



# Coffee Innovation Fund – Kenya

Supporting innovative and scalable solutions to increase profitability and market access of small-holder coffee farmers

## Repairing soils to increase quantity and quality coffee yields

Soil acidity has caused many coffee farmers to have exceptionally low yields due to low uptake of nutrients. This has been greatly influenced by low organic matter in the soil and a low carbon ratio, leading to dense hardpan and poor air and water penetration. The microbial levels also reduce subjecting the crops to soil borne diseases, and small leaves lead to slow processing of nutrients. The lack of nutrients leaves coffee crops weak and unable to provide adequate resources to coffee cherries, resulting in many cherries that are incapable of flourishing.

These challenges in soil have reduced farmers’ yields from previous levels of 40kg of coffee cherries per tree, to under just 2kg per tree. As a result, incomes have also been reduced by 20x’s.

### Serving 2000 small holder farmers

KOFAR is a social enterprise processing and selling fortified compost and soil conditioners that reverse acidity, boost moisture retention, and stop fruit abortions in Kenya. By processing biodegradable waste collected from the community, KOFAR creates a recycled, fortified compost to suit tropical soils. The product boosts the organic matter in soils, improves the soil structure, and increases moisture retention.

Through this project, KOFAR will automate its compost production line to increase the production and serve small scale coffee farmers in the region. Furthermore, KOFAR aims to reach over 8000 small scale farmers by training 40 leaders from different coffee societies, setting up demonstration farms, and hosting “farmer field days” to disseminate information and knowledge of the benefits and effective use of fortified compost and soil conditioners to boost the productivity and improved quality of coffee cherries. Farmers participating in the project will repair soil quality, resulting in increased quality and quantity of coffee – and ultimately generate higher incomes for small scale producers.



## Project overview

Term: 2021-2022  
Region: Kirinyaga County, Kenya  
Partner: KOFAR Kenya Ltd  
Volume: EUR 49,000 (supported by the Fund)  
EUR 114,000 (total volume)

## Goals

- ❖ Increase coffee cherry yields from below 2kg per tree to above 10kg per tree for 2000 small scale farmers using soil amendment products.
- ❖ Raise monthly production of KOFAR fortified compost from 5 tons to 25 tons.
- ❖ Double annual fortified compost sales by 2022.

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