



coffee sustainability profile

This example shows the information submitted for a Good Food Awards winning coffee from 2012/2013 by Verve Coffee Roasters. All the questions related to sustainability are answered below.

Ethiopia Birhanu Bali Jilo
sourced & roasted: **Verve Coffee Roasters**

Please name and describe the farm or cooperative your coffee is sourced from. This should include the location, names of owners, working conditions, number of hectares, varietal/s, etc.

The farm is owned by Birhanu Bali Jilo. He has owned his land in the Yirga Cheffe region of Ethiopia for the past 20 years. The 12.5 hectare farm is a member of the YCFCU (Yirgacheffe Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union). Birhanu's immediate family (wife, 6 sons, 4 daughters) all live on the property and are his main source of labor for harvesting his modest crop (2012 crop was roughly 30 exportable bags of green coffee).

If your coffee was sourced through an importer or broker, please identify them and briefly describe their role in procuring this coffee. (i.e. logistics, price negotiations, spot buy/sourcing)

This coffee was sourced by Café Imports in Minneapolis, Minnesota by Jason Long. Long's plans for a farmer-specific program in Ethiopia materialized this year as he worked with YCFCU directly to isolate farmers producing the finest quality as well as the farmers with the most sound and sustainable farming practices. He also worked with ECX and YCFCU representatives to be able to keep these lots intact and outside of the all auction systems. We paid the farmer directly for his coffee while Cafe Imports helped with sourcing and logistics for this lot.

Here is a pdf to the farm information from Cafe Imports.
[Cafe Imports Ethiopia Birhanu PDF \(past offering\)](#)

Please name any certifications (organic, Rainforest Alliance, Fair Trade, etc) this coffee has, and the certifiers.

This coffee was certified organic by BCS OKO-GARANTIE GMBH, and they found it organic in compliance with USDA-NOP final rule.

Attached, please find a copy of the certificate.
(organic certification certificate was attached to entry)

How is the farm reducing or eliminating any non-organic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and fungicides?

While not labeled organic on our bags, the practices of the Birhanu Bali Jilo are as organic as they come. No synthetic pesticides, fertilizers or fungicides are used on his farm. His entire production is picked and milled using the labor of his immediate family who lives on the land of the farm. Historically and in traditional standards most coffee in Ethiopia is grown without the use of non-organic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides or fungicides. In form, Birhanu produced this coffee using only commercially available organic fertilizers and reenergizing his farm with compost made from the pulp of his coffee harvest. In addition, organic sulfur and potassium are added to the plants to help maintain health and some minimal pruning to enliven new growth.

What other steps are being taken at the farm level to reduce environmental impact? (water, compost, etc)

Natural irrigation by a local stream is the only added presence of water on the farm, other than the minimally occurring rains. His addition of compost from the pulp and food waste into the farm's soil helps maintain a level pH and healthy environment for his coffee plants and other edibles he grows.

How do you guarantee that there is price transparency throughout the supply chain, and farm workers are compensated and treated fairly (on location medical facilities, provisions, safety, etc)?

Describe how farm workers are treated, and how you gained this insight.

We can guarantee price transparency throughout the supply chain because we personally handed Birhanu the money he earned from this relationship. There are also contractual documents with FOB pricing outlined. We have personally visited his homestead and farm and have seen the environment that he and his family live. It includes ample space and housing for the entire family.

The purchase price of this coffee is almost all farm-gate because of the transparency of this lot. The Yirgacheffe Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union, like all cooperatives in Ethiopia, is exempt from placing all of their coffees into the ECX. This means that specific lots from them can be separated and given quality feedback, which allows for higher premiums to be paid for higher quality product.