

PRODUCER PROFILE

Name: Kimuli Agriculture Cooperative Union

Product: Coffee

Country: Tanzania

FLO ID: 31021

Fairtrade Certified Since: 2012

Number of Certified Members: 2,150



Introduction

Kimuli AMCOS is a 1st grade organization established in 1993 with 326 members. Over the years, the co-operative has grown to the current 2,150 members, out of which 1,452 members are Fairtrade certified smallholder coffee producers. The AMCOS sources its coffees from two districts, Mbinga District Council and Mbinga Town Council situated in the southern highlands of Ruvuma region in Tanzania.

The smallholder farmers produce their coffee within small farms (0.5 – 2 acres) owned by families. The co-operative collects coffee from its members at red cherry stage and conducts primary processing to get parchment before sending them to the factory for secondary processing.

As part of income diversification and enhancing food security, members are also engaged in growing bananas, maize, sweet potatoes, wheat, beans, yams and keeping livestock, particularly cattle, pigs and goats.

Coffee Growing & Processing



Coffee is grown and owned fully by members at all stages before it reaches the market. Kimuli AMCOS members process their coffee in two forms, Home Processing (HP) and Central Pulper Unit (CPU). Where HP is done, upon receipt, the parchment is inspected for quality and any contaminants, collected, weighed and recorded at the AMCOS office or at the appointed collection centres

and transported in bulk for secondary processing. CPU processing involves members collecting the red cherries at their designated CPU centres, where it is inspected for quality and any contaminants, collected, weighed, recorded, pulped, fermented, washed, sun dried collectively and transported for secondary processing. All coffees from HP and CPU are then processed and

graded at Mbinga Coffee Curing Company ready for sale through auction or direct export. Kimuli AMCOS markets its coffee through linkages from FTA and other stakeholders by attending various local, regional and international coffee events and sharing coffee samples to various traders at these events.

Coffee Profile



Altitude:
1200-1700 mm



Smallholder Production Area:
0.25 Ha averagely



Growing Practice:
98% Inorganic



Processing Type:
Fully washed



Harvest Period:
June-December



Area of Production:
1720 ha



Other Certifications:
Fairtrade, Café practice, C4



Coffee Production:

Type: Arabica
Screen: AAA, AA, A, B, AB, C, PB, TT, AF
Cup score: 84%+

Benefits of Fairtrade

Since its' Fairtrade Certification, Kimuli AMCOS has been selling an average of 30% of its total annual production on Fairtrade terms which has led to the realization of the following benefits:

Quality & Improvements

Using Fairtrade Premium, the AMCOS has established a coffee nursery with ability to hold 240,000 resilient coffee seedlings. As of now 40,000 coffee seedlings have been distributed to members as part of improving coffee quality and productivity. The seedlings are resistant to common coffee diseases and resilient to the adverse effects of climate change such as high temperatures. A total of 10,000 shade tree seedlings have further been produced and given to members as part of coffee quality

enhancement. The AMCOS has also installed a new water system at Mahande CPU to improve coffee quality at the primary processing stage. Agri-inputs such as fertilizer, agrochemicals, spray pumps, secateurs, PPEs and bags have been bought and distributed to farmers to maintain quality of produce. Construction of a storage facility at Kitanda is in its final stages and has been partly financed by Fairtrade premium.

Environmental: Climate Change

With the support of local government and Fairtrade Premium, Kimuli AMCOS managed to buy land and establish tree farms, plant more trees on the edges and on bare lands to protect the soil from erosion. This is part of fighting the impacts of climate change.



Community, Healthcare, & Cooperative Infrastructure

Kimuli AMCOS has managed to construct two bridges connecting Mahande and Utiri villages which solved the challenge and danger in logistics especially during rainy seasons. FT Premium has supported the construction of a community health centre at Lipumba, a doctor's house at Kitanda and electricity installation at Utiri CHC. Kimuli AMCOS has also used FT Premium to construct its main office which increased security of its assets, various confidential documents and reduced rental costs. Also, it has used some of the funds to purchase vehicles used for

coffee collection, other official businesses and community support when needed.

Education

The AMCOS has invested in education by supporting 7 primary and 4 secondary schools in major classroom and staff quarters' renovation projects, furniture installation and establishment of water supply lines complete with a water reserve tank. All these interventions are aimed at creating a conducive learning environment to members' children and pupils within the community.



Opportunities

- Continue sensitizing members on the importance of shade trees to curb the effects of climate change on the coffee quality and yield.
- Train members on production of good quality and quantity coffee as well as diversification of produce in order to compete effectively in world markets.
- Continuous member training on best practices of sustainable production.
- Handover coffee bushes to youthful members of the community to take over coffee production from aging farmers.



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Producer Organization

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