

AFRISWE BASIC AND TECHNICAL EXTENSION SERVICES

Driving Agricultural Innovation Through Global Collaboration Since 2015 to Date.

Since 2015, **AfriSwe Strong Knot Cooperative** has maintained a strategic partnership with **Senior Experts Service (SES) Germany**. This collaboration brings world-class expertise to the farmers of Luwero, Nakaseke, Nakasongola, Masindi Kiryandongo, Rwenzoori and the Elgon region, transforming traditional farming into sustainable agribusiness.

AfriSwe Missions 2015 – 2019: The Foundation & Evolution

Focus: Aquaculture, Apiculture, Poultry, and Agroforestry. During these formative years, under the banner of Life Rejuvenation Africa (LRA), SES Experts provided the technical groundwork for our current success.

- **The Turning Point (2018):** A pivotal mission where experts advised a shift in strategy—transitioning from an NGO model to the **AfriSwe Strong Knot Cooperative**. This change allowed us to better serve our members with a more sustainable, farmer-owned approach.

Image: Historical photos of early SES training sessions

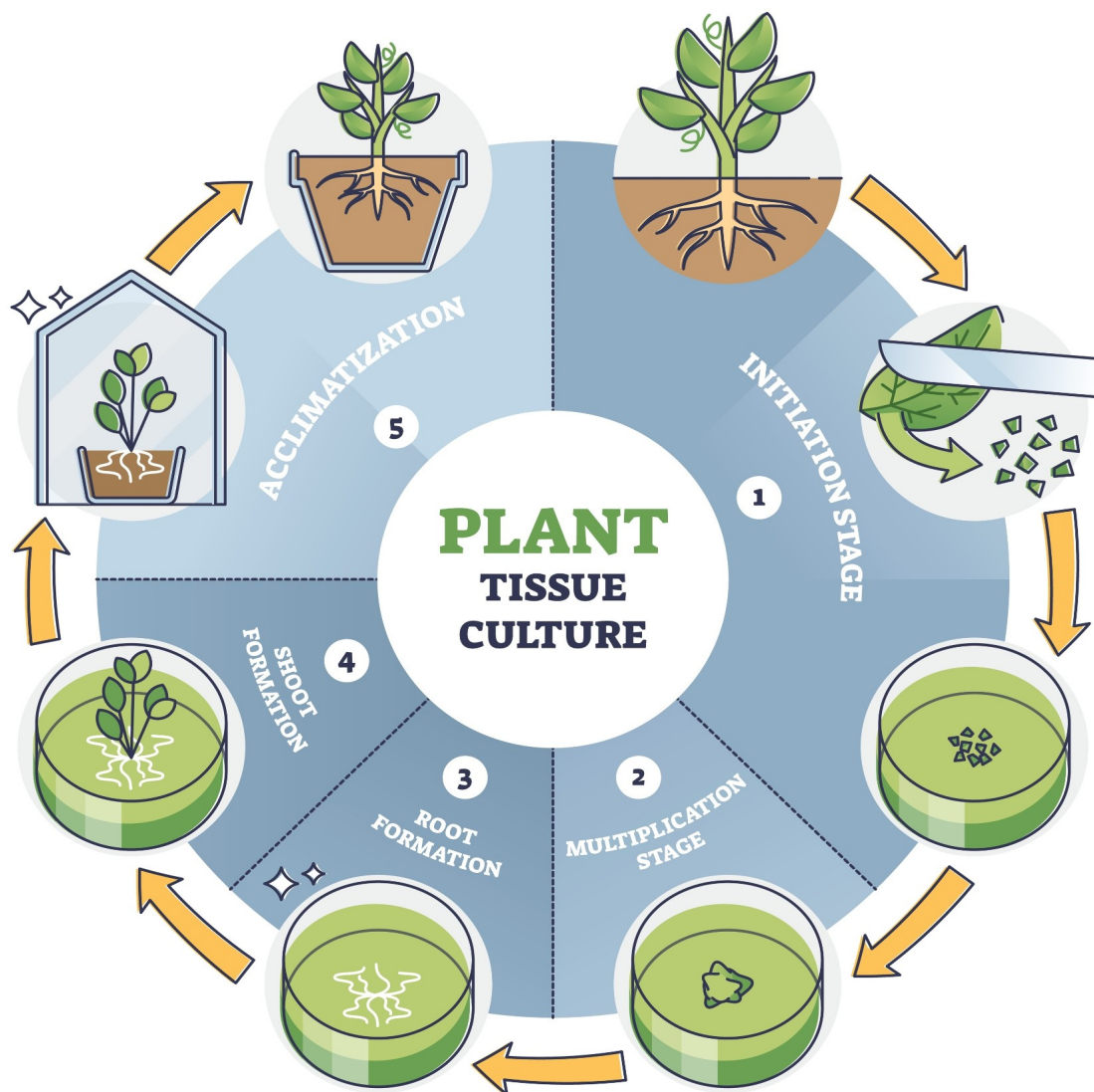


AfriSwe 2022 Mission: Expansion & Biotechnology

Bridging the Gap: When the Classroom Meets the Soil

Partner: Kampala University (Luwero Branch) Following a brief hiatus due to global travel restrictions, the 2022 mission marked a powerful return to field operations.

- **Crop Improvement:** Focused on Banana and Coffee plantations alongside reforestation efforts.
- **The Biotech Vision:** Initial consultations began for the establishment of a Plant Biotechnology program to revolutionize crop productivity for our extension farmers.



The year 2022 marked a pivotal "homecoming" for AfriSwe. In a strategic partnership with **Kampala University (KU)**, we returned to the field with a singular mission: to transform academic theory into agricultural mastery.

The air at the KU campus was thick with ambition as we launched an intensive program covering the staples of Ugandan life—**Coffee, Bananas, and Beans**—alongside the technical precision of **Fish Farming**.

The Lab: Where Science Meets the Seed

While many students are used to textbooks, our focus was the **Plant Biotechnology program**. The heartbeat of the AfriSwe **Plant Biotechnology Program** is a return to **Seed Sovereignty**. Launched during the 2022 Mission at Kampala University, this initiative is designed to break the cycle of dependency on expensive, imported seeds that often fail to withstand local environmental pressures. By merging advanced science with indigenous wisdom, we are revitalizing traditional crop varieties to ensure they "resonate" with our changing climate. Through intensive training in **tissue propagation, grafting, and biological pest control**, we empower the next generation of agricultural experts to solve the industry's most pressing shortcomings. Our goal is to replace high-cost inputs with high-level technical mastery, providing farmers with resilient, improved indigenous crops that ensure both food security and economic freedom.

