



Kenya Coffee Traders Association

Certificate of registration no. 21314

COFFEE VARIETIES PRODUCED AND MARKETED IN KENYA

All Kenyan traditional commercial coffee varieties (SL 28, SL 34 & K7) have their lineage from French Mission coffee. Coffee farms established prior to 1930's are generally French Mission.

French Mission coffee on the other hand is a bourbon derivative and therefore by extension, the traditional Kenyan coffee varieties have Bourbon in their pedigree.

Blue Mountain is also as old in Kenya as French Mission coffee. There are many farms in Kisii including CRF substation with Blue Mountain Coffee.

The main commercially grown varieties can be described as follows:

SL 28 Variety

- Selected at the former Scott Laboratories (Now NARL) from Tanganyika Drought Resistant variety.
- Suited for medium to high altitudes
- Green shoot tips but occasionally bronze
- Angle of insertion of young primaries is predominantly semi-erect
- It has bold beans with particularly fine liquor
- Susceptible to Coffee Berry Disease (CBD), Coffee Leaf Rust (CLR) and Bacterial Blight of Coffee (BBC)

SL 34 Variety

- Selected at Former Scott Laboratories from French Mission Coffee
- Mainly characterized by dark bronze shoot tips with few green tipped strains.
- Adapted to high altitude areas with high rainfall
- Produces high yields of fine quality coffee
- Susceptible to CBD, CLR and BBC

K7 Variety

- Selected at Lengetet Estate in Muhoroni from French Mission Coffee
- Resistant to some races of CLR and partial resistance to CBD
- Suited for low altitude zones where LR is prevalent
- Bean and liquor qualities are good
- Spreading habit of young laterals
- Young shoot tips are intermediate bronze in colour.

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Ruiru 11

- Released in 1985
- The name has a prefix “Ruiru” designating the location where it was bred
- Code numbers “11” denotes one way cross and the first release respectively
- Quality attributes similar to traditional varieties
- Resistant to CBD and LR
- Compact growth
- Planting density of 2500-3300 trees/ha compared to 1300 trees/ha for traditional varieties

Batian

Released: 2010

Type: True breeding Arabica coffee bred through intensive backcrossing to traditional coffee varieties

Growth habit: A tall statured plant with vegetative features similar to those of Cultivar SL28.

Beans: Mature beans are large and bold, endosperm is green while the centre cut is mostly singled and straight

Yields It is a high yielding variety with good bean and cup quality.

OTHER COFFEE VARIETIES GROWN IN KENYA

1. French Mission
2. Blue Mountain
3. Robusta

Source: Dr. Gichuru

Director

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