

**MENTEE****Meridah Nandudu**

Founder & Team Lead

Bayaaya Specialty Coffee Ltd



Uganda

Meridah Nandudu is an award winning agripreneur, social impact leader, and a passionate advocate for women's economic empowerment in Uganda's coffee value chain. With a strong commitment to transforming rural livelihoods, she has dedicated her career to rehabilitating degraded plantations, promoting organic agriculture, and building equitable market systems for smallholder farmers especially women.

Bayaaya

Is a rapidly growing agribusiness enterprise that champions sustainable coffee production, farmer capacity building, and premium value-addition. It employs over 35 people 6 full time staff and 29 part-time, creating meaningful jobs for rural youth and women. Through Bayaaya, Meridah has spearheaded innovative Community based interventions that support women farmers to rejuvenate low productivity coffee plantations, adopt organic and climate-smart farming practices, and access high value export markets. Her pioneering integration of coffee production with livestock systems through the introduction of Brachiaria grass for improved cattle feed and soil restoration has been widely recognized as a sustainable model for rural resilience. In 2024, she was named 2nd Runner-Up in the New Vision Best Farmers Awards, ranking among the top farmers in the country. In 2023, she won the highly esteemed DFCU Rising Woman Award, emerging as the Best Woman Entrepreneur in Uganda. She is also a proud recipient of the NSSF Hi-Innovator Women Accelerator Award, recognizing her innovative, scalable, and women centered agribusiness model, her work and impact have drawn international media attention. Meridah has been featured on CGTN, AP News, SABC TV, and Duchess International Magazine and Coffee Talk, Uganda's leading newspapers including New Vision and other national dailies amplifying her voice as a champion for sustainable agriculture and women farmers. Beyond enterprise growth, she leads programs that train rural women and youth in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, agribusiness management, and climate adaptation.

**MENTOR****Katia Fachetti**

Co-Founder

Mosaic Food Advisors