

PRODUCER PROFILE

Name: KOPAKAKA

Product: Coffee

Country: Rwanda

FLO ID: 26530

Fairtrade Certified Since: 2015

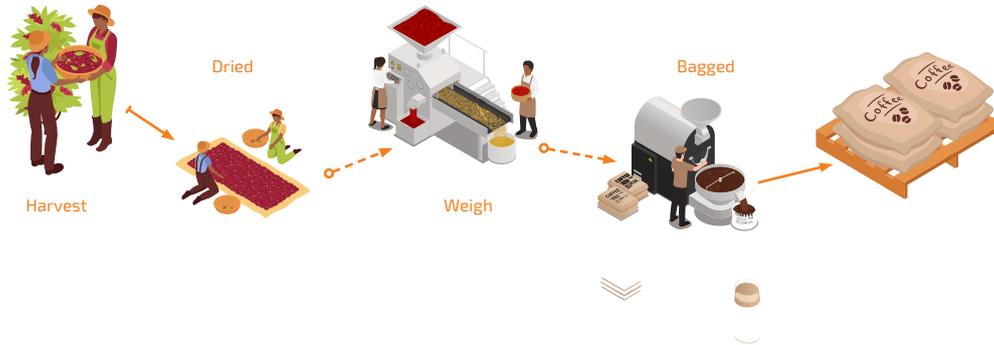
Number of Certified Members: 1568



Introduction

KOPAKAKA – Cooperative of Coffee Farmers of Karengé was founded in 2009 to represent coffee producers in Karengé, Nyakariro and Nzige sectors of Rwamagana district, Eastern province of Rwanda. Today, KOPAKAKA has grown to represent 1568 coffee farmer members and are Fairtrade certified. Nearly all coffee produced by member cooperatives is shade grown in low densities under the canopies of indigenous trees and banana, a staple food crop. Members of KOPAKAKA have been growing Arabica coffee for more than 45 years, and are now exporting, through RWACOF/SUCAFINA, high quality traceable coffee directly to overseas buyers. The cooperative produces approximately about 250 tons of high quality Arabica beans per year which is 100% fully washed. The cooperative main customers use words like intensity/blackberry, caramel, honey, chocolate to describe the coffees.

Coffee Growing & Processing



In Kareng'e, coffee is grown near smallholdings and is planted at medium densities, ranging from 2,000 to 2,500 plants per hectare. Garden coffee production systems are widely used and are fertilized with organic nutrients and mineral fertilizers. Depending on altitudinal variation and rainfall distribution, the harvesting period varies from March to June. Cherry coffee is collected and delivered to Kareng'e coffee washing station. The daily collected coffee is registered in a separate book and refers to the serial numbers of purchase receipts. Once the coffee has been processed and dried, the parchment is weighed and stored in the warehouse and then dispatched to Kigali – RWACOF for dry mill processing. The coffee with parchment will go through hulling, colour sorting, grading and packaging. Physical traceability is maintained throughout all processing and transport steps. The export standard coffee will be packed based on buyer's preference and transported to Mombasa in Kenya or at Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania ports.

Benefits of Fairtrade

General assembly is the cooperative's highest decision-making body in KOPAKAKA. Annual general meeting is held twice a year. The union Board is composed of five members who are elected for a period of 3 years and not more than 2 consecutive periods, 3 control committee members who are elected for a period of 2 years and not more than 2 consecutive periods and 2 premium committee members who are elected for a period of 2 years and not more than 2 consecutive periods.

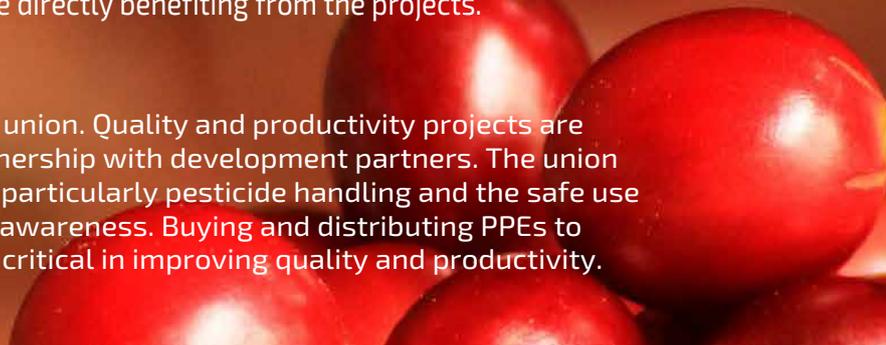
Based on priority the cooperative implemented about 5 premium projects focusing on livelihood improvement, social projects, coffee quality/productivity and sustainability projects. Selection and prioritization of premium projects starts from the grass root community level. Based on the need and priority, the cooperative members collaborate on the planning, approval and implementation processes.

Social Projects

Community infrastructures like buying cooperative office, equipment and supplies support for schools & health centres are among social projects implemented using Fairtrade premium fund. Coffee farmers and local community members are directly benefiting from the projects.

Quality and Productivity

Quality and productivity are core values of the union. Quality and productivity projects are being implemented using premium and in partnership with development partners. The union trains on good agricultural practices in coffee, particularly pesticide handling and the safe use of protective equipments, as well as Fairtrade awareness. Buying and distributing PPEs to cooperative members. The interventions were critical in improving quality and productivity.





Challenges

- Climate change
- Sustainability
- Village saving and loan scheme



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