



## Coffee Innovation Fund – Rwanda

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

### Production of organic fertilizer using tithonia intercropping to increase productivity and quality

Kotukanya Cooperative is made up of 500 coffee farmers (29% female) with the mission to promote coffee farming and increase both volumes and quality. Smallholder farmers are grouped in 16 farmer groups called Producer Organization (PO) and own 150,000 coffee trees.

#### Soil fertility is a major bottleneck for farmers

Most smallholder farmers in Rwanda are unable to reinvest in maintaining their farms. As a result, not only are they unable to invest in modern farming technologies, but they also cannot afford fertilizers or employ other techniques which would help them increase productivity and profitability. Furthermore, the declining soil quality also has an effect on how much smallholder farmers can benefit from agricultural activities.

#### Innovation of Tithonia diversifolia in coffee farms

This project aims to increase access to knowledge and adoption of organic farming methods by introducing tithonia diversifolia in coffee farming. Tithonia is rich in zinc and boron micronutrients which act as stimuli for the maintenance of flowers and beans on coffee trees. Tithonia will also act as a source of mulching materials which will enable farmers to combat the effects of poor soil fertility management on coffee farms.

This project will therefore unlock the potential for these smallholder farmers to increase their coffee production and quality leading to a more sustainable farming model.



### Project overview

Term: 2021-2022  
Region: Rwanda  
Partner: Kotukanya cooperative  
Volume: EUR 38,000 (supported by the fund)  
EUR 77,000 (total volume)

### Goals

- ❖ 90% of farmers increase their production through practicing organic farming
- ❖ 16 identified sites with their farmers intercropped their coffee with Tithonia
- ❖ Increase in coffee cupping scores from 82 to 87 points



Implemented by:  
**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



KOPERATIVE TWONGERE UMUSARURO WIA KAWIA I NYAKABUYE  
E-mail: [clerk@kotukanya.co](mailto:clerk@kotukanya.co)  
Tel: 0788821874 / 0722159974  
RUSIZI-NWEST-RWANDA

Contact: [coffeeinnovation@giz.de](mailto:coffeeinnovation@giz.de)