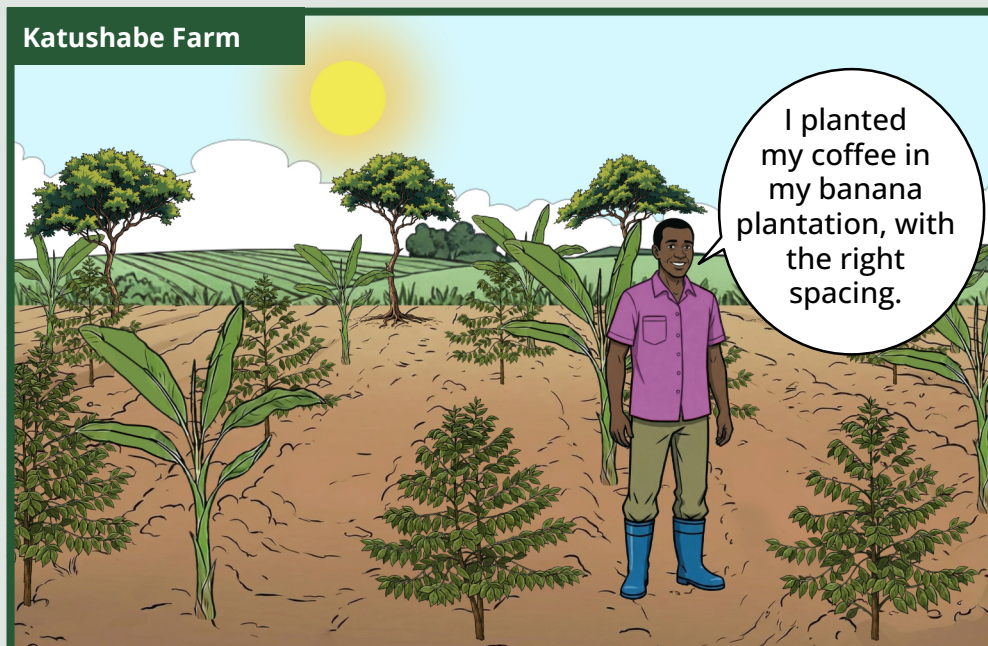


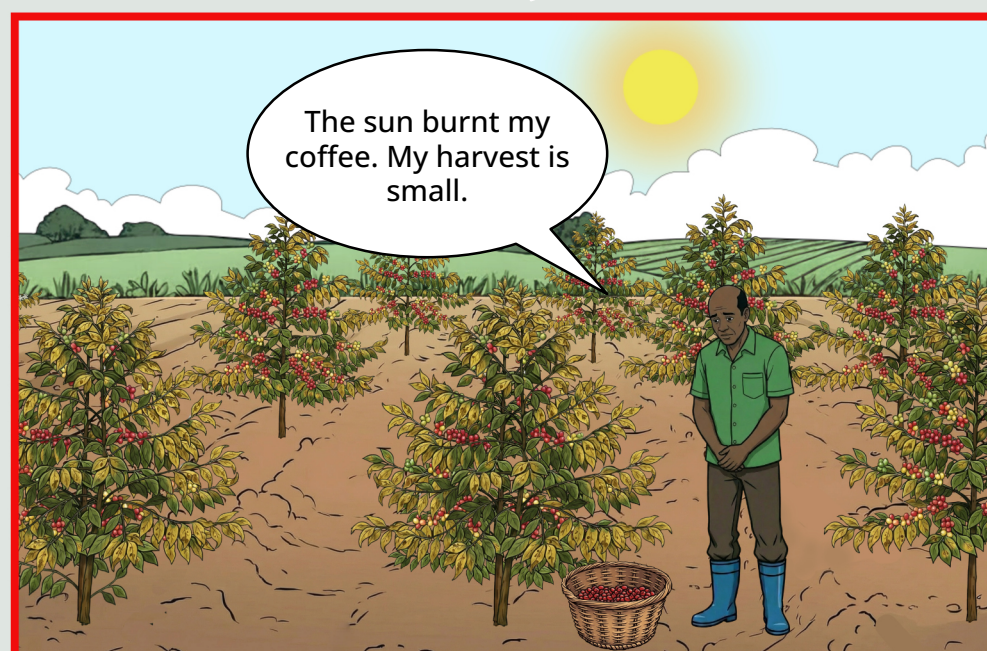
