

# PRODUCER PROFILE

**Name:** Limu Inara Farmers' Multipurpose Cooperative

**Product:** Coffee

**Country:** Ethiopia

**FLO ID:** 29806

**Fairtrade Certified Since:** 2014

**Number of Certified Members:** 5360



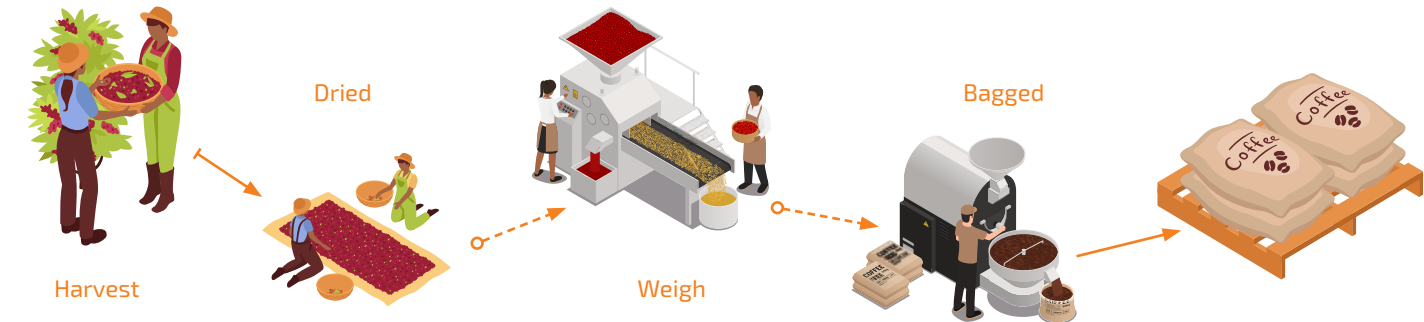
## Introduction

Limu Inara Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative Union was established in 2006 by 11 primary cooperatives and 3083 member farmers with initial capital of 158,000 Birr. The union is located in the western part of Ethiopia in Oromia Regional State. Currently the number of member cooperatives increased to 95 primary cooperatives and its members have reached to 34,687 farmers. The capital of the union also increased to 21 million Birr. Out of the mentioned primary cooperatives 37 of them or 15,483 members are under coffee production area. 5,360 coffee farmers from 10 primary cooperatives are Fairtrade certified and selling their product on Fairtrade terms.

The union has four core businesses: agricultural commodity trading, supply of agricultural inputs, membership capacity building and distribution of consumable goods to the members and local community. The union has been expanding its role and mission by contributing to existing effort to change the livelihood of smallholders by coordinating, organizing and sensitizing of smallholders on the production of sustainable quality and quantity Fairtrade & organic coffee and to supply to the local and international market.

The union is known for Limu organic and Fairtrade certified Arabica coffee worldwide, which has a good winy flavour grown under the natural forest.

## Coffee Growing & Processing



LIFMCU is an umbrella union for four district farmers namely Limu Kosa, Limu Seka, Chora Bottor and Nono Benja. The area is highly favourable for quality coffee production. Annual rainfall is between 1500 -1800 mm and the temperature ranges 12oc - 28 oc. Fairtrade certified primary

cooperatives prepare washed coffee at their own washing and drying processing stations. Member farmers pick ripe coffee cherries and harvest in the four districts of Limu area. Mainly the union produces quality and sustainable Limu type coffee in fully washed and sun-dried

coffee process. Members harvest coffee in their coffee farm and then deliver them to the union for washing, drying and processing. After this the coffee is transported to Djibouti port for international export.



# Coffee Profile



**Altitude:**  
1,350-2,760 mm



**Smallholder Production**  
**Area:**  
2 ha



**Growing Practice:**  
100% Organic



**Processing Type:**  
Washd | Dried



**Harvest Period:**  
September-January



**Area of Production:**  
5,909 ha



**Other Certifications:**  
EU&USDA Organic, JAS and RA



## Coffee Production:

**Type:** Ripe Coffee Cherries  
**Temperature:** 12° C - 28° C

# Benefits of Fairtrade

LIFCU'S General Assembly is the union's highest decision-making body and meets at least once a year. Each of the primary cooperatives sends delegates to every meeting and also the union has control committees elected from the general assembly to monitor and control the overall activities of union. The ten Fairtrade certified primary cooperatives have implemented projects on social, coffee quality, productivity and sustainability projects using premium funds generated from the Fairtrade sales.

## Social Projects

Fairtrade premium social projects play a significant role to improve livelihoods of the coffee farmers and surrounding local communities. The union constructed two early child care education centres (ECCE), junior school, rural road and bridges using the premium fund the social projects benefited 2265 direct and 11599 indirect beneficiaries. The ECCE projects introduced kindergarten education to the rural areas of the coffee producers.





## Social Projects

The union's implementing environmental conservation activities and activities that enhance biodiversity. Environmental sustainability is a key focus area in the union five-year strategic plan. LIFMCU is fully organic and doesn't use any pesticides or fertilizers. It also has buffer zones around water bodies to prevent contamination of the water supply and is protecting protected areas that have high conservation value.

## Quality, Productivity & Sustainability

To improve coffee quality and productivity, using the premium fund the union trained its members in good coffee agricultural practices, post-harvest handling, processing, and marketing and invested on coffee seedling nursery site and coffee drying bed construction. Farmers are continuously replacing old coffee bushes and achieved higher production volumes every year.



# 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.



### **Fairtrade Africa**

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### **Producer Organization**

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