

# PRODUCER PROFILE

**Name:** Mwirua Farmers' Cooperative Society

**Product:** Coffee

**Country:** Kenya

**FLO ID:** 22849

**Fairtrade Certified Since:** 2009

**Number of Certified Members:** 7,520



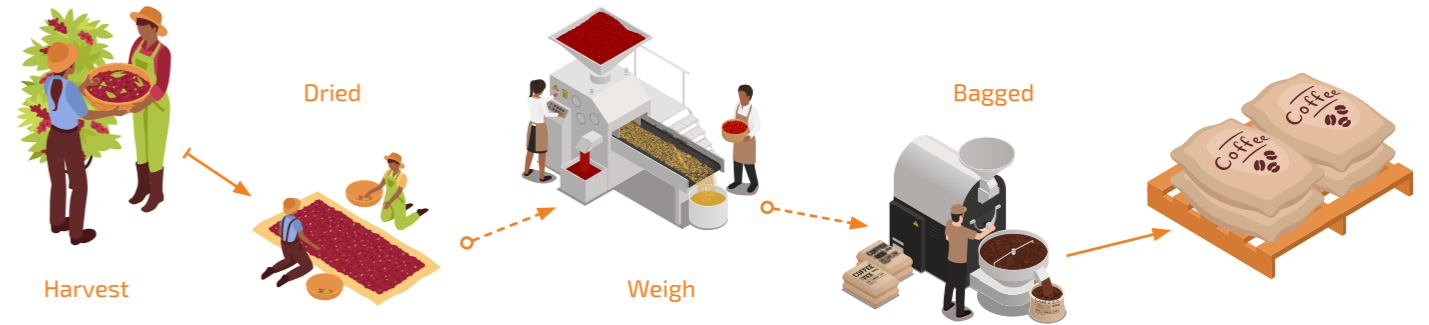
# Introduction

Mwirua Farmers' Cooperative Society Limited is situated in the Central Province of Kenya in Kirinyaga County. The society was formed in 1954 to support the processing and marketing of the quality produce from the cool altitudes of local coffee communities.

They promote Good Agricultural Practices to increase the quality and yield of members' coffee so that they can offer the best possible price to the farmer. They have an established processing infrastructure, strong leadership and a consistent membership.

This has enabled them to take advantage of partnerships with a variety of organizations and institutions. 28% of the members are women.

# Coffee Growing & Processing



The society started with one coffee factory, and has expanded to 9 coffee factories situated across the sub-county; Kariaini, Mitondo, Getuya, Gathambi, Kiaragana, Kiambwe, Rwamuthambi, Riakiania and Ihara. Farmers deliver their coffee cherries to the factory.

The fruit is then pulped, fermented, dried and transformed into parchment coffee. The parchment is transported to the milling factories (Central Kenya Coffee Mills and NKG Mills) where the papery outer layer is removed, becoming green coffee.

The coffee is auctioned in Nairobi; this is supported by the marketing agents (Coffee Management Services and Tropical Farm Management).

# Coffee Profile



**Altitude:**  
1400-1600 mm



**Production Area:**  
700 ha



**Growing Practice:**  
GAP



**Other Certifications:**  
RFA



**Harvest Preiod:**  
Oct (90%)-Apr (10%)



**Processing Type:**  
Fully washed



**Smallholder Production Area:**  
0.25 ha



## Coffee Production:

**Type:** Arabica  
**Characteristics:** Fruity  
**Cup score:** 85%

# Benefits of Fairtrade

Through democratic participation, members vote on how to invest the Fairtrade Premium at the Annual General Meeting:

## Quality

Fairtrade Premium is used to fund training for members on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). An agronomist teaches sustainable farming methods and how to reduce the use of agro-chemicals which protects the health of coffee workers. As a result of this training, farmers have seen their coffee continue to improve in quality and quantity.

## Community Investments

The organization also makes donations to local schools by providing them with sanitary

towels. In addition, Mwirua has constructed a bridge at Kariaini factory.

## Infrastructure

Fairtrade premium has been invested in 368 steel drying tables. This equipment makes the coffee process more efficient, preserves the quality of the coffee, and reduces operational costs for the farmer. The organization has also invested in a lorry to transport the coffee to market and much-needed engineering works at one of the factories.

## Cooperative Investments

The society has invested in

computers, office equipment, nurseries, stores for resale, a van, lorry and a coffee value addition initiative.

## Premium Projects

Other Fairtrade Premium projects include:

- Electric fence
- Condition bins grilling
- Tiling of soak tanks



## Opportunities

- Training on Good Agricultural Practices.
- Training for youthful population to take coffee farming from their parents.



### **Fairtrade Africa**

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### **Producer Organization**

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