

## Lean at Origin©

Artisan supports KOPAKAMA's continuing "Lean journey", a management and worker training and consulting program focused on eliminating waste and improving processes.

Ruth Church first met the female leaders of the Ejo Heza women's sub-group of Kopakama in 2016 when she was giving the leadership portion of Lean training ([learn more HERE](#)). The Ejo Heza president and two other officers were invited to be in this training.

Lean tools help producers:

- Identify inefficiencies and waste
- Identify root causes and increase productivity with repeatable, teachable processes
- Improve quality by empowering front-line workers
- Improve sustainability through environment friendly practices

Because they were trained in Lean, the Ejo Heza women in 2018 could agree to carry-out a critical trial of a new practice: quality control of in-coming cherry via "floating". On three different days, the women's cherries were floated in water and only the dense, "sinker" cherries, were processed. (The floaters were thrown away.) Cupping showed a measurably higher cup score for the "sinks". In 2019, the cooperative began implementing floating for cherry quality control across all of its 30 collection sites.

