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East Africa Agribusiness Awards 2013 winners recognised during the East Africa Agribusiness Investment Summit in Kampala | Wed, 11 December 2013

Focus on East Africa yesterday announced the winners of the East Africa Agribusiness Awards 2013, which took place during the East Africa Agribusiness Investment Summit in Kampala, Uganda.

These prestigious Awards, which were sponsored by aBi Trust, celebrate excellence and best practices in East African agribusiness. The awards recognise achievements across the main agriculture sectors and reward the personalities and institutions transforming East Africa's agribusiness climate. This year's awards were held in collaboration with the World Bank, the European Union delegation in Uganda, the Uganda Government and the Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation among others.

Commenting on the Award winners, **Edward Katende, Managing Director, Focus on East Africa**, said: "We are delighted to have received such great interest in these awards from both small and big players committed to showcasing their success stories. The calibre and innovation of the winning individuals and institutions will go a long way towards establishing East African agribusiness as an attractive and competitive investible asset class. The Award winners represent leading personalities and institutions within Africa's agribusiness industry with several projects taking top honours".

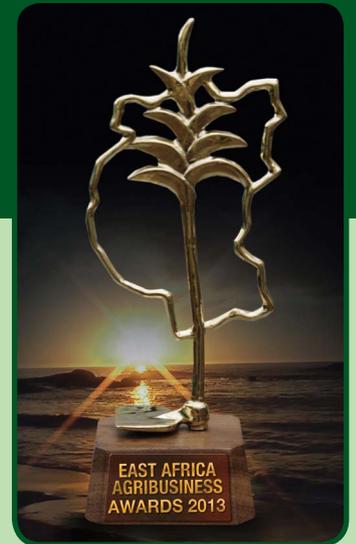
Mr. Sanjay Sethi won the prestigious **Africa Food Prize 2013** for his noteworthy contributions in helping create more food for the poor on the continent. He has implemented various end to end supply chain integration projects for food and agriculture and has brought up small holder farming communities in Africa. As CEO in Food and Beverages at Export Trading Group, Mr. Sethi is a dominant voice on the African Agribusiness and Food Security agenda.

The **Agribusiness Investment Initiative of the Year** went to Agri-Vie for its innovative approach to supporting the development of the agribusiness sector across East Africa. Agri-Vie has invested over US\$ 75 million in East Africa and has spread across East Africa and into the Horn of Africa. This investment encompasses a much needed facility for technical assistance and SME-led projects. By May 2013, Agri-Vie had created a total of 6,132 employment opportunities for salaried, waged and seasonal employees in East Africa.

Export Trading Group was recognised for its continuing efforts in the agribusiness sector, and was awarded the **Agribusiness Leader of the Year** for its investment of over US\$150millions along the supply chain to enhance and develop the commercial capabilities of the region and the African continent at large. The **Best Initiative in Support of SMEs** was awarded to Elgon Kenya Limited for its efforts in positioning itself as the agricultural one stop shop for agricultural oriented SMEs through an array of products it offers from land preparation, to farm management, post-harvest and packaging.

The **Export Award** went to Rwenzori Commodities Limited whose tea is exported across the region and beyond. The company was recognised for its efforts in promoting intra-regional trade. The **Agribusiness Initiative of the Year** was awarded to the Uganda Crane Creameries Cooperative Union which has created a ready and sustainable market to over 18,000 member farmers among others. **Agriculture Finance Initiative of the Year** was awarded to Root Capital Inc and on accepting the Award, Richard Tugume, Loan Portfolio Manager, Root Capital dedicated this award to the company's loan customers in Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, DRC, and Zimbabwe.

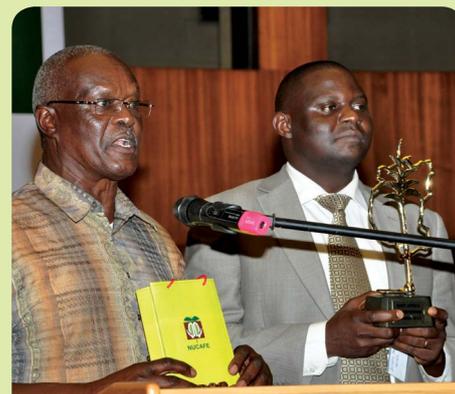
The **Youth for Sustainable Agribusiness Leader Award** went to Equator Seeds. Total Land Care's Viphya Project walked away with the **Environment Action in Agribusiness Award**. The **Cooperative Union of the Year Award** went to National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises (NUCAFE) while the **Appropriate Technology Award** went to Agro-Genetics Technologies Limited. Comcraft Group Chairman, Dr Manu Chandaria, was recognised for his continuing efforts in industrializing East Africa and for this he scooped the **Industrialist in Support of Agribusiness Award**.



