

# PRODUCER PROFILE

**Name:** Sidama Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union

**Product:** Coffee

**Country:** Ethiopia

**FLO ID:** 2519

**Fairtrade Certified Since:** 2003

**Number of Certified Members:** 90,000

**Type of Organisation:** Small Producer Organisation (SPO)

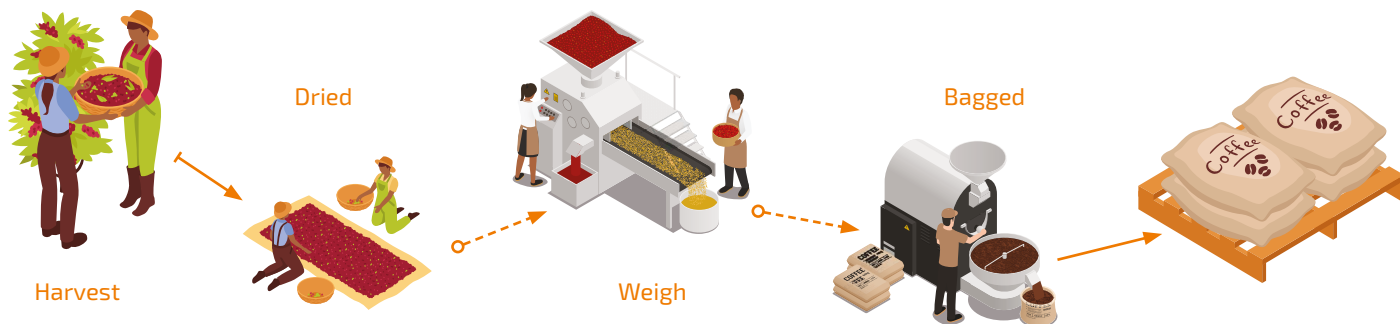


# Introduction

Sidama Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union (SCFCU) was founded in 2001 to represent coffee producing cooperatives in Sidama Regional State of Southern Ethiopia. Today, SCFCU has grown to represent 67 primary cooperative societies and over 90,000 farmers (small holders) making SCFCU the second largest coffee producing cooperative union in Ethiopia. 41 primary cooperatives with 73,807 coffee farmer members are Fairtrade certified. Nearly all coffee produced by member cooperatives is shade grown in low densities under the canopies of indigenous trees and 'enset' (false banana), a staple food crop.

Members of SCFCU have been growing and processing Sidama type coffee for more than 35 years, and are now exporting high quality traceable coffee directly to overseas buyers. The union produces approximately about 10,000 tons of high-quality Organic Arabica beans per year, 95% of which is washed. Sidama coffee is renowned worldwide for its diverse flavors and distinct cup profiles. The union main customers use words like floral, spicy, juicy and mysterious to describe the cup profile.

# Coffee Growing & Processing



In Sidama, coffee is grown near homesteads and is planted at low densities, ranging from 1,000 to 1,800 plants per hectare. The garden coffee production system is widely practiced, with coffee plants fertilized using organic nutrients. Depending on altitudinal variation and rainfall distribution, the harvesting period varies from

September to January. Cherry coffee is delivered to varying number of collection centres at primary cooperative level. The collected coffee is registered in a separate book and linked to the serial numbers of purchase receipt.

Once the coffee has been processed and dried, the parchment is weighed and stored in the warehouse. The coffee from each cooperative is graded at Hawassa (Ethiopian Commodity Exchange) then dispatched to Addis Ababa, the union central warehouse. The parchment coffee undergoes hulling, sorting, grading, and packaging at the union's processing facility. Physical traceability is maintained throughout all processing and transport steps. After export standard coffee will be packed based on buyer's preference and transported to the port in Djibouti.

# Coffee Profile



**Altitude:**  
1750- 2100



**Total area under production:**  
48,791 ha



**Growing Practice:**  
100% Organic



**Smallholders:**  
0.9 ha on average



**Harvest Period:**  
September-January



**Processing Type:**  
Fully washed/ Sun-dried



**Other Certifications:**  
Organic  
USDA,



# Benefits of Fairtrade

Based on the priorities, the union has implemented about 30 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, and based on the need and priority, the union and affiliated cooperatives work together to plan, approve and implement.

## Social Projects

Community infrastructures like construction of rural road, bridge, clean water line extension, schools, health centers, grain miller, electric line extension, construction of meeting hall and office, equipment and supplies support for schools & health centers are among social projects implemented using Fairtrade premium fund. Coffee farmers and local community members directly benefit from these 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. Trainings on good agricultural practice in coffee, Fairtrade awareness, compost preparation, strengthening internal control/ management system, maintenance, expansion and establishment of coffee processing facilities (pulping, washing & hulling), purchase of coffee transporting trucks, construction of warehouses and coffee drying beds constructions are among targeted premium project interventions. The interventions play huge role in quality and productivity improvements.

## Sustainability

To combat climate change and sustainability challenges the union implemented coffee waste management, switching to renewable energy & coffee shade seedling nursery projects. Replacing aged and diseased coffee bushes with new selected variety seed is a regular activity of SCFCU in order to improve productivity and ensure sustainability. Biogas project is also among successful Fairtrade premium projects.







# Challenges

- Climate change
- Sustainability
- Market risks

## **Fairtrade Africa**

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