



DRWakefield

EST. 1970

Ethiopia

NENSEBO



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<i>Location</i>	Nensebo, West Arsi, Oromia
<i>Altitude</i>	1950 – 2030 masl
<i>Members</i>	700
<i>Avg Farm Size</i>	2ha
<i>Varietals</i>	Heirloom
<i>Processes</i>	Natural, Washed
<i>Harvest</i>	November – February

On the western edge of the Bale Mountains National park, and the eastern edge of the Sidamo coffee growing region lies Nensebo, a washing station serving around 700 local outgrowers that deliver there. Covering the hillsides in bright white flowers at the start of the year (January, not the Ethiopian new year, that operates on a different calendar), the scent is incredible as it wafts across the slopes down from Worka in the north and across the river Badesa.

Forming a part of the infamous South East coffee zone that includes Sidamo (and therefore Yirgacheffe), Bale, and the Central Eastern Highlands, Nensebo used to fall under the 'Sidamo' label but is increasingly being recognised in its own right. The quality of their washed coffee in particular has been grabbing the speciality industries' attention, and the natural production quality is just as high.

The Harena Forest lies nearby, part of the Bale Mountains reserve and the protected area is managed by a regional government agency in unison with the local communities. Wild Arabica grows here mostly around 1400 metres above sea level, where the humidity provides ideal conditions. Higher up (the forest extends to around 2300masl) the temperature gets too cool, so growth within it tends to stop at around 1800.

The production is a mixture of forest and semi forest systems alongside small coffee gardens which average around 2 hectares per farmer. Where the growth is not part of the forestry system, it will extend to the peak of the altitudes, growing 1900 – 2300masl.

