

Uganda says coffee exports down 14% year-on-year due to drought

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Uganda's coffee exports declined last month due to the impact of a drought affecting many growing areas across the country, the state-run sector regulator said.



Roasted coffee beans are seen on display in Bogota, Colombia June 5, 2019. REUTERS/Luisa Gonzalez/

The east African country shipped a total of 503,695 60-kg bags of coffee beans in September, down 14% compared with the same period a year earlier, Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) said in a report.

"The decrease in exports was mainly attributed to lower yields this year that was characterised by drought in most regions," UCDA said, adding the dry conditions had resulted in a shorter harvest season in central and eastern Uganda.

Uganda is Africa's largest exporter of coffee, followed by Ethiopia, and relies on crop earnings as a significant foreign exchange source.

September is the last month of the crop year, which starts the previous October.

In the 2021-2022 (October to September) crop year, Uganda exported 5.9 million bags fetching \$876m, down from 6.5 million bags worth \$630.01m.

Some years earnings are higher despite a decline in volumes, because of rises in international coffee prices.

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