Mbinga Trip Report

By Boss Farijallah and Andre Almeida
March 26th - April 1st
2011

Mbinga trip report

Purpose

Since 2010 Sustainable Harvest have been working with Kilicafe to implement the Relationship Information Tracking System (RITS) with four groups from the North chapter. The plan for 2011 is to increase this number to at-least 10 groups in total, with an idea of extending the project to the south. Therefore, the purpose of our trip to Mbinga was to assess the groups there and to understand how RITS would operate in the south.

Mbinga is one of the districts in the country endowed with fertile soil and good weather. Even with the drought facing East Africa, Mbinga is still receiving a lot of rains and coffee seems to perform better. The good weather and fertile soil is favoring the region to be the first in arabica coffee production in the country. Last season, Kilicafe collected about 1400 tons of green coffees out of the region; indeed most kilicafe coffee comes from here.

In our visit to Mbinga we chose to meet with eight of the biggest groups in Kilicafe south and to do a complete assessment of each and later choose those which fit best for the project. However, due to heavy rains and bad roads, we managed to visit only six groups: Mahenge, Old Maguu, Kihuka, Matekela Asilia, Jaribu Lunoro, Umoja Ilela. We conducted interviews with the leaders, checked the infrastructure,elevation, electricity, internet signals, computer literacy, and wet station management, including processing.

Kilicafe Mbinga Chapter

Chairman: **Mr Haule Pv Haule**
Production Officer: **Eliud Dotto**
Production Officer: **Mwandigha Yusuph**
CPU supervisor: **Michael Mkandawile**
Address: **P.O. Box 418 Mbinga.**
Emails: deliud@yahoo.co.uk, mwandighayusuph@hotmail.com
Current number of groups: 112
Farmers: **about 11,000**

Harvest season:

All coffees are fully washed and the harvest is from
May to November

Certification: All the six groups we visited are Fair trade certified

Infrastructure:

All six groups we have visited own a washing station, like Kigoma Penagos Machine are very popular in Mbinga, each group visited owns a 1500 UCBE Penagos machine, nice African drying tables, soaking tanks, storage buildings at the washing station, waste water collection channels and pits. Despite the good washing stations, most roads to them are very rough and muddy;- like many parts of Africa the roads to the villages are always poor.

Coffee tracking system:

In our visit we realized that Kilicafe uses the same coffee tracking system for all it's chapters, the visit revealed no significant difference between the north tracking system and the tracking system in the south, both areas use similar documents like: delivery book/control sheet, receipts and farmer ledgers. All these documents can be generated by RITS, therefore no need of any changes/ adaptation of the current system to suit the south tracking system.

Mbinga trip report

Group data :

Mehenge Kahawa Bora

Item	Details
Contacts:	Baltazar Kinunda – 0763823565 (chairperson) Makarius Ndunguru – 0764857044 (treasurer)
Elevation	1688 m
Number of farmers	262
Average production	40 tons
Electricity	Solar
Internet signals	Yes
Certification	FLO
Distance from town	38 km

Mbinga trip report

Group data:

Jaribu Lunoro Kahawa Bora

Item	Details
Contacts:	Bosco Kapinga – 0759067022 (chairperson) Pio Kapinga – 0764872616 (secretary) Yoswe Kapinga – 0762354448 (treasurer)
Elevation	1656 m
Number of farmers	200
Average production	60 ton
Electricity	Solar
Internet signals	No
Certification	FLO
Distance from town	56 km

Mbinga trip report

Group data:

Matekela Asili Kahawa Bora

Item	Details
Contacts:	Pauly Joseph Mahay – 0768053833 (chairperson)
Elevation	1651 m
Number of farmers	90
Average production	40 ton
Electricity	No There is no plans to instal in this season
Internet signals	Yes
Certification	FLO
Distance from town	47 km

Mbinga trip report

Group data:

Old Maguu Kahawa Bora

Item	Details
Contacts:	Joachim Kapinga – 0764710406 (chairperson) Geofred Kinunda – 0763772142 (secretary)
Elevation	1511 m
Number of farmers	93
Average production	22 ton
Electricity	No
Internet signals	Yes
Certification	FLO
Distance from town	45 km

Mbinga trip report

Group data:

Umoja Ilela Kahawa Bora

Item	Details
Contacts:	Anton Pius Komba – 0764947136 (chairperson) Issack Komba – 0764584551 (treasurer)
Elevation	1606 m
Number of farmers	84
Average production	60 ton
Electricity	No (They expect to buy solar power this season)
Internet signals	Yes
Certification	FLO
Distance from town	70 km

Mbinga trip report

Group data:

Kihuka Kahawa Bora

Item	Details
Contacts:	Menance C. Msuha – 0758417747 (chairperson) Richard F. Nchimbi – 0754340949 (secretary)
Elevation	1520 m
Number of farmers	120
Average production	45 ton
Electricity	No But they expect to install solar power this season
Internet signals	Yes
Certification	FLO
Distance from town	57 km

Mbinga trip report

Personal notes

In all the six groups visited we were very much impressed with three groups: **Kihuka, Mahenge,** and **Umoja Ilela,** due to the level of understanding of the leadership, infrastructure, internet signals, elevation data, production and coffee tracking. These groups possess the most necessary criteria for selection under RITS program.