



Coffee Innovation Fund – Rwanda

Supporting innovative and scalable solutions to increase profitability and market access of small-holder coffee farmers

Strengthening the smallholder-based coffee supply chain in Cyato through improved parabolic drying and compost-based farming

Tropic Coffee is a vertically integrated producer and exporter of specialty coffee from Rwanda. Established in 2015 by two young Rwandan entrepreneurs, Tropic Coffee currently operates 3 washing stations. The company sources from three farmer cooperatives with over 1,000 farmers, of which 50% are women. Its product range includes fully washed, natural and honey processed coffee that is currently sold in EU, US and Japan. Tropic Coffee supports the farmer groups with technical assistance and access to credit. It is in the process of acquiring Fairtrade certification.

Increasing coffee yield and income for smallholder farmers. Tropic Coffee aims to increase coffee yield and income for farmers by (1) launching coffee waste compost production and (2) introducing parabolic coffee drying.

Vermicomposting and parabolic drying method. Tropic Coffee will set up a vermicomposting system using coffee processing waste and a species of worms that facilitates the process. Vermicompost is a nutrient-rich organic compost and a soil conditioner. Tropic Coffee expects to produce 70 tons of compost annually which will be freely distributed to farmers.

Tropic Coffee will introduce parabolic drying beds which shorten the drying period by 20-25% (4-6 days) while ensuring that the cherries are dried under optimal conditions. This system will enable the company to increase its processing capacity by 40% within 3 years and reach high end markets.



Project overview

Term: 2022-2023
Region: Rwanda
Partner: Tropic Coffee Ltd
Volume: EUR 40,000 (supported by the fund)
EUR 80,000 (total volume)

Goals

- ❖ 250 farmers trained on vermicomposting.
- ❖ Free distribution of 70MT of compost to farmers
- ❖ Reduced drying time (20-25%) with use of parabolic drying beds.
- ❖ 20% increase in coffee yield and income for farmers

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