

## Improving African coffee farmers' economic conditions alongside Almacena and BII

We are pleased to share that ATAP, a dedicated Africa-focused, SME financing program managed by INOKS Capital for British International Investment (BII), supports Almacena's mission to improve African coffee farmers' economic conditions and livelihoods through short-term debt.

Present in numerous countries across sub-Saharan Africa, Almacena's platform enables smallholder farmers and local cooperatives to access markets, by digitalising and shortening the entire value chain.

The award-winning agtech/fintech company offers access to a wider online marketplace to over 150 African coffee cooperatives, facilitating direct trades of organic and conventional coffee between producers and 1200 European end buyers via Almacena's warehouses in Antwerp and Barcelona.

The direct sales are conducted through the platform, where buyers can view each producer, thanks to the creation of digital profiles. Almacena conducts an impact questionnaire and scoring on suppliers, encouraging them to improve their impact generation and traceability. Producers can obtain a wide range of services, such as insurance, logistics, and marketing, while Almacena manages the supply chain and warehousing, as well as any risk that may arise. The company is also pre-financing cooperatives across DRC, Rwanda, and Burundi.

Our funding will support the purchase of coffee and related costs of transport, shipping, and storage in Antwerp, which will then be sold to approved offtakers. The funding is provided as part of the Africa-focused Trade Access Program (TAP), which was launched this year as a platform undertaken by BII. The platform directly funds SMEs and trade intermediaries whose technological and digital solutions can reach much smaller borrowers, fostering trade, job creation, economic inclusion, and positive impact generation on climate change.

Coffee is one of the world's most popular beverages and 80% of it is produced by 25 million smallholders. In sub-Saharan Africa, coffee supports the livelihood of many households (e.g., 400,000 in Rwanda, 600,000 in Burundi, 400,000 in Tanzania and 1,700,000 in Uganda) and coffee export constitutes an important source of hard currency revenues for these countries. However, the share of value reaching coffee-producing countries is very low, in contrast to that remaining in the hands of roasting companies in consuming countries.

By targeting green coffee and specialty coffee commercial flows between Africa and Europe, Almacena contributes to poverty reduction in the coffee-producing countries mentioned above.

Operating in various sub-Saharan African countries also allows Almacena to count on round-the-year sourcing options thanks to differing harvesting times (April to July in DRC, April to September in Rwanda and Burundi, September to January in Uganda and Tanzania, and October to April in Ethiopia).

Almacena's co-founders Dimo Yanchev (CEO) and Karl Robijns (Chairman of the Board) are dedicated to shaping more efficient, transparent, and equitable agricultural supply chains. The platform is allowing African farmers to overcome the structural barriers to selling their product directly to end-market users and helping them increase their income and thereby improve their livelihood.

We're happy to tackle these significant challenges alongside Almacena and look forward to the future steps of our collaboration.