The Strategy at a Glance

The Challenge	The AfriSwe Solution
Dependency: High-cost imported seeds that drain rural profits.	Sovereignty: Reclaiming and improving indigenous seed varieties.
Climate Stress: Crops that struggle with heat, drought, and pests.	Resilience: Developing "climate-resonant" seeds and grafting methods.
Knowledge Gap: Lack of technical skills in modern crop management.	Innovation: Deploying trained student-coordinators to lead field operations.
Farm inputs: Chemical fertilizers, Herbicides and pesticides affecting our soil nutrients	Organic Farming: Production of organic fertilizers, Pesticides and use of Eco friendly farming methods

At KU, the magic happened. Under the guidance of AfriSwe experts, students dove deep into:

- **Plant Tissue Propagation:** Mastering the delicate art of multiplying healthy banana suckers.
- **Grafting Mastery:** Combining the strength of one plant with the productivity of another through hands-on theory and practical application.

The Result: A New Generation of Leaders

The impact was immediate. **16 students** didn't just pass; they excelled, providing glowing testimonies of how their hands-on skills finally matched their classroom knowledge. But we didn't stop at grades. The goal was to build a bridge between AfriSwe's regional operations and the latest technical expertise. From this cohort, **5 exceptional students** were officially registered as AfriSwe Regional Coordinators. Today, they are on the front lines, serving as technical pillars for farmers in their respective regions.

Fish Farming Field training.



AfriSwe 2024 Mission: Institutional Synergy

Partner: Ndejje University This mission strengthened the bridge between academic research and practical farming.

- **Diverse Value Chains:** Intensive training on Cocoa, Sorghum, and Aquaculture.
- **Infrastructure:** Significant strides were made toward establishing the **Plant Biotechnology Laboratory** at Ndejje University, a cornerstone for the future of seed quality in the region.

Image: SES Experts and Ndejje University staff at the lab site



The AfriSwe 2024 Mission marked a turning point for rural cooperatives in Uganda. By moving beyond simple subsistence, the mission focused on a **Diverse Value Chain** approach, bridging the gap between raw "dirt" and "dollars."

Here is the story of that mission, the hurdles remaining, and the path forward.

