



Tanzania – Nangondo AB Washed

Farm:	Nangondo Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society
Varietals:	Kent, Compact
Processing:	Fully washed & sun dried on African beds
Altitude:	1,900 metres above sea level
Owner:	Various smallholder farmers
Town:	Mbozi District
Region:	Songwe
Country:	Tanzania
Total size of farm:	Less than 5 hectares on average
Coop members:	89 registered members



Additional information:

The Songwe region, rich in agricultural production, is situated in southern Tanzania bordering Zambia and Malawi. This is the location of the Mbozi District, populated with 175 villages and around 515,000 people. The Nangondo Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS) work with five of these villages Igamba, Itepula, Misia, Iganduka, and Ibembwa to gather and export excellent coffee.

Founded in 2017, the AMCOS now works with 89 members growing coffee on 5 hectares of land or less. Collectively, the AMCOS produces roughly 315,000 kilograms of coffee each year. The region is dominated by clay soils, regular rainfall, and mild temperatures – making it an ideal area to grow coffee.

Members of the AMCOS source their coffee seedlings from the Tanzania Coffee Research Institute and follow specific planting guidelines to ensure successfully coffee production. Each farm is managed with regular weeding, pruning, spraying, and application of fertilizer. Soil health is maintained with the application of mulch whilst pests and diseases are carefully monitored. Agricultural advice is offered to each member via farmer training programs and field visits from the Tanzania Coffee Research Institute and Coffee Management Services.

The AMCOS itself is managed by an elected board with members who oversee the cooperative. There is a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and a secretary, helping ensure that each member is profitably growing coffee and maintaining a sustainable livelihood.

Some of the major threats faced by these producers include a lack of access to inputs, difficulty accessing credit, poor roads and infrastructure, little knowledge on budgeting/running a coffee farm and climate change. These threats are being addressed with the trainings being offered by the AMCOS to help equip producers with the tools necessary to produce profitable coffee despite looming obstacles.

The harvest generally begins with each producer handpicking ripe cherries and delivering to the Nangondo washing station. Here the cherries are sorted, washed, and then de-pulped. This includes feeding the cherries into a Makinnnon disc-pulper or Penagos eco-pulper to detach the exterior pulp from the coffee seed. What remains is a sticky mucilage that will break down thanks to the following fermentation step as the coffee rests in water to break down the sugary skin. Next, the coffee is pushed through washing/grading channels where floating coffee is removed to maintain quality. One final dunk in water occurs before being evenly dispersed on raised beds or drying tables to dry in the open sun. The coffee stays here for several weeks until the moisture content reaches 11.5%.



Each AMCOS working with Dormans, our exporting partners in Tanzania, then deliver this dried parchment to the dry mill. Here, the dry exterior parchment is removed, and the coffee is graded to separate lots based on quality. Finally, the coffee is bagged and rested prior to export.

About Dormans Exporting Group

Dorman Tanzania Limited was founded in 1992 to initiate the privatization of the country's coffee sector and became the first exporter of coffee in Tanzania. After a year of operation, they were able to construct a mill in Moshi and initiate buying out of Mbinga and Mbeya in the southern areas of the country. Over time, and with support from external organizations such as ECOM, Dormans have been able to spread throughout Tanzania, Kenya, and Rwanda. They work to offer educational trainings in agricultural product usage, good agricultural practices, and certification training.

Screen sizing in Tanzania

The AA, AB and other grades used to classify lots in Tanzania are an indication of screen size only. They are not an indication of cup quality. The AA grade in Tanzania is equivalent to screen size 17 or 18, AB is equivalent to 15 or 16, used at other origins. AA grades often command higher prices at auction though this grade is no indication of cup quality and an AB lot from a better farm may cup better. PB (denoting Peaberry) is the smallest screen size.