



Rwanda Kungahara Women-grown



Kungahara means “be rich” in Kinyarwanda. Angelique TUYISENGE, president of the women’s group; the idyllic landscape surrounding Bwishaza cooperative’s drying tables and pulping pavilion.

Region/Coop: Western Province, Rutsiro district, Bwishaza cooperative, Kungahara women’s sub-group.

Parent coop members: 596

Women’s sub-group members: About 206.

Cooperative founded: 2014

Quality: Grade A1, +15 screen, specialty grade, Euro preparation (EP), no old taste. Clean cup.

Elevation: 1,650-1,800 masl

Variety: Arabica, Bourbon

Processing: Fully washed, dried on raised beds. The cooperative is experimenting with natural, but Artisan has not yet imported this type.

PTD guarantee: Artisan replaces up to 2 bags, no questions asked, if PTD is found. Larger quantities will also be replaced after determining the intensity of the problem using the smell-and-grind protocol.

Price: TBD/lb green EXW Continental or Annex. Includes -1% first-time customer discount; +\$.136/lb bonus paid direct to the Agaseke women.

Certification: compliant but not certified: Fair trade, Rainforest Alliance

Packaging: Jute bags with Grain-pro liners

Cupping Notes: Dark chocolate, raisin, cherries, lemon, vanilla. Aftertaste: grapefruit. High acidity. Soft and mellow body. Q Grade score in 2022: 85.25.

Arrival in US Ports: November each year

Warehouse location(s): Continental Terminals, NJ; Annex, Oakland, CA.

Artisan Coffee Imports, LLC, 1550 Westfield, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

www.ArtisanCoffeeImports.com

Tel: 734-717-6278; Fax: 206-984-2798; Email: rachurch@artisancoffeeimports.com



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Ruth Ann first met the leaders of the cooperative, Bwishaza, in 2016, shortly after they had formed. The leaders, Samuel and Jeshua, were in their 30s and 40s, and ready to take on challenges. They had great support from a Korean non-profit, Beautiful Coffee, to help them build a new washing station, offices and a cupping lab. They established the Kungahara group of women coop members.

Beautiful also brought the leader of

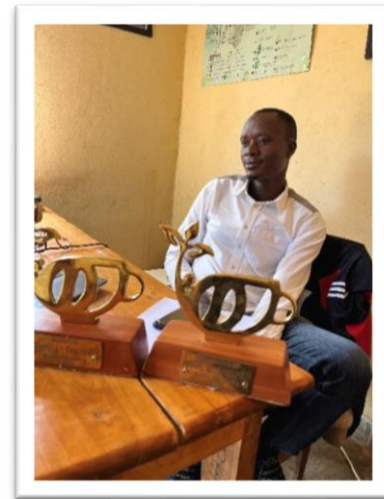
the women's group, Angelique TUYISENGE, to a big coffee trade show in Korea.

Artisan was welcomed as one of the cooperative's first "direct" buyers. Up until Artisan's first purchase of Kungahara in 2020, the cooperative sold most of their coffee through a third party broker in Kigali which means they must pay a large marketing fee. They are happy for each direct sale they can make.

The Bwishaza cooperative is the smallest of the cooperatives Artisan works with and we appreciate their energetic spirit for tackling quality and learning new methods. The manager, Samuel NSHIMIYIMANA, happens to be married to the president of the women's group, Angelique. They are a lovely couple and complement each other well. Under their leadership, the cooperative has been growing. In 2016, there were only 100 – 200 members, and now they are close to 600.

The women's group has 206 members (as of 2022) and they have purchased a community plot of land and planted coffee on it. The premiums paid by Artisan helped lower the amount of the bank loan that the women's group had to take to purchase the land. They plan to continue to pay down the loan with the sale of coffee from the community "women's" lot.

The cupper and quality control manager, Jean d'Amour NZAYISENGA, was trained in cupping and Q- processing by a well-respected CQI certified instructor, Grace Mukayisenga. He works tirelessly to perfect the quality of each lot of coffee, and it shows! The cooperative has been winning top places in competitions for its fully-washed, natural and special process coffees like carbonic and anaerobic.



Manager Samuel NSHIMIYIMANA with trophies won by Bwishaza's carbonic maceration, special process coffee in 2022.

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