Part 1: The Golden Bean of Kanungu From Seed to Scale



In the lush, rolling hills of **Kanungu**, cocoa is more than a crop; it is a lifeline. During the 2024 mission, AfriSwe experts conducted intensive training sessions, teaching farmers how to Care for plantations and move from traditional harvesting to professional fermentation and drying. Very impractical to them with testimonies



Learning

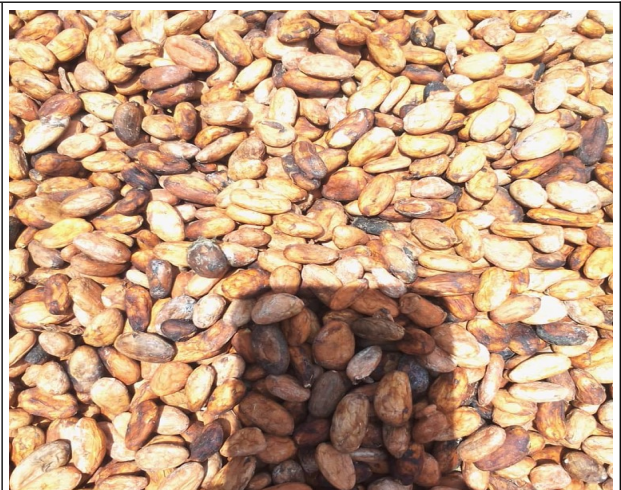


After

However, the story takes a bittersweet turn. While the farmers now produce high-quality beans, they are forced to sell them "wet" or raw to middlemen at a fraction of their potential value. The missing chapter is **Processing**.



At pod opening



Ready beans for sale

To truly unlock wealth, Kanungu needs a centralized fermentation and drying hub with mechanical presses to produce cocoa butter and powder.

Part 2: The Resilience of Kiryandongo



In **Kiryandongo**, the focus shifted to food security and industrial supply. Experts trained farmers in **Sorghum** cultivation—a crop that thrives in the local climate and has high demand from the brewery industry. Simultaneously, **Fish Farming** (Aquaculture) was introduced as a "protein bank," teaching communities how to construct, manage ponds and fingerlings to ensure both nutrition and a steady secondary income.



At farm demo



At fish pond

Opportunities Involved

The mission identified three high-growth levers that can transform these communities:

- **Argo-Industrialization:** Transitioning from selling raw cocoa beans to semi-processed cocoa products could increase farmer margins by over **40%**.
- **Import Substitution:** High-quality sorghum from Kiryandongo can directly supply Ugandan breweries, replacing expensive imported grains.
- **Blue Economy Growth:** Fish farming in Kiryandongo taps into the rising national demand for protein, providing a Year-round revenue stream regardless of crop seasons.

What AfriSwe Needs to Support Further

The primary bottleneck is **Capital for Infrastructure**. While the "know-how" has been transferred, the "how-to-build" remains unfunded. **The Reality Check:** AfriSwe has the expertise and the community trust, but lacks the liquid capital to procure these machines. To move from *training to transformation*, AfriSwe requires strategic partnerships, equipment grants, or low-interest financing to establish these processing hubs.

Focus Area	Requirement	Impact
Kanungu Cocoa	Fermentation boxes, mechanical dryers, and solar-powered shellers.	Stops post-harvest loss; triples bean value.
Kiryandongo Sorghum	Dryers, Multi-crop threshers and moisture meters & Storage facilities	Meets "Grade A" standards for industrial buyers.
Kiryandongo Fish	Fingerling hatcheries and affordable local feed production units.	Lowers the cost of entry for new farmers.

AfriSwe 2025 Mission: The as a Latest Milestone Scaling Horizons and Securing the Future