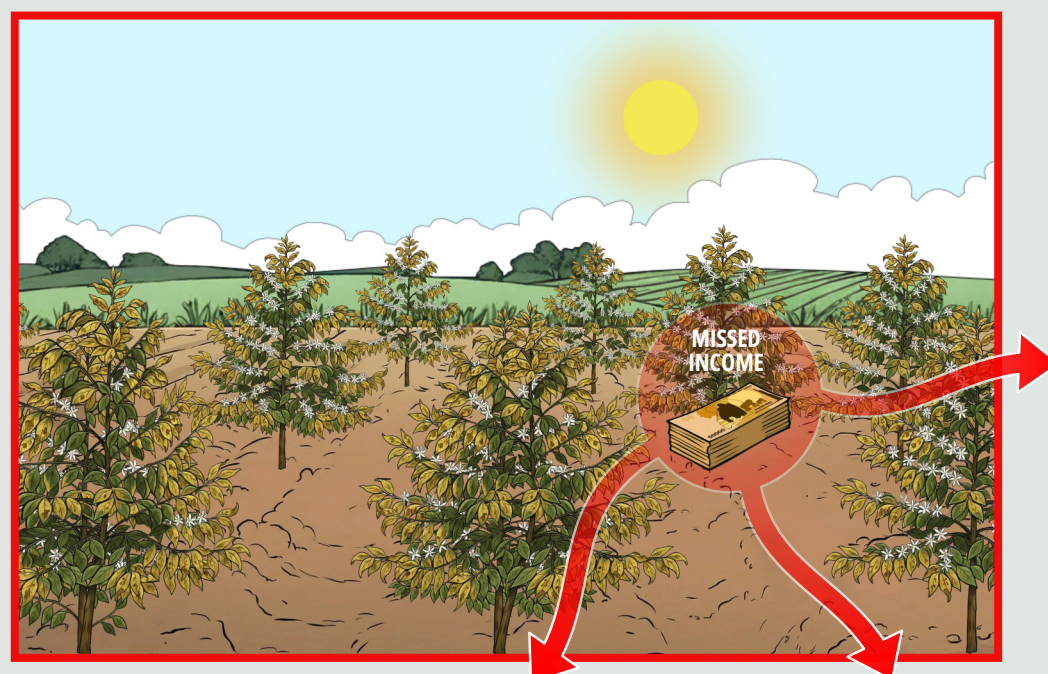
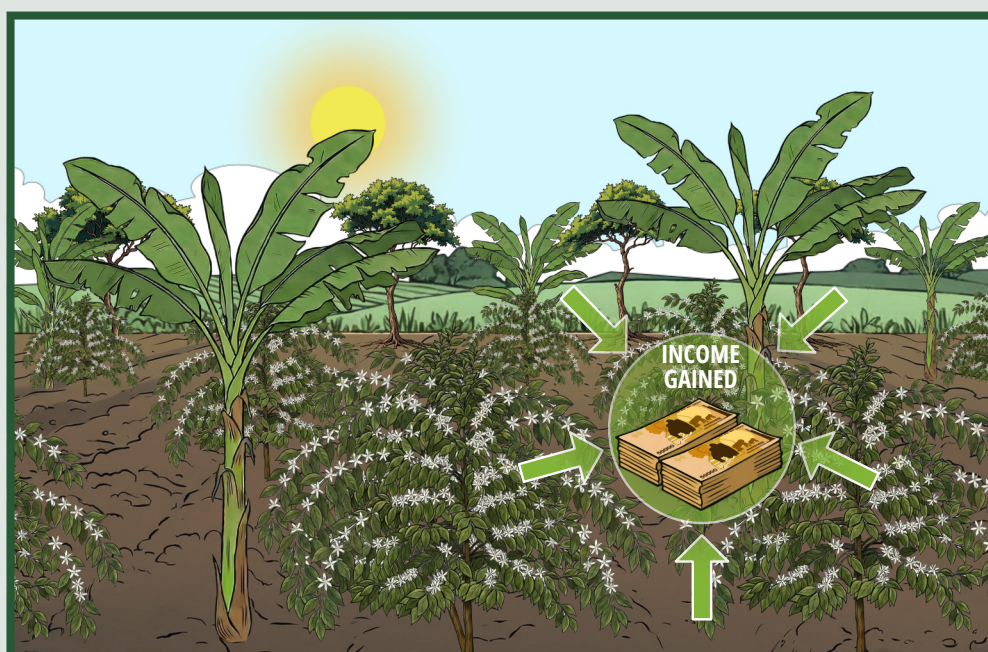
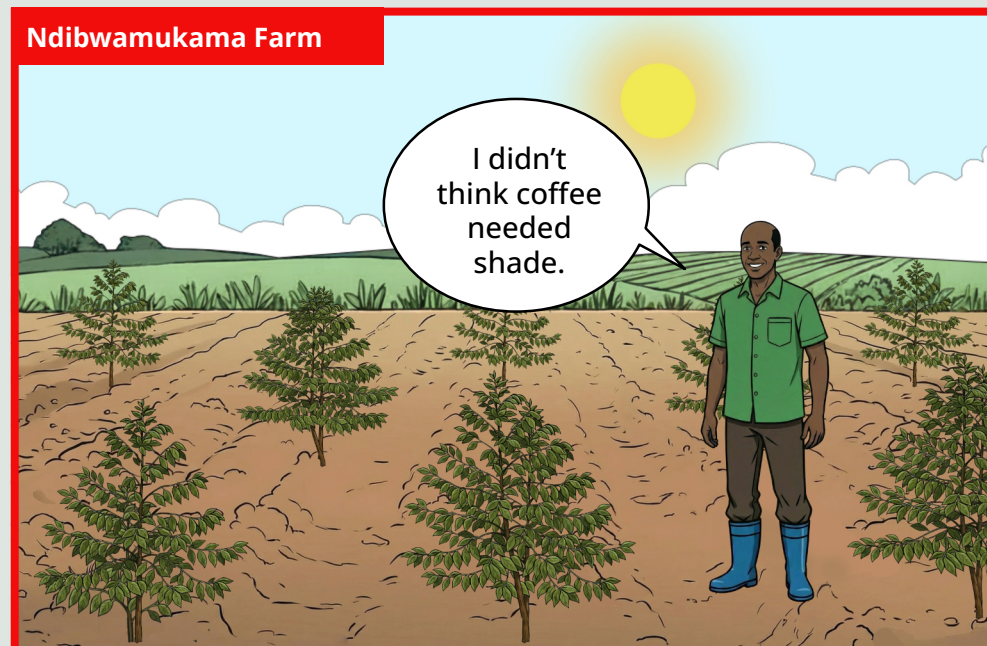


