

PRODUCER PROFILE



PRODUCER NAME: Ankole Coffee Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd / ACPCU

PRODUCTS: Coffee

COUNTRY: Uganda

FLO ID 19788

Fairtrade certified since 2009

Number of members 7,010



Introduction

The Ankole Coffee Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd (ACPCU) is a 2nd grade organization supporting 17 Fairtrade certified primary cooperatives. They are based across the districts of Bushenyi, Mitooma, Rubirizi, Sheema and Ntungamo in the fertile mountains of southwest Uganda.

There is a mixture of subsistence and commercial farmers in these multi-ethnic communities. Agriculture is the main source of income. With assistance from Cafédirect, they have organized into a strong Union. They have created job opportunities, involved women and youth in their activities, and developed skills and long-term peace in their communities. ACPCU members now manage their coffee from farm to export; by avoiding intermediaries, members can maximise their incomes.

Members also grow bananas, maize, sweet potatoes, and keep livestock, particularly cattle and goats. ACPCU supports farmers to practise sustainable farming, protect natural environments and manage natural resources.

Growing, processing and export

Producers harvest and dry their coffee at the farm, then deliver it to their primary cooperative. The primary cooperative is responsible for transporting the parchment to the Union's factory. The Union processes, grades, sorts and packs the coffee for export. The coffee is taken to a transportation centre and checked by officials. It is then transported to the port of Mombassa in Kenya for shipping.

ACPCU has an export license. The Union's coffee was ranked by Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) as the most compliant exporter of coffee in 2012/2013.



*Mrs Ngambe, coffee farmer and member of ACPCU. 26% of members are women.
©Nathalie Bertrams (FI)*

COFFEE PROFILE

Altitude 1,600 – 1,900 m

Smallholders 0.65 ha on average

Total area of production 2,185 ha

Growing practices 87% organic

Coffee variety Robusta and Arabica

Coffee quality Robusta: Screen 18, 15, 12. Arabica both dry (DRUGAR) and washed (WUGAR). FAQ

Harvest May – September, December - February

Export ACPCU have an export license, shipping from Mobassa, Kenya.

Other certifications CERES (Environmental standards), NOP (Organic)

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PRODUCER PROFILE CONT/...



Fairtrade

The Union is managed by a board of 5 people who are democratically elected by the farmers during the AGM (Annual General Meeting). There are 4 delegates from each primary cooperative at the AGM.

Environment: Climate change and coffee wilt disease

In an effort to confront coffee wilt disease, a number of primary cooperatives are investing Fairtrade Premium in growing new resistant seedlings and distributing them to members.

Quality and productivity

The Union has invested its Fairtrade Premium in a coffee nursery project so they can continue to grow seedlings and replace their current coffee trees with resistant varieties.

They have also invested in facilities for exporting washed Arabica coffee and fetch higher returns.

Local and cooperative infrastructure

The Union uses the Fairtrade Premium to make investments in warehouses, offices and coffee processing machinery for the cooperatives. They have also constructed ponds, bridges and schools.

Education

The Union has invested in education in the rural Nyakahita and Katenga communities by building schools.

Challenges

- Despite the steps to support farmers with resistant seedlings, production is still being affected by coffee wilt disease, locally known as *Toduura*.
- ACPCU are still breaking through into organic markets.



Climate change and combatting coffee diseases

Selestino Ruberema (pictured above) points out a coffee tree infected by coffee wilt disease. The Union have taken measures to cope with climate change, thought to be the cause of increasing incidences of coffee wilt disease. Organic mulches are applied to coffee trees to retain soil moisture and prevent condensation which can spread the disease. ©Nathalie Bertrams (FI)



Farmers attending a training session around the coffee parchment ©ACPCU

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