



ETHIOPIA YIRGACHEFFE 2 WASHED ORGANIC BANKO DHADHATO - GRAINPRO

Notes: DRIED DATE, FLORAL, CINNAMON, MILK CHOCOLATE.

ORIGIN INFORMATION

Grower	Smallholder farmers organized around the Banko Dhadhato cooperative
Variety	Indigenous landraces and regional heirloom cultivars
Region	Worka community, Gedeb woreda, Gedeo Zone, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples'
Harvest	November - January
Altitude	1,800 – 2,300 masl
Soil	Vertisol
Process	Washed, and dried in the sun on raised beds
Certifications	FT Organic

BACKGROUND DETAILS

Banko Dhadhato is part of the Gedeb district, the southernmost district of Ethiopia's famous Gedeo zone. Nearly all of Gedeb is known for its gifted processing climate and experienced growers. Washed and natural coffees alike from this area tend to be dense and fruit-forward, ranging from sparkling clean acidic fruits to jammy or herbal concentrated sweetness. Banko Dhadhato is one of many primary Fair Trade and organic certified cooperatives that make up the storied Yirgacheffe Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union (YCFCU).

Gedeb and Its Coffee

Gedeo zone is a narrow section of Ethiopia's southern highland plateau dense with savvy farmers, a famous terroir, and high competition for cherry. Gedeo as a whole is frequently referred to as "Yirgacheffe", after the zone's most famous central district. Gedeb, however, is a terroir, history, and community all its own that merits unique designation in our eyes. Coffees from this district, much closer to Guji zone than the rest of Gedeo, are often the most explosive cup profiles we see from anywhere in Ethiopia.



Naturals tend to have perfume-like volatiles, and fully washed lots are often sparkingly clean and fruit candy-like in structure.

The Gedeb district is a remote but impressively industrious area for coffee production. Half of its territory is planted with coffee. The city of Gedeb itself is a bustling outpost that links commerce between the Guji and Gedeo Zones, with an expansive network of processing stations who buy cherry from across zone borders. The communities surrounding Gedeb reach some of the highest growing elevations for coffee in the world and are a truly enchanting part of the landscape.

Banko Dhadhato Station and Processing

In the past, the Worka cooperative encapsulated a large share of this area's farmers. In recent years, newer cooperatives have been established in more specific communities here. Banko Dhadhato was founded in the Worka area in 2013 with 250 farmers from the Banko Dhadhato kebele (small municipality), and has been part of YCFCU ever since. Banko Dhadhato now has 755 farmer members and represents just over 500 hectares of coffee production—about 0.66 hectares apiece on average. These are quintessential Gedeo family farms: small and forested, whose production is often divided between spacious, lofty coffee trees, other fruits or legumes, and enset, a fruitless cousin of the banana plant whose pulp is packed into cakes, fermented underground, and then toasted as a staple starch. This common pair of crops satisfies unique and separate needs: coffee for economic livelihood; and enset for nutrition.

Washed coffee is produced very straightforwardly at the coop. Cherry is picked daily during harvest and delivered to the coop by individual farmers. All cherry is sorted on arrival for imperfections and uniform ripeness. Coffee is depulped and fermented overnight in open tanks, and then washed clean and soaked in fresh water before being transferred to the raised drying tables. The parchment coffee dries in the sun for an average of 2 weeks, after which it is brought into the local warehouse for storage, prior to being transported to Addis Ababa for final dry milling and export.

The Yirgacheffe Union

Banko Dhadhato is one of the primary cooperatives that together make up the Yirgacheffe Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union (YCFCU). The Union, first established in 2002, has more than 45,000 individual farmer members and 28 different cooperatives across Gedeo Zone, almost all of which are Fair Trade certified. (Gedeo, while tiny compared to neighboring Sidama and Guji zones, is one of Ethiopia's most densely populated areas after Addis Ababa.) The members of each primary cooperative elect their own executive committee which makes decisions about investments like new equipment and tree maintenance, but also creates plans for member social services, school support, public health, infrastructure, and how to structure payments to the coop members. YCFCU also appoints professional managers for each primary cooperative to oversee harvest and processing procedures, who are accountable to the members and the executive committee. ee.