

PRODUCER PROFILE

Name: Karagwe District Coffee Cooperative Union

Product: Coffee

Country: Tanzania

FLO ID: 799

Fairtrade Certified Since: 1997

Number of Certified Members: 66,000

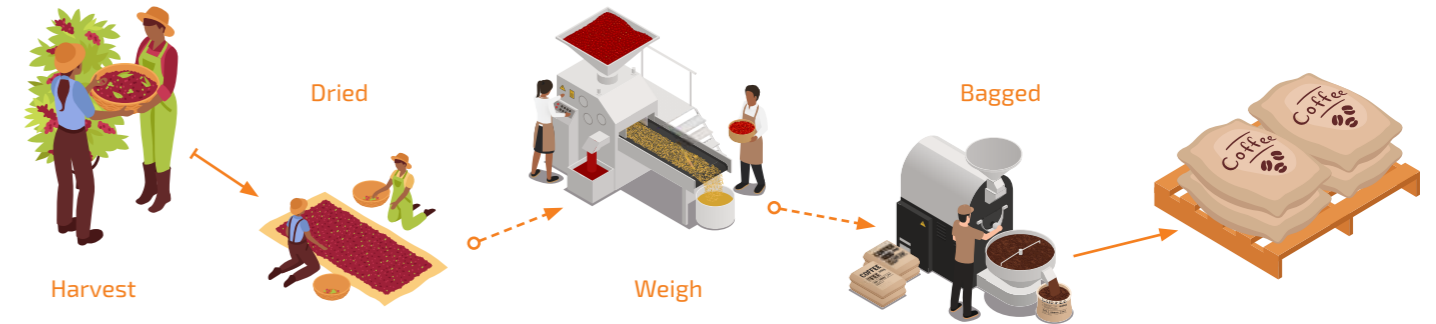


Introduction

Karagwe District Cooperative Union Limited (KDCU Ltd) is a 2nd grade Coffee Cooperative Organization incorporated according to the Tanzania Cooperative Society Act 2013 and is located in North-West Tanzania, within Kagera Region. It is a wholly farmer owned cooperative organization with a membership of over 66,000 small scale farmers.

It has a total of 117 primary cooperatives, out of which 30 primary cooperatives are Fairtrade and organic certified. The union covers an average production area of 7,716 square Kilometres within Karagwe and Kyerwa Districts.

Coffee Growing & Processing



KDCU Ltd members produce both Arabica (10%) and Robusta (90%) coffee. Annual coffee production is about 40,000 MT of dried coffee cherry. Due to the favourable climatic conditions, KDCU produces natural distinct flavoured coffee which outperforms similar coffees produced elsewhere in the region.

The coffee is lovingly cared for, regularly pruned, weeded and treated with organic sprays made from local plants. Members enhance soil fertility through mulching and feeding the coffee with compost and other organic matter. The harvesting period varies from May to September. Cherry coffee is delivered to varying number

of collection centres and primary cooperatives. When the coffees from the societies reach KDCU processing plants, they are hulled, graded, sorted, weighed, packed and stored at KDCU warehouses ready for delivery. Physical traceability is maintained throughout production chain.

Coffee Profile



Altitude:
1300-1800 mm



Area of Production:
771,600 ha



Growing Practice:
90% Organic



Processing Type:
Dried



Harvest Period:
June-September



Smallholders Production Area:
3 ha on average



Other Certifications:
Fairtrade & Organic



Coffee Production:

Type: Robusta
Screen: 18, 16, 14, & 12
Cup score: 84+%

Benefits of Fairtrade

Through the Fairtrade core principles of democracy, participation and transparency, the union and its primary cooperatives have an integrated decision-making organ which is the General Assembly where all the decision are made. The union has further received Fairtrade Premium which it has used to advance the social, economic and environmental welfare of its members and the surrounding community:

Reforestation

The union established a tree planting project (30 acres of reforestation and sustainable production of timber for building materials) to provide timber for the community. Investment entails purchase of pine seedlings, labour for planting and maintenance of the tree farm.

Quality & Improvements

Members have received resilient coffee seedlings that withstand coffee wilt disease and with a high production capacity. The union has also constructed storage facilities to preserve the quality of yields.

Capacity Building

Members have received training covering coffee husbandry, administration and accounting, and how to improve coffee quality.



Water Storage Facilities

The union has constructed of three 2,000 litres rainwater collection tanks to collect rainwater at Kamahungu Factory. The drilling of a borehole at Kamahungu Factory to benefit workers and the community with clean water supply is on-going.

Education Support

A dining area and classroom was constructed at Nyaishozi Secondary School and building material provided to renovate Nyabishenge Primary School.

Storage Facilities

A coffee storage facility at AMCOS level was renovated to improve quality and security of members' coffees.

Health Care

KDCU supported the construction of Iteera Community Health Centre.



Opportunities

- Opportunity to adopt cost-effective production methods to reduce on production costs hence increase profit margins.
- Adoption of climate change and adaption measures to combat the effects of climate change on production of coffee.
- Adoption of new varieties for better yields to replace the aged coffee trees that have low quality produce.
- Partnerships with organizations that can offer coffee farmers affordable finance for projects and other diversification initiatives.



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