



COUNTRY: KENYA
POPULATION: 42 million (UN, 2012)
LANGUAGE: English, Swahili
CAPITAL: Nairobi
CURRENCY: Kenyan shilling (KES)
PER CAPITA INCOME: US\$830 (World Bank, 2011)
FAIRTRADE PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS: 47



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Overview

Kenya lies on the equator with a beautiful Indian Ocean coastline. Kenya has undergone considerable growth in recent years but continues to face political, social and environmental challenges. Poverty reduction has been hampered by an increasingly unpredictable climate. Many areas suffer periodic droughts and flooding, affecting the poorest rural populations; almost 50% of Kenyans live in poverty. Environmental concerns such as poor water management and land degradation threaten the agriculture sector which employs 75% of the workforce. Kenya's main exports are tea, coffee, flowers and petroleum, but tourism earns the biggest proportion of foreign exchange due to Kenya's abundant wildlife parks.

Coffee

The temperate forests in the western hills and the cool volcanic soils of Mount Kenya host ideal conditions for coffee production. Two-thirds of the coffee is produced by smallholders. In general, there are high standards of farming; the government has a strict protocol for producing coffee which includes nursery and farm management, pulping, milling and grading. However, water shortages, political instability, and market volatility have been affecting production.

Approximately 6 million Kenyans are employed directly or indirectly in the coffee industry.

Fairtrade

In collaboration with two of Kenya's auction processors and millers the Fairtrade system has been successfully applied to the Kenyan auction structure. This creates a reliable and transparent link between international markets and coffee cooperatives.

Almost all of the 700,000 small-scale coffee farmers in Kenya are organized into cooperatives of about 2,000 farmers each. Kenya's biggest coffee organizations are all certified Fairtrade and receiving the Fairtrade Premium.

One of the biggest impacts in Kenya has been through the Technical Assistance Fund (TAF). This is a collaboration between Fairtrade Foundation and Fairtrade Africa, with funding from Comic Relief (UK).



A member of Ndumberi Coffee Growers Cooperative Society sorting coffee ©NCGCS

COFFEE PROFILE

Coffee varieties Arabica: SL 28, SL 38, and some Bourbon.

Typical profile Light body, balanced acidity, floral, passion fruit, blackcurrant, wine notes. 'Piquant' quality often in AA.

Grading AA = fine/good quality (screen 17/18), AB = fair/average (scr. 15/16)

Regions Ruiru, Thika, Kirinyaga, Nyeri, Embu, Meru, Machakos, Kisii, Bungoma, Nakuru, Juja, Kiambu, Muranga

Altitude 1,400m - 2,000m

Harvest season Main crop: Oct-March (peak Nov-Feb, shipping Dec-May)

Fly crop: May-Aug (peak June-July, shipping Aug-Sept)

Purchasing & exporting Nairobi Coffee Exchange (auction, export, local/foreign roasting) and 'Second Window' (direct sales, foreign roasting)

FAIRTRADE COFFEE: NUMBER OF FARMERS BY REGION 2014

