



# UGANDA

## Eco-innovation in action

### Case studies from around the world

Across Uganda, sustainable consumption and production practices have been given a real boost by the Eco-innovation Project, with the Uganda Cleaner Production Centre co-ordinating eco-innovation pilot projects for more than half a dozen diverse companies. Uganda's eco-innovators now specialise in agri-food sectors such as tea production, dairy products and rice, with encouraging results across the board.

#### Who are Uganda's eco-innovating businesses?

— **Upland Rice Millers Company (URMC)**, an SME which dries, mills and packages rice in collaboration with over 2,000 Ugandan rice farmers, embarked on eco-innovation to make the business perform more sustainably. Engaging with its value chain, the company set about tackling a range of hotspots including harmful on-farm fertilizers to water use, worker health and safety, and energy use. The company has already made big savings by switching from fossil fuels to biomass with energy efficiency on the increase. Profitability across the value chain has also risen due to yield increases for some farmers of 100% to 200%. Upland Rice Millers' sales are also expected to increase.

— **Igara Growers Tea Factory**, a tea processing business fully owned by farmers, has seen big changes since eco-innovation shook up the company's business model. With big plans for the domestic market, Igara Growers set out to reduce production costs while increasing output and the quality of its Greenleaf tea. Not only has market-based pay seen increases in farmers' earnings (by up to a third), but resource efficiency has improved markedly and 10 green jobs have been created. Tea yield is now expected to increase from 750kg per hectare per month to 1,200kg.

— **Reco Industries**, a food processing company specialising in fruit and vegetables, is marketing a new product line under the brand name RUTAFAs, using locally available raw materials. But the company's innovative focus on healthy foods is also bringing benefits to its industrial processes: improved energy efficiency through new steam-heating methods is saving the company both kilowatts and cash.

— **Buhweju Tea Factory** is a medium-sized tea production company fully owned by local farmers. To tackle problematic hotspots such as raw material wastage, high energy consumption, water pollution and soil erosion at supplier tea farms, the company turned to eco-innovation. It also aimed for increased output and better quality of its Greenleaf tea. With a new strategic business model and on-the-ground changes, Buhweju has already noticed that the quality of its Greenleaf has improved, resulting in increased Fair Trade sales (from 2% to 5%). The production of tea per cubic metre of fuel (firewood in this case) has also risen from 393kg to 472 kg.

— **GBK Dairy Products (GBK)** has used eco-innovation to tackle milk waste, water pollution and toxic chemical use at its dairy facility and at supplier farms. For this producer of UHT milk and flavoured yoghurt, key innovations included collaboration with small-scale farmers as key suppliers, and partnerships with DDA and TetraPack to process higher quality milk with a longer shelf life – having risen from 90 days to 180 days.

— **Kazire Health Products**, Uganda's leading producer of organic healthy drinks, took on eco-innovation to help it roll out its products across the country during a period of growth. One key innovation is the production of a new line of pineapple and orange peel drinks, essentially turning waste into profit. And a series of farm-level and factory-level changes have also led to big results. A plastic collection and recycling programme has created over USD 20,000 of additional revenue; and new