



Kagera Cooperative Union

*Organic Fair Trade Arabica and Robusta coffee
exports from Kagera District, Tanzania
March 2002 to April 2005*

Project End Report

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Executive summary

The first phase of the Kagera Cooperative Union (KCU) Organic Robusta Coffee project started in March 1999 and was finalised in February 2002. The project worked with 3,200 farmers in the North Western region of Tanzania, producing organic fair trade (FT) Robusta and Arabica coffee. In April 2002 Epopa extended the project with the objective to consolidate and increase the export of organic coffee and to improve the livelihood of the rural population.

The project aimed:

- to increase the quantity of coffee exported as organic or as organic fair trade.
- to achieve a reliable export quality coffee
- to improve the environmental sustainability of the project, through improved organic farm management, especially soil fertility management.

It proposed to expand exports to 500 tons, the project to cover 5,000 farmers, consolidate the extension system and train 120 farmer trainers, to promote sustainable agricultural practices and improve coffee quality.

Expansion of the project was, however, delayed as KCU was initially concerned that they would not be able to sell and export more coffee. Marketing of the coffee improved and by January 2005 KCU had started the expansion to 5,000 farmers. In the final season of the project, KCU exported 424 tons of Organic FT Robusta coffee.

In total 160 farmer trainers were trained and they are active in training other farmers, 82% of the farmers reported having received some training from the farmer trainers. However, the impact survey revealed that, in general, the implementation of practices covered in these trainings was poor.

EPOPA supported the purchase of a grading machine, which went some way to improving the quality of the coffee. The measure of success of this is that KCU was able to market all its organic FT coffee in the final year. It also won the award of best organic Robusta in a coffee cup tasting competition at the IFOAM Organic Coffee Conference in October 2004.

The farmers' incomes increased from US\$ 38 to US\$ 159 per farmer annually during the project period. Farmers have received over 1.5 million SEK as an extra income as organic premium during the project. This extra income is reflected in the increase in the number of permanent buildings and farmers owning bicycles in the impact survey.