

# Fairtrade Coffee and Climate Change

(The berries on this *Pyracantha* bush are not unlike coffee cherries!)



Owens Roastery based in Ivybridge has been roasting Fairtrade coffee since 2010. Jubulani is a Rwandan single origin coffee which has been produced through a partnership between Owens Coffee and Plymouth-based Jabo Butera of the Diversity Business Incubator (DBI).

Jubulani coffee is grown by the Twongerekawa Coko Cooperative: a group of 138 members who grow their coffee at unusually high levels (2000m above sea level) in the Gakenke District of Rwanda. These smallholders own less than one hectare of land per family (about 1.5 football pitches).

This Cooperative is small and mostly female based in Northern Rwanda. These females are celebrated community leaders. Owens and Jabo have a direct relationship with the Twongerekawa Coko Cooperative. Sales of the beans support an initiative which connects 'community ambassadors' from the UK and Rwanda to exchange knowledge, nurture leadership and encourage positive global change.

As a company Owens is working towards minimising their environmental impact by having 100% recyclable packaging, a low impact building using the latest technologies, an eco-roaster with 80% fuel-savings, 100% Organic shade-grown coffee, where there are no synthetic fertilizers or chemicals used in growing or production. Owens has a zero waste to landfill system - all their used coffee grinds are taken to the nearby Garden Centre to be added to their compost.

The greatest concern to the production of coffee is climate change where temperature increases could push Arabica coffee production higher into mountains and forested reserves, meaning suitable areas could decrease substantially. Owens is committed to working with the Fairtrade Foundation, who train and educate the farmers, in sustainable farming practices for the future taking climate change into account.

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