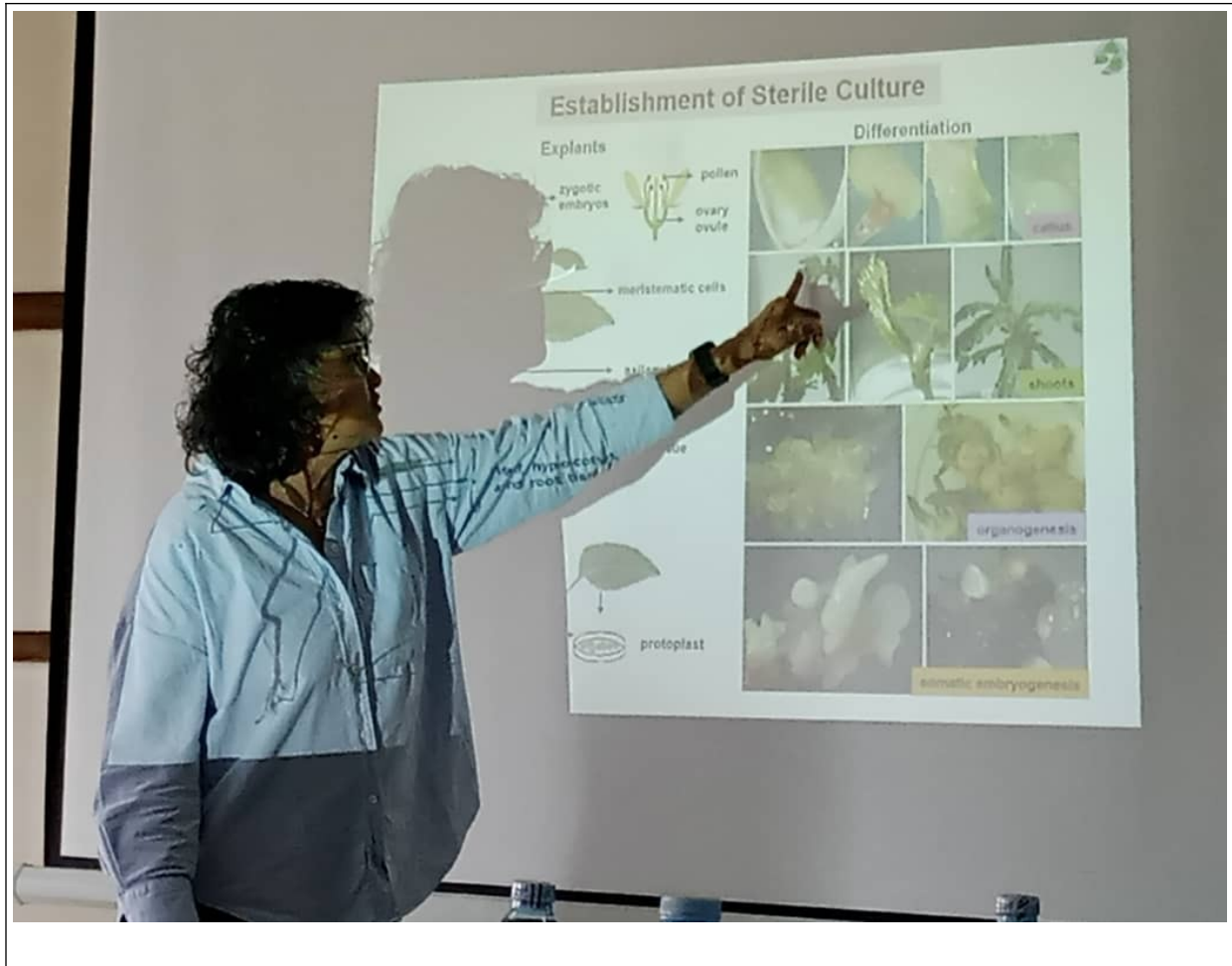
Location: Ndejje University & Elgon Region Outreaches Our most recent collaboration focused on scaling existing projects and reaching new territories in the Elgon region.

- **Lab Implementation:** Finalizing the Plant Biotechnology Laboratory setup.
- **Seed Production:** Launching the Sorghum seed production initiative using new lab technologies.
- **Integrated Farming:** Advanced training in Local Chicken management and Apiculture.
- **Field Extensions:** Direct outreach to Cocoa, Coffee, and Chilli farmers.

Photo of the 2025 Expert team with cooperative members and Ndejje.



The **2025 Mission** stands as a landmark in AfriSwe's journey toward agro-industrial sovereignty. Building on the foundational biotechnology work of 2022, this mission focused on two strategic fronts: **Scaling existing value chains** in the Elgon region and **Formalizing industrial partnerships** to provide a guaranteed market for our farmers. Partnering with **Ndejje University (NDU)**, AfriSwe experts moved from academic theory to large-scale laboratory and field implementation.



Strategic Milestones: The Elgon Expansion & UBL Partnership

The dominant objective of Mission 2025 was to secure the "End-to-End" value chain—from the lab-grown seed to the industrial buyer.

- **The Sorghum Breakthrough:** A high-level meeting with the **Uganda Breweries Limited (UBL)** Agricultural Manager successfully positioned AfriSwe farmers as one of suppliers for both seeds and grain. This partnership ensures that our Sorghum farmers in the all regions have a consistent, high-volume market.



