

GRAIN FARMERS CALLED TO ACTION AS FEED FACTORY OPENS

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HARVEST MONEY

NEWVISION: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26,

MAC BEE HONEY EMPOWERS 4,500 OUT GROWERS



CEO Ampaire



For the tenth year running, Vision Group, together with the Embassy of the Netherlands, KLM Airlines, dfcu Bank and Koudijs Animal Nutrition, is running the Best Farmers Competition. The 2025 competition runs from April to November, with the awards in December. Every week, Vision Group platforms will publish profiles of the farmers. Winners will walk away with sh150m and a fully paid-for trip to the Netherlands.

By Ritah Mukasa

In only six years, a modest bee-keeping initiative has transformed into a billion-shilling enterprise that is changing lives across Uganda. Led by 24-year-old Daphne Ampaire, Mac Bee Honey Harvest is not only producing honey and beeswax products, but also empowering thousands of farmers — many of them women, youth, and refugees — with sustainable livelihoods and a commitment to environmental stewardship.

Today, the enterprise is valued at sh1.8b, working with over 4,500 out-growers, including 2,700 refugee bee-keepers across the

country. On average, a farmer with 10 hives earns sh2.5m.

According to CEO Ampaire, the company sells about 15 tonnes of honey every year.

“We also sell bee venom, which is used in pharmaceuticals and mother colonies to aspiring beekeepers,” she adds.

Their clients include hotels, cafés, restaurants, bakeries, food manufacturers and individual consumers. The company is fully certified by both the Uganda Registration Services Bureau and the Uganda National Bureau of Standards.

THE GENESIS

With the mantra “Transforming lives, one hive at a time” Mac Bee

Honey Harvest is headquartered in Kikaya, Kampala.

The company was launched in 2019 with 150 hives and has since grown to operate 15,500 hives — 800 of which are dedicated to honey production, while the rest serve as mother colonies.

The largest concentration of hives is found at the Rubagano farm in Rwampara District, which hosts over 11,500 hives across two sites.

“Each hive holds between 3,000 and 10,000 bees,” explains farm manager Benard Oworu, who oversees a team of 60 workers.

REGIONAL REACH AND OPERATIONS

Mac Bee has established regional

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