



*In Business to Change Lives*

### **ABOUT OTHAYA FARMERS COOPERATIVE SOCIETY**

Othaya Co-op has maintained the reputation of being one of the best independently managed Co-op in Kenya. The Co-op has also established itself as a top-quality coffee producer with global recognition.

**Year of formation:** 1956

**Original Membership:** 250 small scale farmers

**Current Membership:** 14,500 all small-scale farmers

**Number of Wet Mills operated by the Co-op:** 19

**Area under Coffee:** An estimated 1,255,000 coffee trees of various varieties of SL 28 & SL 34, Ruiru 11 and Batian covering an area of 2,370 Acres.

**Soil:** Red Volcanic

**Elevation:** 1700-1965 MSL

**Certification:** Fair Trade certified since 2012

**Processing:** Fully washed and dried on raised beds

**Dry Mill:** Operates its own dry mill located in Gatuyaini and it is where all the primary processed parchment coffee from the 19 wet mills is taken for dry milling (hulling, polishing and grade separation). After dry milling, the coffee is packed in export bags.

**Quality Analysis:** Othaya has a cupping laboratory located in Gatuyaini. The quality analysis done by Mr. Wairagu before the coffee is ready for the market.

**Economic importance:** Coffee revenue provides livelihoods for 14,500 families and has created job opportunities directly at 19 wet mills, dry mill and administration. There are 98 permanent employees and 300 casual employees during peak period.

#### **Awards:**

Nyeri County 3rd Position Highest % payment to members Society 2014/2015

Nyeri County Best average payment society 2014/2015

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## **GATUGI AB**

The coffee is processed from Gatugi wet mill which is one of the wet mills under Othaya Co-op. The wet mill was built in 1979 and is located in Gatugi village Karima sub-location. Farmers from Gatugi produce the highest Kg per tree in Othaya.

**Wet Mill membership:** 754 members (574 males, 176 females and 4 institutions).

**Members total acreage under coffee:** 233 acres

**Altitude:** 1863 meters ASL

**Varietal:** SL28, SL34

**Processing:** The coffee is wet processed, where the fully ripe cherries are pulped, fermented, washed and dried slowly on raised drying beds for 2- 3 weeks to reduce moisture content to 10-12% at the wet mill. The coffee is then delivered to the co-op dry mill for final processing.

### **The Kenyan coffee co-op system:**

The Kenyan coffee co-operatives are fully owned and managed by the farmer members. Small-scale farmers organize into co-operatives to enjoy economies of scale and empower themselves to participate in the global trade of coffee. Farmers elect representatives amongst themselves to be board members of the wet mill. Wet mill board members elect a representative amongst themselves who represent them at the co-op level.



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