1. What are Catimors?

Catimors - commonly called Lowland Arabica, are dwarf Arabica lines of (*Coffea arabica)* genotypes (NG 9257, NG 9258 and NG 9260). The three lines were developed from a cross between varieties HW 26 *Caturra vermilion* (CIFC 19/1) and *Hibridi de Timor* (CIFC 832/1). Catimors were introduced into Uganda in 1992 from Papua New Guinea. Catimors varieties were disseminated in many parts of the country by mainly farmers before its official release by the Variety Release Committee, probably due to its high yield and resistance to Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR) which affect the current commercial varieties (SL14, KP423, KP162).

2. Where can one grow Catimors in Uganda?

Catimors could be grown at 1300 to 1500 m.a.s.l, preferably with mean annual rainfall above 1,250 mm, temperature range of 18°C-32°C and a dry season not exceeding three consecutive months. The soil should be deep, have high organic matter, drain freely and yet retain sufficient water for plant growth. Overhead shade is preferable.

Catimors on-Station performance (Bugusege and Buginyanya)

Performance

- **Yields**

a) On-Station

Kawanda	1000 clean coffee per hectare
Buginyanya	1800 clean coffee per hectare
Bugusege	3500 clean coffee per hectare

b) On-Farm

The average yield in Masaka (1200 masl) was 4000 while in Rukungiri (1500 masl) ranged from 2700 to 3900 kg clean coffee per hectare

- Tolerant to coffee leaf rust
- Bears within 1 ½ years with good management.
- Reasonably short, hence easy to manage

Limitations

- Succumbs to Coffee Berry Disease and Red blister
- Cup quality is different from the current commercial Arabica varieties (SL14, KP423, KP162 and Bugisu local)
- Cherry development and filling tends to coincide with dry periods (June/July/August and December – February) which affect quality and yield, and this is a major drawback for their suitability in the lowlands. Farmers at lower altitudes (below, 1300 masl) are therefore strongly discouraged from growing Catimors.

3. How do you grow Catimors?

Current status

Catimors are propagated by seed and hence planting materials are in form of good quality seed. Currently the materials are still under evaluation in different locations.

Spacing

While we are yet to conclude our trials on spacing we recommend that the catimors should be planted at a spacing of 2 by 2 m (2500 trees/ha) when coffee is trained on 2 to 3 stems (multiple stem system)

Pruning

To maximise crop yield and ease harvesting, regularly remove the secondary branches leaving a maximum of 4 secondaries per primary branch. All tertiary branches must be removed.

Other field management practices (shade trees, planting, intercropping, training, soil amendment, harvesting and post harvest).

**Refer to Arabica field management recommended practices brochure.

Changing of cropping cycle

Clean stump with or without a breather every six years to renew the crop cycle. When new shoots develop on the cut stump, select the best three to be retained.

What are the major diseases of the Catimor varieties in Uganda?

**Refer to Arabica diseases management brochure

Catimors are susceptible to coffee berry disease (CBD) or anthracnose caused by *Colletotrichum kahawae* Waller & Bridge at higher altitudes (above 1700masl), red blister disease and brown eye spot (*Cercospora coffeicola*).

Dieback

Under dry and hot conditions (dry season), shoot tips dry up towards their bases. Dieback may be due to physiological problems such as unfavourable environmental conditions e.g. drought, low soil fertility and overbearing. Dieback can be minimized by providing appropriate nutrition in the form of fertilisers, manure or other soil amendment materials.

Insect pests

Root mealybugs, Stem borers, Antestia bugs, canopy scales and mealybugs, coffee berry borer and Twig borers

****Refer to Arabica pests management brochure**

Harvesting Catimors

Always harvest fully rippened cherries as is recommended for all coffee types in Uganda, to maintain good quality. It is strongly recommended that at harvest, Catimors cherries are not mixed with Robusta coffee as they can interfere with its quality for which Uganda continues to have a high competitive advantage in the international market.

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Introduction, Evaluation and Management of Catimors

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