

TechnoServe Coffee Initiative



A grant of \$47 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to TechnoServe is helping small-scale farmers in East Africa boost their incomes by improving the quality of their coffee. TechnoServe is partnering with 180,000 farmers over four years providing support in agronomy and coffee quality.

The Coffee Initiative is based on an approach that has proven successful in breaking the cycle of poverty for coffee farmers in Latin America and Africa, and builds on TechnoServe's four decades of experience. The project is currently being implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania.

TechnoServe provides technical and business expertise to help small-scale farmers produce better quality coffee and secure higher prices in the marketplace. Areas of training include quality coffee assessment and processing — particularly the effective use of wet mills to produce quality washed coffee — as well as agronomy best practices.

TechnoServe starts by listening to our clients and other stakeholders in the coffee industry to understand concerns and constraints. Our business advisors work hand-in-hand with farmers while maintaining strong relationships with the local coffee industry. Historically, this approach has been successful in creating “win-win” outcomes for farmers, processors, and exporters.

At the project's midpoint, TechnoServe is working with more than 67,000 farmers who have wet milled 1,800 metric tons of coffee.

FACTS AT A GLANCE

- Project location: East Africa
- Project start: 2008
- Project duration: 4 years
- Farmers assisted to date: 67,000

