

WP2: APCCO short story

“Farmers are attracted to shade trees like “Mugavu” [Albizia coriaria, Fig. 1] and “Mutuba” [Ficus natalensis, Fig. 2] because of their benefits, such as providing shade, aiding in nutrient cycling, and serving as fodder for livestock. The shade helps protect coffee plants from intense sunlight during dry spells and retains moisture in the soil. However, some farmers have begun cutting down trees on their coffee plots due to concerns about pest infestations, particularly the black twig borer, nutrient competition, and a lack of knowledge about selecting the right trees. Without clear guidance, the perceived risks are too high, leading farmers to stick to familiar practices and leaving the potential benefits of agroforestry untapped”. Said one of the key informants interviewed by Zerubabeeli Naturinda, Fig. 3 (Double degree PhD student at the University of Copenhagen and Makerere University)



Figure 1 Robusta coffee shaded by *Albizia coriaria* (Mugavu) tree in Mukono district, Kimenyedde subcounty. Photo by Zerubabeeli Naturinda



Figure 2 PhD students Zerubabeeli Naturinda and Justine Nakibuule in a Robusta coffee farm that has integrated *Ficus natalensis* (Mutuba) tree. Photo by Ezra Mwesigwa



Figure 3 Three MSc students from the University of Copenhagen, Inge, María and Anton, together with the PhD student Zerubabeeli Naturinda, during an interview with a Robusta coffee farmer



Figure 4 Talk given by the town council official during a focus group discussion in Kasawo - Mukono district during reconnaissance visit. Photo by Zerubabeeli Naturinda