The full winners list is below:

East Africa Agribusiness Awards 2013 winners

- **Africa Food Prize 2013**
Sanjay Sethi
- **Agribusiness Investment Initiative of the Year**
Agri-Vie
- **Agribusiness Leader of the Year**
Export Trading Group
- **Best Initiative in Support of SMEs**
Elgon Kenya Limited
- **Export Award**
Rwenzori Commodities Limited
- **Agribusiness Initiative of the Year**
Uganda Crane Creameries Cooperative Union
- **Agriculture Finance Initiative of the Year**
Root Capital Inc
- **Youth for Sustainable Agribusiness Leader**
Equator Seeds
- **Environment Action in Agribusiness Award**
Total Land Care's Viphya Project
- **Cooperative Union of the Year Award**
NUCAFE
- **Appropriate Technology Award**
Agro-Genetics Technologies Limited
- **Industrialist in Support of Agribusiness Award**
Dr Manu Chandaria, Chairman, Comcraft Group



Hon. Gerald Ssendawula, Chairman
NUCAFE delivering his acceptance speech

Notes to Editors

- 1) The **East Africa Agribusiness Awards** are designed to identify and recognise achievements by the different key players in the region's agribusiness sector. They celebrate the innovative agribusiness leaders, transforming East African agribusiness.
- 2) Looking at the world's increasing population, the agriculture sector has the daunting task of producing almost 50% more by 2030 and doubling the production by 2050. Africa is ideally placed to navigate the shifting poles of power by becoming a food supplier to the world. It is the only place which has the potential to assure global food security. The Agricultural potential of these Sub Saharan countries remains untapped, with 60% of world's arable fellow land being in Africa. By opening up virgin farmland and improving African yields through better techniques, the continent could not only meet its own needs but also be a net exporter of agricultural produce. Experts say African agribusiness could be worth \$1 trillion by 2030. The opportunities are endless: from exporting fresh produce to overseas markets, to canning fruit to provide year-round supplies and exporting processed food to nearby regions. But the present situation is quite the opposite, with food imports by African countries crossing a whopping \$30 billion. A large number of poor in Africa continue to die because of starvation and malnutrition. While the opportunity is big in African agriculture, it is also a big emergency for the world to feed the African poor. This calls for leaders to come forward and the Awards are meant to recognise those leaders who have found transformational and sustainable ways that are both replicable and scalable to help improve the lives of millions around the region.
- 3) The **East Africa Agribusiness Investment Summit** is one of Focus on East Africa's showcase events and aims at strengthening East Africa's private sector participation in Agribusiness, by encouraging partnerships and attracting investments. The forum is for entrepreneurs interested in securing finance for their projects, for private investors looking for projects, as well as for policy makers, NGOs, DFIs, Financiers and bankers that are currently active in the agriculture sector.
- 4) **About aBi Trust**
The Agricultural Business Initiative (aBi) Trust is supporting agribusiness development in the private sector to achieve the objective of the Government of Uganda's Competitiveness and Investment Climate Strategy (CICS). The Trust is a multi-donor entity jointly founded by the Governments of Denmark and Uganda. Other Development Partners include USAID, EU, Sweden, Belgium, Netherlands Embassy, UKAid, and KfW. Full details can be found at www.abitrust.com
- 5) **About Focus on East Africa**
Focus on East Africa is a leading foreign direct investment consulting firm offering strategic advice, start-up assistance, consumer insights and capital advisory, to leading East African and international companies, operating in the Finance, Food & Agriculture, Hospitality and Real Estate sectors. We help organisations make connections, communicate their proposition and engage with East African businesses. **Full details can be found at www.focusoneastafrica.com**

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