



Kenya Coffee Traders Association  
Certificate of registration no. 21314

# KENYA

## CROP REPORT JUNE 2008

### 2008 / 09 PRODUCTION ESTIMATE

PROJECT BY: **KENYA COFFEE TRADERS ASSOCIATION (K.C.T.A.)**  
**COFFEE RESEARCH FOUNDATION (CRF)**  
**COFFEE BOARD OF KENYA**

**K.C.T.A.****KENYA CROP ESTIMATES STATISTICS (METRIC TONS)**

9-Jul-08

GROWING AREA	GROWER TYPE	ESTIMATED HECTARES	FINAL ESTIMATE	1st ESTIMATE (projection)	2nd ESTIMATE	3rd ESTIMATE	1st ESTIMATE
			2007 / 08	2008 / 09 (november 2007)	2008 / 09 (May 2008)	2008 / 09	2009 / 10
<b>CENTRAL</b>							
KIAMBU	Coop	5,592	1,605	1,821	1,923		
	Estate	5,039	3,535	4,686	4,907		
RUIRU	Coop	-	-	-	-		
	Estate	4,201	4,614	5,803	5,875		
THIKA	Coop	7,666	1,768	1,968	2,145		
	Estate	4,234	4,452	5,878	5,845		
MURANGA	Coop	14,029	3,011	3,677	3,717		
	Estate	-	-	-	-		
KIRINYAGA	Coop	8,678	4,379	5,700	5,826		
	Estate	385	422	520	533		
NYERI	Coop	11,977	2,550	4,611	4,657		
	Estate	1,106	930	1,479	1,634		
	sub-total.	62,907	27,266	36,143	37,062	-	-
<b>EASTERN</b>							
MACHAKOS	Coop	9,931	3,139	3,614	3,459		
	Estate	1,877	1,315	1,337	1,443		
EMBU	Coop	8,499	1,886	2,833	2,938		
	Estate	336	341	353	397		
MERU	Coop	34,197	3,373	6,374	6,422		
	Estate	640	202	212	328		
	sub-total.	55,480	10,256	14,723	14,987	-	-
<b>RIFT VALLEY</b>							
NAKURU TRANS-NZOIA	Coop	4,144	1,363	1,490	1,491		
	Estate	1,216	643	675	704		
	Estate	2,349	243	279	456		
	sub-total.	7,709	2,249	2,444	2,651	-	-
<b>WESTERN KENYA</b>							
	Coop	16,021	2,090	3,125	3,130		
	Estate	-	-	-	-		
	sub-total.	16,021	2,090	3,125	3,130	-	-
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>							
	Coop	120,734	25,164	35,213	35,708	-	-
	Estate	21,383	16,697	21,222	22,122	-	-
<b>TOTAL COUNTRY</b>							
		<b>142,117</b>	<b>41,861</b>	<b>56,435</b>	<b>57,830</b>	-	-

Source: Coffee Research Foundation (CRF)

Project by: Coffee Research Foundation (CRF), Kenya Coffee Traders Association (K.C.T.A.) and Coffee Board of Kenya



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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The crop/farms survey was undertaken in May 2008 to assess the state of coffee production in both the smallholder and estates sub sectors in the main coffee growing areas of Kenya.

Due to unusual intense flowering of the coffee trees in January, a big proportion of the late crop will mature and ripen earlier than normal by nearly two months. The resultant out-phasing of the berry development and the CBD cycles is also expected to reduce crop losses attributable to the disease. However, the crop that flowered in February and March is still at significant risk from CBD.

Harvesting of the early crop, especially in Meru, Embu, Machakos/Makueni had commenced by the time of this survey. First deliveries to the market of the crop are expected from late July. On the other hand, the actual quantity and quality of the late crop will depend on how the weather pattern evolves between June and September.

#### Impact of weather

This crop/farm survey was undertaken amidst fears of failed rains in the main coffee growing areas of Central Kenya. Earlier, unseasonable rains had however culminated in blooms in January, February and March. The flowering in January though in the middle of a dry spell was significant and will account for the larger proportion of the late crop. In the early crop areas in Meru, Embu, Machakos and Kisii, the crop was at no risk, picking had commenced and a bumper crop was expected. The evolution of the weather pattern in the May-June-July will substantially determine the amount and the quality of late crop that will be harvested.

A cold wet spell alternating with warm moist periods will increase the threat of CBD. However, if sufficient crop protection measures are undertaken, this threat can to a larger extent be mitigated. Lack of enough moisture will on the other hand constrain ripening leading to high proportion of Mbuni.

#### Disease and pests

Though the disease pressure was low at the time of the survey, there was already evidence of early build of CBD in high altitude areas of in Embu, Kirinyaga, Thika and Kiambu. Due to out-phasing of a significant proportion of the late crop and the CBD cycle, the overall crop loss arising out the proliferation of the Coffee Berry Disease has been estimated at 32.6%.

As in the previous surveys, Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR) was recorded in active state in virtually all coffee growing areas. The disease, initially characterized as disease of low altitude areas is becoming major and is threat to coffee production and quality into the medium and long term. Key pests recorded during the assessment included thrips, green scales, berry borers, antesia bug and leaf miners. The white stem borer remains a major threat to the viability of coffee farming especially in Kirinyaga, Muranga, Maragua, Embu and the Meru regions.

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### Crop husbandry practices

Due higher realizations, crop husbandry is improving in most of the coffee growing areas. Innovative ways of delivering extension services in partnerships with value chain payers have also emerged. However, the increasing cost of fertilizers, fungicides, fuel and new levies on irrigation water may undermine the growth of the sector.

In some areas, underlying problems within co-operatives remain a major bottleneck to the full recovery of the sector. It is hoped that these constraints will be addressed as the gains from the sector reforms are consolidated.

### Overall: 2008 / 09

Coffee production estimate for 2008 has been upgraded from the previous forecast of 56,436 tonnes to 57,830 tonnes, an increase of 2%, comprising of 35,708 tonnes (62%) and 22,122 tonnes (38%) from the smallholder and estates sub-sectors respectively. Out of this 19,714 tonnes (34%) will comprise of early crop while 38,116 tonnes (66%) will come as late crop. The increased production is on account of improving husbandry practices, favourable weather and the impact of biannual bearing.

Due higher income realizations, crop husbandry has improved in most of the coffee growing areas. However, the increasing cost of fertilizers, fungicides, fuel and the new levies on irrigation water may undermine the growth of the sector into the medium term. Moreover, underlying problems within co-operatives, in some of the regions, remain a major bottleneck to the full recovery of the sector.

It is hoped that these constraints will be addressed as the gains from the sector reforms are consolidated

Source: Coffee Research Foundation (June, 2008)