



DRWakefield

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D.R.C

# MUUNGANO COOPERATIVE

Muungano, meaning "togetherness" in Swahili, reflects the cooperative's roots in unity and collaboration. Today, it symbolises the cooperative's growth and strength.





# MUUNGANO COOPERATIVE

<i>Location</i>	Kiniezire, South Kivu
<i>Members</i>	4200+
<i>Altitude</i>	1300 - 2000 masl
<i>Varieties</i>	Bourbon
<i>Process</i>	Washed
<i>Harvest</i>	February – June, September – December (Fly)

In 2009, 350 founding members, with an average of 0.3 - 0.75ha of coffee, came together to found the Muungano Coffee Cooperative in eastern DR Congo. Muungano means “togetherness” in Swahili. Located on the slopes near the shores of Lake Kivu, this coop today has over 4,300 farmers investing in coffee and their communities.

They have a number of washing stations, Kiniezire, Buchiro, Butumba, Nyabirehe for larger facilities and Karango, Chebumba and Bishange as micro washing stations. These collect cherries from the members for processing. Only around 5% process the coffee themselves. A cupping lab is located in Kiniezire.

Cooperative members - including Bahunde, Bahavu, Bashi, Batembo, and Congolese of Rwandan origin of Eastern Congo - live in different communities that were divided by the civil war.

Their coffee was taken over the border to be sold in Rwanda for higher prices, crossing Lake Kivu at night, risking drowning and death. However, these dedicated coffee farmers made the choice to combine their strengths to build a great future for their communities.

By combining their efforts, they have improved quality, stayed safer and achieved better pricing, too. Their technical team has 17 agronomists, and documentation officers and supervisors are also present for the certifications and environmental accreditations that they hold. They have built a hydroelectric plant to provide electricity to neighbouring communities, a medical centre, schools, and even bridges in their efforts to improve the communities. Much of these funds have come from their Fairtrade premiums. In 2023, they bought a dry mill facility in Goma, which they run on Solar Powe to reduce their carbon footprint.

