



History

The **Cooperative of Selected Coffees of Kalehe (COCASKA)** was founded in **2019** by **28 founding members**, all of whom are coffee producers from the **Mbinga-North grouping**, in **Kalehe Territory, South Kivu Province**, Democratic Republic of Congo.

COCASKA currently has **300 coffee-producing members**, including **75 women** and **225 men**, all certified organic according to **NOP** and **EU Regulation 2018/848** standards.

COCASKA is one of the **few cooperatives in the region** to have built, **without external aid or debt**, a **washing station** equipped with a **3-disc depulping machine**, **10 drying tables**, and a **water supply system** for the surrounding **Bukanyi population**. This was funded solely by contributions from its founding members. In addition, it established a **micro-washing station** using profits from its commercial relationship with **Nespresso**—a major success for both the cooperative and the local community.

Through the **Gorilla Coffee Alliance (GCA)**—a project funded by **USAID** and **Nespresso**—COCASKA received comprehensive training in the **production, processing, and marketing** of high-quality specialty coffee. This support enabled the cooperative to sustain its commercial relationship with **Nespresso via Virunga Coffee** for **three consecutive years**, during which its production capacity increased from **80,000 to 240,000 kg of cherries** over three years.

By making **good governance** one of its core management principles, COCASKA contributes to **local community development** through coffee by creating **permanent and seasonal jobs**, and by **distributing coffee seedlings** provided by GCA. These efforts help members **increase their production** and improve their **long-term living conditions** through coffee income, supplemented by other sources.

In addition to the income earned from selling their production to the cooperative, producers also received a **Nespresso premium after each season**, which helped them meet **other family and social needs** within their communities.