

# PRODUCER PROFILE

**Name:** Bwishaza Coffee Cooperative

**Product:** Coffee

**Country:** Rwanda

**FLO ID:** 39673

**Fairtrade Certified Since:** 2019

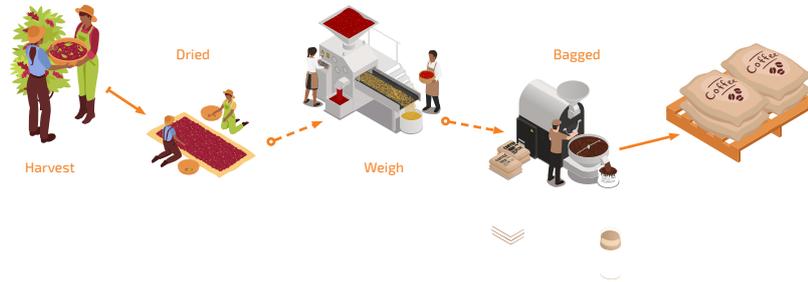
**Number of Certified Members:** 596



# Introduction

The Bwishaza coffee cooperative, founded in 2010, is located in the Rutsiro district, with young and talented leaders leading the cooperative. Along with young leaders, women farmers are also showing great leadership in many places. The total members are 596 with 206 women. The farmers work diligently to produce high-quality coffee beans and the cooperative profits year after year from a successful coffee business. Bwishaza women coffee farmers come together in a group called "Kungahara mugore" which means 'be rich women'. They have their own coffee brand called "Solve", very famous in the South Korean market.

# Coffee Growing & Processing



The cooperative grows high-quality coffee in the rich volcanic soil located of the Kivu belt, which is known for producing high-quality coffee due to its favourable climate and rich soils. After harvesting ripe cherries, hand sorting to remove unripe or defected cherries is done, then best quality cherries are brought to the cooperative for processing. The cooperative processes fully washed and natural coffee. Selected cherries from high mountains are collected separately to be processed naturally and quality control is assured from farm to the end process.

Women coffee farmers process their coffee separately as they have their own brand and women monitor the whole process until their coffee reaches the buyers. All members are motivated and passionate about producing quality coffee due to the benefits they get from their produce. This cooperative is known to be well organized and well managed at all levels.

# Benefits of Fairtrade

- **Sustainability:** Bwishaza coffee cooperative has secured a higher standard of living for its farmers through different projects that support farmers to earn a living wage. Thanks to premiums from Fairtrade, the cooperative managed to pay health insurances and provide agronomy trainings throughout the year to ensure viable economically and environmentally sustainable coffee industry and increasing coffee quality.
- **Community investment:** The cooperative has invested their Fairtrade premium in a variety of projects, including contributing to pay for health insurance for poor families, construction of primary school rooms and providing water to the community. The Bwishaza cooperative is leading the community development by supporting the classroom construction project at Ruhingo Elementary School.





# Challenges

- Price changes
- Climate change
- Old coffee trees



### **Fairtrade Africa**

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### **Producer Organization**

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