

# IDENTIFICATION OF QUALITY AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREA



## INTRODUCTION

Coffee quality – denotes a level of kind or character of coffee.

Range: specialty and commercial

Quality is determined by various components which give rise to potential flavour profiles.

Physical characteristics and flavour profile of coffee are influenced by:

- ✓ the species and variety of coffee tree
- ✓ **soils in which coffee trees are grown**
- ✓ **climatic conditions**
- ✓ **altitude ( differences in elevations)**
- ✓ crop husbandry ( cultivation practices)
- ✓ processing methods
- ✓ storage (length and conditions of storage)

# CHALLENGES

- 1. Botanical differences of coffee within same region**
  - Many varieties of coffee in Kenya:
    - Arabica – SL 28, 34; K7; Ruiru 11, Blue mountain, Batian
    - Robusta – Very small amounts in Western region of Kenya near Ugandan boarder.
  - Result – Coffee of different flavour profiles in one region
- 2. Climatic conditions** – same geographical areas experiencing different microclimates and seasons.
  - Results - coffees of less uniform qualities
- 3. Soils** in which coffee trees are grown are different – Volcanic red soils, Black cotton soils, Well drained soils resulting from diverse coffee qualities
- 4. Altitude** (Elevations that are different) – Upper, Middle, Lower. One geographical area having various elevations that influence coffee growing microclimates.
  - Results - different flavour profiles



# CHALLENGES



## 5. Crop husbandry and processing methods

- Diverse farming methods by growers within same geographic area results to coffee of different characteristics.

## 6. Post harvest and processing Methods

Coffees in the same geographic area when processed differently will result into qualities of different standards

- Wet vs. Dry methods

- Storage periods and conditions

Need to be harmonized

# ROLE OF PUBLIC IN QUALITY IDENTIFICATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

- Traders and consumers participate in quality profiling activities with respect to geographical origin of coffee.  
Provision of quality data and other information for compilation
- Harmonization of farming activities within coffee growing regions in terms of variety, crop husbandry and processing methods through regulatory and research institutions.  
Challenge in Kenya
- Enforcing demarcations of geographical areas to establish boundaries of exceptional coffee quality. e.g. Tea Industry in Kenya



# ROLE OF PUBLIC IN IDENTIFICATION OF GIs

- ▣ Establishment of coffee standards to inform players of levels of quality indicators e.g. Bean size, moisture content, defects allowed for all coffee departing from Kenya.

Coffee standards document being developed by coffee industry in collaboration with Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)