

PRODUCER PROFILE

Name: Oromia Coffee Farmers' Cooperative Union

Product: Coffee

Country: Ethiopia

FLO ID: 897

Fairtrade Certified Since: 2003

Number of Certified Members: 54,758

Type of Organisation: Small Producer Organisation (SPO)



Introduction

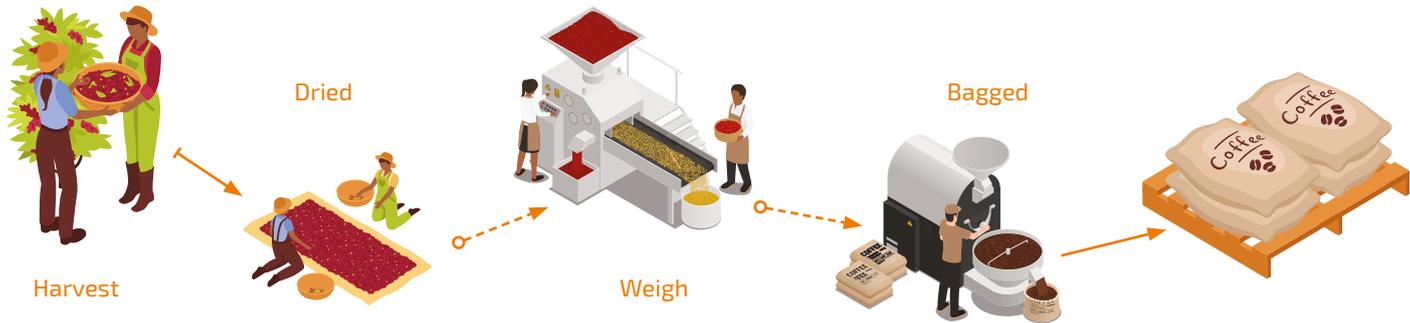
Oromia Coffee Farmers' Cooperative Union (OCFCU) limited liability is a smallholder coffee grower owned cooperative union established on June 1, 1999, by 34 cooperatives with 22,691 farmers with initial capital of \$ 90,000. Today there are 413 primary cooperatives and a total of 516,346 individual members and \$15,095,570 capital. From the total, 74 primary cooperatives with 54,758 farmers are Fairtrade certified and selling their coffee under Fairtrade term. OCFCU is a democratic member's owned business operating under the principles of the International Cooperative Alliance and Fairtrade. Members of Oromia Coffee Farmers' Cooperative Union are the growers, processors, and suppliers of high quality, organic Arabica coffee for direct export.

The general objective of the union is to export farmers' coffee while bypassing the auction. OCFCU promotes Fairtrade by advocating for socially and environmentally sustainable practices and fostering long-term relationships between producers, traders, and consumers. It also aims to support small-scale coffee farmers in accessing the Fairtrade coffee market.

OCFCU's total Fairtrade-certified coffee-growing area covers 61,796 hectares, with an annual production of 51,882 tons of Fairtrade coffee, which is 100% organic. The union returns 70 percent of its net profits to the cooperatives, which then distribute funds back to individual farmers.

In addition to coffee, Oromia is also Fairtrade and Gold Standard certified for carbon credits, offering companies a way to offset their carbon footprint. The carbon credit project contributes to reducing 85,000 t of CO₂ emissions annually.

Coffee Growing & Processing



Ethiopia's Oromia region is one of the nine ethnically based regional states of Ethiopia, covering 284,538 square kilometres. OCFUCU coffee farmers are located in the south, west and east part of the country. The majority of the region area altitude and favorable climate create ideal conditions for coffee cultivation. The union is internationally known for producing high quality Arabica: Harar, Limu, Djimma, Nekemte, Sidama, Yirgacheffe, Guji type of coffee in fully washed and natural processing.

Red cherries when ready are harvested by individual members and delivered to the nearest collection center of the respective primary cooperative. The red cherries collected from the collection centers are then delivered to the central washing station of the respective primary cooperative. The batch delivered each day is processed separately. As soon as the coffee has been processed, the primary cooperative delivers parchment to the union's warehouse in Addis Ababa.

Once the coffee in parchment form is received at the union's warehouse, it undergoes secondary processing i.e. hulling, grading and further hand picking before it can be bagged ready for sale i.e. exports or local sales. Coffee destined for export is transported to the port in Djibouti and that not fit for export is sold in the local market through the auction.

Coffee Profile



Altitude:
1510 – 2200



Total area under production:
61,796 ha



Growing Practice:
100% Organic



Smallholders:
8.39 qt/ ha on average



Harvest Period:
September-January



Processing Type:
Fully washed/ Sun-dried



Other Certifications:
Organic EU NOP JAS,
Café Practice, RA,
Bird friendly



Benefits of Fairtrade

The 74 Fairtrade certified cooperative unions are generating Fairtrade premium from sales under Fairtrade term. Based on the Fairtrade standard and Premium use guideline the union is investing the premium money as per annually approved Fairtrade Premium Development Plan on social, quality, productivity and sustainability projects.

Social Projects

The union has implemented more than 66 social projects in education, health, infrastructure, and community facilities. These projects include the construction of early childhood education centers, elementary schools, high schools, technical and vocational schools, health centers, rural roads, simple bridges, libraries, teachers' residences, and clean water line extensions. Additionally, the union has provided supplementary materials for schools and health centers. These initiatives aim to improve the livelihoods of farmers and the surrounding community, benefiting approximately 100,000 people directly.

Quality and Productivity

Coffee quality and productivity result from efforts across pre-harvest, harvest, and post-harvest stages, with good agricultural practices, efficient processing, reliable transportation, and proper warehouse facilities playing a crucial role. The union has allocated about 75% of its premium funds to projects that enhance quality and productivity, including Training of Trainers (ToT) programs on good agricultural practices from seed selection to harvesting, Fairtrade awareness sessions, internal control system implementation, establishment and maintenance of dry coffee processing and washing stations, upgrading processing facilities, purchasing coffee transport trucks, constructing warehouses, and providing pre-harvest financing to farmers. These investments contribute to sustainable coffee production and improved farmer livelihoods.

Sustainability

OCFCU gives due emphasis on production and environmental sustainability in coffee. The union is strategically using the Fairtrade premium fund to ensure sustainability. Establishment of coffee and coffee shade seedling nursery sites, establishment of waste water recycling facility, spring developments, construction of coffee pulp disposal area are among interventions implemented using Fairtrade premium fund.







Challenges

- Climate change
- Sustainability
- Market risks

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