



What is the Kenyan Out-turn Number system?

The Kenya Coffee (General) Regulations, 2016 define an out-turn number as an identifying number issued by a miller in respect of coffee delivered to a mill. The out-turn number system was developed in Kenya in the 1950's. It is a unique system designed to provide transparency, credibility, integrity, traceability, and accountability of coffee from Kenya.



What is the Kenyan Coffee Year and Coffee Week?

The Kenya Coffee (General) Regulations, 2016 define the “Coffee year” as a period of twelve (12) months beginning 1st of October of one year and ending 30th September of the following year. The Coffee week starts with the week of October 1st and ends with the week of September 30th the following year.

How the Out-turn number is generated?

When the farmer delivers his cherries to the wet mill and the cherry is processed to parchment. The parchment is delivered to the Miller who generates the out-turn number for that specific parchment. Identical out-turn numbers cannot be issued for two different parchments.

The number comprises of two digits, two letters and four digits. The first two digits represent the Coffee week, the middle two letters represent the Miller's code and the last four digits are serialized by the miller as the coffee is received at the mill. After the out-turn number has been generated a miller prints out a tag which is sewn into the bag indicating the wet mill, the out-turn number, coffee grade, bags per grade, and the crop year.

The Kenya Coffee (General) Rules, 2002 section 65 state that: “No agent and no person employed by an agent shall, otherwise than with express written authority of the grower, remove labels or seals or open technically sewn or closed packets of coffee unless for the purpose of inspection to determine their validity and genuineness or with other reasonable cause.”



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For Co-operative wet mill coffee, the out-turn number generated belongs to a single parchment processed from cherries delivered from several farms. For individual farm coffee the out-turn number generated is for a single parchment processed from cherries from a single farm.

Why the Out-turn number important to Jamii Coffee?

The out-turn number has deep-roots at the heart of coffee from Kenya. Jamii coffee references the out-turn number as it is a verifiable and authentic system for accountability, credibility, transparency and integrity for our coffee.

The out-turn number is a great traceability resource for our coffee. It gives us the ability to trace our coffee from cherry to cup. This promotes confidence and gives our customers greater insight of our coffee.

For dispute resolution, the out-turn number is always handy to settle the dispute. The out-turn number and associated samples are kept at the mill for two years upon which the buyer is assumed to have finished with the coffee.

Our socio-economic model is designed to back-track based on data received from the out-turn number. This is important as it gives us in-depth knowledge for targeted socio-economic initiatives. For example, the Tambaya Coffee, the wet mill has 975 active members and 150 dormant members. The coffee available was delivered by 920 farmers. This will help us seek answers why 55 active farmers didn't deliver coffee and why 150 members are dormant.

How does Jamii Coffee use the out-turn number for Transparency and Traceability?

All our coffee is direct trade and is bought based on the sale protocol stipulated by Kenya Coffee (General) regulations 2016, which requires each coffee available for sale be distinguished with an out-turn number. As a special identity number, the out-turn number is critical to the transparency and traceability of our coffee. Our Transparency and Traceability system is based on verifiable information derived from the out-turn number. If requested, we have the ability to provide information on the amount of cherries delivered by each individual farmer even if they belong to a group of more than 1,000 farmers. This takes traceability to a new level. Jamii Coffee takes every effort to ensure that the out-turn number is printed on all our bags and the original tag from the Miller is sewn inside the bag.