural Practice, Good Processing Practice and record keeping which includes finance aspect when all this is complied with it translate to high productivity and increased household income. In training the men participate but 70% of women carry out the farm work hence the need to train them more. The session on "Women in Coffee" carried out on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015 confirmed that, projects are now focusing on training households.

Additionally with standards one is required to conserve soil, better soil management carry out soil analysis and have a fertilizer program developed by competent persons, crop protection products recommendations done by a competent person and group administrator required to facilitate access to inputs. Other requirements include integrated Crop Management and integrated Pest Management which when complied with lead to high productivity and better quality thus higher household income and guarantee for markets.

The group administrator for groups develops an internal control system which includes policies procedures and programs developed to govern the group and with compliance to the ICS high productivity is achieved.

Challenges in the sector include high cost of certification so we manage costs by having lead experts in different countries where we operate as well as combining 2 or 3 standards in one audit process.

Other important factor is public and private sector partnerships in coffee industry. These are very important as they help to achieve the goals in terms of high productivity and market as mentioned earlier which translate to increased household income.

Certification leads to the client becoming competitive in the Global market and some standards guarantee markets. Safer environments, compliance to legislation and good worker welfare are achieved through certification.

In conclusion the way to go is certification and private public partnerships.

**CONTACTS:-**

Website: [www.africertlimited.co.ke](http://www.africertlimited.co.ke)

Twitter account: @AfricertLtd

Facebook page: AfricertLtd