



COOPERATIVE KAWA KANZURURU

République Démocratique du Congo

Geo Location			
Province, Territory	Nord	Kivu,	Béni,
	Ruwenzori		
Altitude	1,500 - 2,000 masl		
Temperature	18°C - 28°C		
GIS Coordinates	0.183818000, 29.720757000		

KAWA KANZURURU is a farmer organization created in 2014 by Arabica coffee producers from Beni Territory with the support and assistance of VECO-RDCONGO.

The Arabica coffee value chain of the cooperative is located in the Ruwenzori sector of Beni Territory. Coffee producers from this sector are concentrated in two geographic zones that stretch from north to south, straddling Virunga National Park.

The term “Kanzururu” comes from the indigenous Kinande language and means “that which is good, beautiful, and white like snow.” In the local language, Kawa Kanzururu means “white coffee” and also symbolizes the snow on Mount Ruwenzori, where the members’ farms are located.

The cooperative includes 2,121 member producers, of whom 263 are women and 1,858 are men. The average farm size per farmer is 0.42 hectares.

The most commonly cultivated varieties by cooperative members include Bourbon, Jamaica, Nyasaland, Blue Mountain, and Ruiru.

The cooperative operates 27 mini washing stations, 2 of which are managed by members themselves.

- Main harvest period: August to December
- Minor harvest: February to May
- Export period (main harvest): November to February
- Export period (minor harvest): June to July

The cooperative offers buyers green coffee of the following grades: K3, K4, natural Robusta, K5, and K7.

It holds organic and Fairtrade certifications.

Key Activities and Impact

The cooperative undertakes various actions to:

- Improve farmer livelihoods
- Produce higher quality coffee
- Obtain better prices
- Strengthen the long-term sustainability of the coffee sector

These actions include:

- Facilitating access to high-quality seeds and agricultural inputs

- Organizing members into sections aligned with micro washing stations
- Strengthening the organizational and technical capacities of both the micro stations and producers
- Supporting members in obtaining certifications
- Collecting and managing parchment coffee
- Preparing coffee for the market
- Selling to buyers offering better prices
- Participating in initiatives to improve governance in the coffee sector
- Promoting coffee both locally and internationally by providing better sector information

Since 2018, the cooperative has overcome many challenges thanks to a partnership with the Virunga Foundation / Farm Africa. This partnership has helped resolve:

- Commercialization issues
- Quality improvement in washing stations
- Working capital shortages

As a result, Kawa Kanzururu has achieved:

- Contracts with international buyers
- Increased coffee volumes
- Access to credit solutions
- Obtained organic and Fairtrade certifications
- Improved equipment and infrastructure