



ORGANIC SPECIALTY COFFEE FROM AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS IN RWANDA





COFFEE PRODUCTION IN RWANDA

Coffee has a long tradition in Rwanda. German missionaries introduced the plant in around 1904. The country's major zones of coffee production are the Kivu Lake Borders (West), Central Plateau, Eastern Plateau, and Mayaga agroecological zones, where coffee is mainly cultivated on moderate slopes.

In Rwanda, coffee is a major export crop. In 2022, around 20,000 tons of coffee were produced, earning more than 105 million US Dollars. Around 400,000 farmers are involved in the production of coffee. The average size of the coffee plantation is about 250-500 coffee trees (0.1 to 0.2 hectares) per producer.

RWANDAN COFFEE PROFILE

"The Land of a Thousand Hills" is favoured with ideal conditions for coffee production, including elevations **between 1,500 and 2,000 meters**, rich volcanic soils, the optimal level of rainfalls, suitable topography, and climate. **Arabica** coffee represents 98 % of coffee with **Red Bourbon** as the dominant variety.

Around 75 % of the coffee is classified as **specialty** (> 85 on the SCA scale) and **premium** (> 80 on the SCA scale).

Various types of processed coffee can be obtained as **single origin** such as **fully washed specialty coffee**, **semi-washed**, **natural**, **honey**, **cascara** and **anaerobic**.

In general, the Rwandan coffee can be defined by its naturally mild flavour, bright and juicy acidity profile, floral, fruit, and citrusy overtones. However, each production zone can yield more specific quality profiles depending on the type of soil, elevation level and rainfall.



WE ARE ORGANIC. WE ARE THE FUTURE. **WE ARE NATURLAND.**

Naturland is one of the major international farmers associations for organic agriculture worldwide. Along with 125,000 farmers, beekeepers, aquaculturists and fishers in almost 60 countries throughout the world, we aim to promote environmental protection and natural resource conservation through organic farming practices. Founded in Germany in 1982, our organization soon expanded internationally. Naturland

members and partners are subject to much stricter standards than the EU regulation on organic production. They have an obligation to meet both organic and social standards, and since January 2010 they have also had the option to become certified for compliance with the Naturland Fair standards. Independent control bodies regularly verify compliance and certify that the farms are being managed according to Naturland standards.







COFFEE IN AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS

In agroforestry systems crops, e.g. coffee or cocoa, are grown together with shade trees and shrubs. In addition to the main crop, other fruit like bananas or avocados can be harvested as well as timber for the families' self-sufficiency or for sale on the local market.

BENEFITS

Biodiversity: Diverse ecosystem that supports a wide range of plant and animal life, both above and below the ground, which improves soil health and natural pest control.

Carbon sequestration: More carbon can be sequestered than in monoculture coffee plantations, reducing the carbon footprint of coffee production and mitigating climate change.

Quality: The quality of coffee in terms of bean size, caffeine content, trigonelline content, acidity and aroma is higher under shaded conditions.

Economic benefits: Additional income streams for farmers through the production of other products, which can improve livelihoods and reduce the dependence on coffee alone.

NATURLAND STANDARDS ON AGROFORESTRY

According to Naturland's standards organic coffee (and cocoa) must be cultivated under agroforestry systems appropriate to local conditions, under shade trees. The species of trees used are those which are adapted to local agro-ecological conditions. Indigenous species are to be used to encourage the variety of tree species. Shade trees and coffee grow in layers and create a wide variety of structures.

Depending on local agro-ecological conditions, the following Naturland requirements apply to shade trees:

- at least 70 shade trees per hectare and 40 % all year coverage with shade trees,
- at least 12 different varieties of shade trees per hectare, the principal variety of tree not exceeding 60 %,
- coffee and shade trees should consist of three layers, at least two.



NATURLAND PROJECT: JOB PARTNERSHIP WITH RWANDA

Better livelihoods for organic coffee growers and climate-risk mitigation through enhanced organic agroforestry systems and fairtrade

Naturland is improving the livelihoods of 3,700 Rwandan smallholder coffee farmers through organic agroforestry systems and capacity development. Partnering with seven companies and cooperatives. The project runs until March 2025 and aims to:

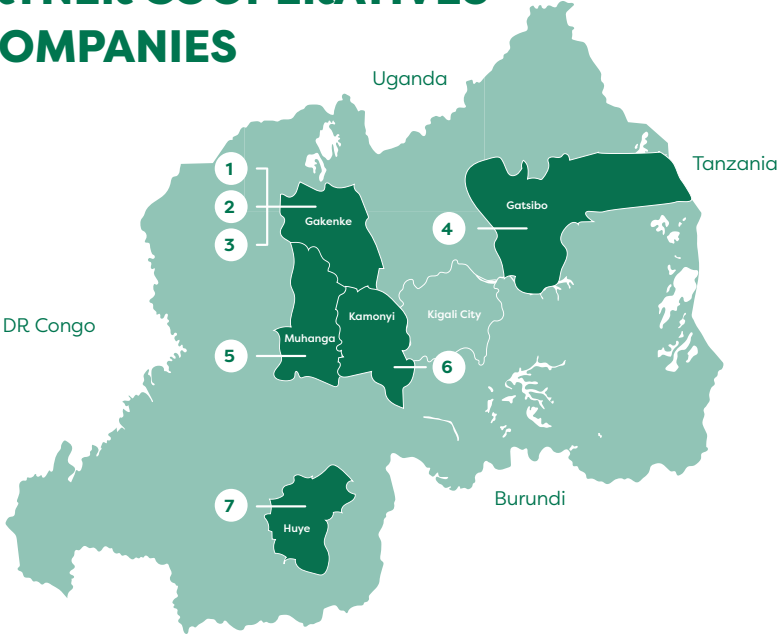
- Create **more and better job opportunities**, particularly for women and youths
- Support the cooperatives & companies in establishing new tree nurseries. **25,500 shade tree seedlings** will be planted on over **388 hectares** of smallholder farmer land.
- Promote on-farm **composting** which will improve soil fertility, climate resilience and productivity.
- Bring European and Rwandan coffee stakeholders together



