

# Bukonzo Joint Cooperative Union

Ugandan Specialty Fairtrade Organic  
Washed Arabica Coffee



**‘Owemba’ describes something outstanding in our local language, Lhukonzo. It is the name we have chosen for our fully-washed Arabica micro-station coffee.**

In the rugged foothills of the snow-capped Rwenzori ‘Mountains of the Moon’ in Western Uganda, watered by glacier streams and beneath the canopy of shade trees, our coffee ripens gently in crystal clean air. Our 5,500 farmers are proudly transforming the quality of our coffee and its reputation in the specialty market.

- **Founded in 1999; in 2014, 5,500 farmers in 72 producer groups, united in 9 primary societies.**
- **100% Fairtrade and organic certified.**
- **Specialty coffee and fully traceable specialty-lots.**
- **Central mill, hulling, sorting and storage facilities.**
- **Preferential village-level savings and loan facilities available to all members.**
- **Community level micro-washing stations.**
- **Over 83% of our members and 55% of our board are women.**





## Generating a positive future through coffee

We have the perfect conditions to grow beautiful coffee but until recently, we were isolated from international coffee markets. Now, we have invested in micro-stations in each community to fully-wash and process our hand-picked coffee cherry to perfection. We are learning to care for our coffee amidst the challenges of climate change: strengthening the soil structure through terracing to prevent erosion and maintaining ground cover vegetation.

We apply no chemicals to our land, respecting its natural balance, and we have recently achieved EU and NOP organic certification.

## Balanced Trees Bear Richer Fruit

We believe that it is only when women have an equal say in household decisions and financial planning, that we can address the root causes of poverty. Our men and women sit down to work out practical ways to build our lives together. Over eighty per cent of our farmers are female.

We are proud of the international reputation we have gained for our work in rural communities on gender justice. We are working with other cooperatives across East Africa to train them in our approach.

## Our Fairtrade premium can save lives

We have a strong history of improving prospects for farming families from our roots as a rural micro-finance society. Now with support from Fairtrade buyers, we are able to make further improvements for our communities. In 2013, we extended the local Kyarumba Health Centre to include an operating facility for pregnant mothers. Unable to afford private healthcare, many women had previously risked dying from complications during child birth.

Future plans include building bridges across streams and rivers to the villages to enable farmers, who currently carry their coffee long distances by foot, to use vehicles.

Find out more on our websites:

[www.bukonzojointcoffee.com](http://www.bukonzojointcoffee.com)

[www.jmicoffee.org](http://www.jmicoffee.org)

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