

**MENTEE****Catherine Kabarangira**

Co-founder and Head of Finance and Operations  
TCY-COFFEE YARD LTD (The Coffee Yard)



Uganda

Catherine is a Co-founder of The Coffee Yard a coffee processing company aimed at improving the quality of coffee and thereby increasing farmers' income. Catherine is very passionate about empowering women in business and supporting smallholder farmers. She is committed to empowering women and supporting them to thrive within the coffee sector by offering training and helping them access the specialty coffee market. Catherine holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and post-graduate diploma in tax and revenue administration. She understands that entrepreneurship isn't just about building profitable businesses; it's about creating systems that distribute value more equitably while honouring the skills and dedication of those at the very start of the value chain.

**The Coffee Yard**

Started in 2022, TCY is a specialty coffee processing company working with over 3500 farmers in the Elgon region. We transform coffee cherries into specialty green for export. TCY was established in response to farmers' concerns about significant challenges they faced in post-harvest handling. These issues had diminished their access to export markets and lowered their household incomes. To address these challenges, the company was founded to enhance market access and increase the income of stakeholders in the coffee value chain, particularly smallholder farmers. TCY is committed to restoring dignity and creating sustainable income opportunities for rural farming communities. The Company focuses on high-quality natural and washed Arabica processing techniques and serves 3,500 registered farmers, processing over 1000mt of cherry annually. The company employs 15 permanent employees, 150 seasonal (80% women), 10 farmer agents and it has created over 100 indirect jobs. The Company currently serves 4 export partners and 1 local company. With the increased demand, we aim to increase our production to 5000mt by 2030.

**MENTOR****Heather Dominiak**

Business Strategist & Brand Creator