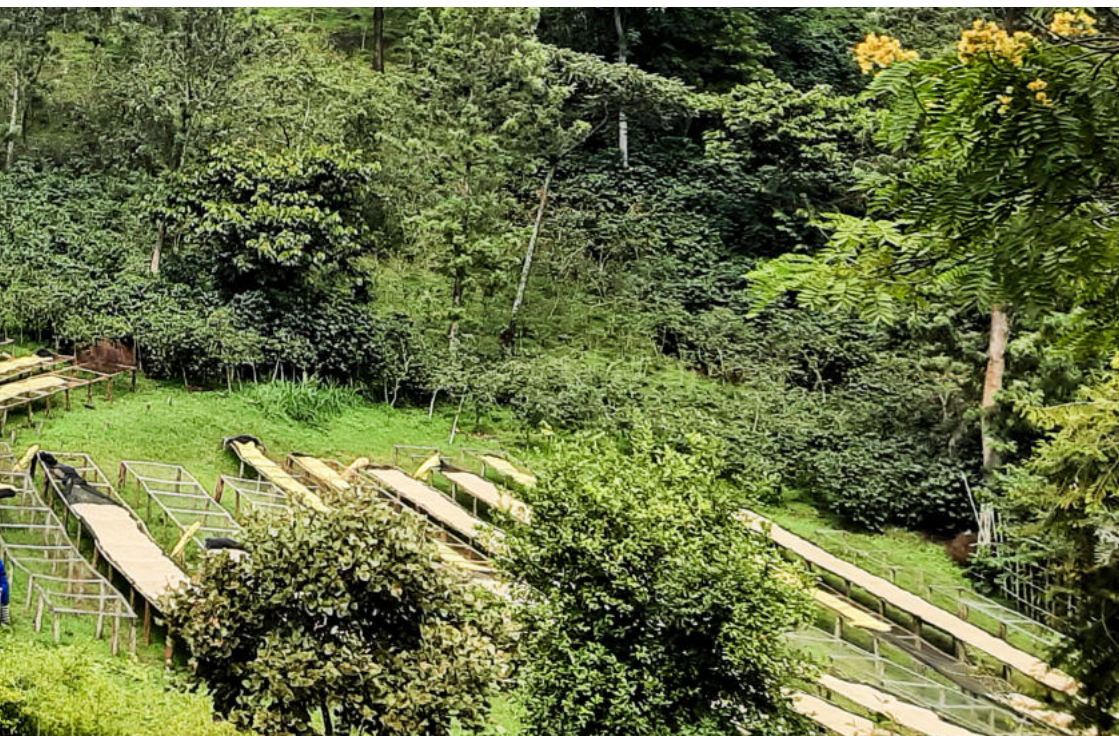
All seven partners are already EU organic certified. Some of the partners are certified under USDA organic, Fair trade, Rain Forest Alliance, and C.A.F.E practices. All the partners have started the process to comply with Naturland standards requirements. The quality of coffee from all the seven partners can be defined as **specialty** with > 85 points on the SCA scale.



PARTNER COOPERATIVES & COMPANIES



No.	Cooperatives & Companies	District	Area (ha)	Farmers (No.)	Coffee Notes
1	Abakundakawa Rushashi	Gakenke	74	1070	Dark chocolate, Caramel, Floral, Citrus, Honey, Vanilla
2	Dukunde Kawa Musasa	Gakenke	40	258	Stone fruits, Syrup, Lemonade, Berries
3	Twongerekawa Coko	Gakenke	74	583	Black tea, Cherry, Orange, Peach, Vanilla
4	Coffee Village Ltd.	Gatsibo	42	436	Chocolate, Caramel, Fruity, Spicy, Nutty, Sweet blackberry
5	Abateraninkunga ba Sholi	Muhanga	23	328	Chocolate, Floral, Spicy, Juicy, Fruity
6	Women Coffee Extension Ltd.	Kamonyi	41	666	Floral, Citrus, Orange Peel, Green Tea, Golden Kiwi, Tangerine
7	Abahuzamugambi ba kawa - Maraba	Huye	94	358	Chocolate, Orange, Vanilla





The project is supported by the Special Initiative “Decent Work for a Just Transition” of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), which is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, among others. The special Initiative, which also operates under the brand Invest for Jobs, aims to team up with companies to create good jobs and improve working conditions and social protection in its eight partner countries in Africa, including in Rwanda.

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