- **Export-Ready Crops:** Beyond sorghum Farming, the mission aimed to launch seed production of sorghum and **Chilli** targeted at international export markets.
- **Integrated Field Extension:** In the Central and Elgon region, we expanded our "Integrated Farming" model. Training was conducted across five key sectors: **Local Chicken, Fish Farming, Cocoa, Vanilla, and Coffee.**



Well pruned pant for demo

The Luwero Connection: Empowering the Buganda Women Associations

Mission 2025 added vital new Members in **Luwero Chapter**. Through the Buganda Women's Representative, AfriSwe engaged with local women's associations involved in the manual processing of **sweet potatoes, popcorn, and yellow corns**.



Photo with the Leader



These groups are the backbone of the local economy but are limited by manual labor. AfriSwe has identified a critical need for **automated machinery** (such as specialized Grinders, slicers, dryers, and packaging units etc) to elevate their products to professional market standards.



Mission 2025: Challenges and Solution Road map

While the mission achieved significant territorial growth, it also highlighted technical and financial bottlenecks that require urgent attention.

Challenge Identified	Status	Solution / Progress
Laboratory Equipment Gap	<i>Partially Solved</i>	Secured two dedicated lab rooms at NDU (Technology Development & Growth rooms); however, the Clean Bench and vital reagents are still missing.
Manual Processing Limits	<i>Ongoing</i>	Luwero Women's Associations require automation to move from "small value addition" to "market-ready" products.
Financial "Hiccups"	<i>Critical</i>	The cooperative currently lacks the liquid capital required for a fully independent, private AfriSwe Biotech Lab.
Industrial Seed Supply	<i>Solved</i>	Secured UBL as a primary market for sorghum, providing a direct "Dirt-to-Dollars" pipeline for farmers.

Impact Analysis: Progress by the Numbers

Our internal and external reports confirm that this partnership is delivering real-world results:

- **Farmer Success:** Members report mastering new, modern tactics for livestock and crop management.
- **Growth:** Tangible improvements in yields and animal health across all AfriSwe sectors.
- **Shared Purpose:** A strengthened tripartite bond between AfriSwe, Ndejje University, and SES Germany.

Member Training Guidelines

To maintain the high standard of these missions, we follow a strict "Model Farm" training protocol:

- **Small Groups:** Sessions are capped at 30 members to ensure personalized learning.
- **Model Farms:** Trainings take place on selected member farms to demonstrate practical application.
- **Preparedness:** Members are required to bring notebooks and pens.
- **Exclusivity:** These world-class trainings are provided **free of charge**, exclusively for registered AfriSwe Cooperative members.

There and more services, Join AfriSwe, to enjoy them and perhaps work collectively to achieving together.

Investment & Support: The Needed

To fulfill the vision of a private, high-tech biotechnology hub and industrialize our rural partners, AfriSwe invites support through **Investment, Referrals, Donations, and Collaborative Partnerships**.

Project Area	Required Support	Impact
Private Biotech Lab	Capital for Lab Construction, Clean Benches, Autoclaves, and Reagents.	Full independence in indigenous seed production and crop improvement.
Luwero Women's Hub	Automated machinery for Sweet Potato, Popcorn, and Yellow corn processing.	Doubles production capacity and improves hygiene/marketability.
Elgon & Central Extension	Logistics (Motorcycles) and Field Kits for coordinators.	Ensures technical support reaches remote Cocoa and Vanilla farmers.
Regional Seed Banks and post harvest handling storage facilities	Storage infrastructure and climate-control equipment.	Protects the "Climate-Resonant" seeds developed in our labs.

How to Support: We welcome **Investment Referrals** for large-scale infrastructure, **System Contributions** from well wishers & cooperative members, **Gifts/Donations** from well-wishers and development partners.

Conclusion: Summary to Progress

Mission 2025 proved that the AfriSwe model works: we can bridge the gap between university research and industrial demand. By securing the UBL partnership and expanding into the Other regions, we have created a blueprint for success. However, to maintain this momentum and ensure our biotechnology remains "Tense and Special," we must move toward owning our infrastructure. **Our transition from a partner-dependent lab to a private AfriSwe Biotechnology Center is the next great leap in our mission for African agricultural independence.**

For more information, investment inquiries, or to join the cause, please contact the

Secretariat: 📞 +256 777 849 910 / +256 707 103 653

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