

KENYA



Region

Nyeri

Producer

Karogoto Coffee Factory

Altitude

1,700 masl

Variety

SL28, SL34, Ruiru 11, Batian

Harvest Period

Oct - Jan

Processing

Washed



KENYA WASHED ARABICA AA TOP, KAROGOTO

Coffee was first introduced to Kenya in the 1890s when French missionaries brought Bourbon seeds from the island of Réunion. Today, coffee cultivation in the East African nation covers a total area of 160,000 hectares. Kenya is the fifth-largest coffee producer in Africa and is globally recognized as a leading specialty coffee origin.

In Kenya, coffee is grown by both large estates and smallholder farmers, who often join cooperatives. Most of its specialty coffee production is concentrated in the central region, where this coffee comes from. The Karogoto Coffee Factory is located in Nyeri, home to the extinct volcano Mt. Kenya. The factory operates under the Tekangu Farmers' Cooperative Society, founded in 1998. Tekangu manages multiple mills, including Tegu, Karogoto, and Ngunguru, from which the cooperative takes its name. Approximately 1,500 smallholder farmers contribute to the factory, each cultivating around 0.5 hectares of farmland. Alongside coffee, these farmers also grow crops such as maize, bananas, beans, and macadamia for personal consumption or sale.

Moreover, the factory collaborates with a neighboring high school, providing students with practical education in coffee cultivation—an important initiative given the increasing average age of coffee producers in the region.

Farmers contributing to Karogoto primarily cultivate SL28 and SL34 coffee varieties, while some have also introduced newer hybrids like Ruiru 11 and Batian. The region's well-drained red volcanic soil, rich in phosphorus, combined with an annual rainfall of approximately 1,500 mm and temperatures ranging from 12 to 27°C, provides ideal conditions for cultivating high-quality coffee.

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