

PRODUCER PROFILE

Name: Limu Inara Farmers' Multipurpose
Co-operative Union

Product: Coffee

Country: Ethiopia

FLO ID: 29806

Fairtrade Certified Since: 2014

Number of Certified Members: 6209

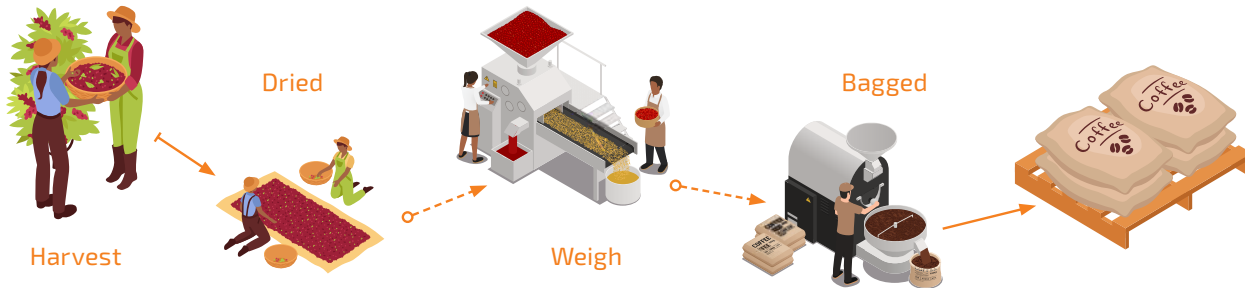


Introduction

Limu Inara Farmers Multipurpose Co-operative Union was established in 2006 by 11 primary cooperatives and 3083 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 co-operatives has expanded to 108 primary co-operatives, with 36,716 farmers as members. The capital of the union also increased to 32 million Birr. Out of the mentioned primary co-operatives, 27 of them or 17059 members are under coffee production area. 6209 coffee farmers from 10 primary cooperatives are Fairtrade certified and selling their product under Fairtrade term.

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 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 flavor 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 favorable 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. The union mainly produce quality and sustainable Limu-type coffee using a thoroughly cleaned and sun-dried coffee process. Members harvest coffee on their farms and give it to the union for washing, drying, and processing. After this the coffee is transported to Djibouti port for international export.

Coffee Profile



Altitude:
1350 – 2760 m ASL



Other Certifications:
EU & USDA Organic



Growing Practice:
100% Organic



Production Area:
15837.63 ha



Harvest Period:
September – January



Processing Type:
Fully Washed/ Sun-dried



Smallholder Production Area:
2 ha on Average



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 centers (ECCE),

junior school, rural road and bridges using the premium fund. The social projects overs 6730 direct and 23198 indirect beneficiaries. The ECCE projects introduced kindergarten education to the rural areas of the coffee producers.

Quality, Productivity and 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 have achieved higher production volumes every year.

Environment

The union is 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.







Challenges

- Effects of climate change is the big challenge for coffee farmers. The union is trying its best to minimize climate change effect but it needs different stakeholders' engagement and big investment.
- The area infrastructure is underdeveloped and in need of significant infrastructure development. Premium projects play a significant role to fill the gap.



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