

Purpose

To develop and build a storage facility (banda) for coffee farmers in the Bugisu region of Uganda.

The primary goal this semester was to gain knowledge of the socio-economic conditions in Chicago and Uganda with respect to coffee. The purpose of the research was to influence the design of the building to meet all needs. The research process was broken down into three sub-categories; coffee, culture and architecture.

It was discovered the banda needs to satisfy and benefit both the coffee farmers and Crop to Cup. Crop to Cup is the company that is sponsoring this IPRO project.

Objectives

Research for *banda* construction

Documenting research

Present findings to next semester's team

Focus research on:

- Coffee farming practices
- Locally available materials
- Storage regulations
- Forming relationships with the farmers

Considerations



Coffee stored in farmer's bedroom

Current conditions are not conducive to quality coffee. Some of the things we took into consideration during the research process were: coffee storage, vernacular architecture, & regional climate.

This will lead to building an adequate storage unit so the coffee has a higher quality upon shipment.

Future Agenda

Retrieve site information from villages of Uganda, continue to communicate with Crop to Cup, start correspondence with Ugandan coffee farmers, further *banda* design.

In case a trip to Uganda is impossible in the near future, start video conferencing with farmers abroad.

Conclusions

We are moving from beginning research steps to actual design work.

Farmers will make more profit and receive benefits from Crop to Cup when banda is completed.

Traveling will help the team understand more about the site.



Accomplishments

Raised awareness of:

- Crop to Cup Coffee Company
- Storage facility needs
- Crop to Cup vs. Fair Trade through volunteering at farmers markets around the Chicagoland area

Intensive research of:

- Coffee growing process and coffee industry
- Ugandan culture

Constant correspondence with C2C
Building proposals
Travel itinerary