Give Shade to Your Coffee — And Grow Your Income

Katushabe Farm



Ndibwamukama Farm



Shade protects your soil, improves your coffee and increases your income.

MAAIF recommended shade trees include:

Robusta Coffee

Mutuba (*Ficus natalensis*)
Mugavu, Musisiya (*Albizia coriaria*)
Mukunyu, Kabalira (*Ficus mucuso*)

Arabica Coffee

Charreada, Ekitooma (*Ficus natalensis*)
Musisa, Murongo, Muyenzayenze (*Albizia coriaria*)
Mukunyu (*Ficus mucuso*)





Facilitator Talking Points

*These should be printed on the back of the laminated poster or as a one-page handout for agents.
They guide a 5–10-minute discussion after showing the visuals.*

1. Open with reflection

- What differences do you notice between Katushabe's and Ndibwamukama's gardens?
- Which one looks closest to your own?
- Who do you think earned more, and why?

2. Discuss the benefits of shade trees

- It is a requirement for organic coffee growing, Climate-Smart Coffee/ Regenerative Agriculture, and Sustainable Coffee farming as defined by MAAIF regulations and international markets.
- Protects coffee bushes from heavy rainstorms and hailstorms.
- Reduces the intensity of wind speeds and soil erosion and acts as windbreaker. *(Note: consider visuals per 5a and 5b of the Robusta Coffee Manual and/ or consider page 13 of Impact Architects' flip Chart/ from harmonised coffee extension materials.)*
- Protects coffee plants from high solar radiation and limits evapotranspiration.
- Limits weed growth.
- Provides organic matter in soil.
- Reduces plant metabolism and encourages more regular flowering.
- Slows down cherry ripening- improving bean density and cup flavour.

- Increases biodiversity by promoting higher populations of birds, predators of coffee pests, and pollinators of coffee plants, thereby improving fruit formation.
- When leguminous trees are planted, they fix Nitrogen from the air to restore soil fertility and structure.
- Help to stabilise the soil by reducing soil erosion and water runoff.
- Contribute to efficient utilisation of nutrients by taking up leached nutrients outside the reach of the coffee tree and returning them to the topsoil through falling leaves, which act as mulch.
- Provide diversified income from products like firewood, which can be a source of foliage for domestic animals, and pruned branches provide fuel for farm activities like drying furnaces or domestic cooking.

3. Explore shade-tree management

- Plant recommended species
- Space trees at 20–40 metres, depending on canopy.
- Plant shade trees one year before coffee if possible.
- Regular pruning at the start of the rains to avoid excessive shade.
- Keep tree height around 4–5 metres for proper aeration and easier management.

