



Rwanda Agaseke Women's Group

The women of Agaseke are members of the Kopakaki Dutegere cooperative (Western Province). They have long been leaders and decision-makers within the cooperative, but only recently, 2017, decided to form a group. They asked the parent cooperative to process their coffee separately on a specific day of the week. This separation at the time of processing is necessary in order to allow traceability to the women's group. Now their coffee can be marketed as "women's coffee."

The women chose the name "Agaseke" because this is the name of a classic basket in Rwanda, easily recognizable by its pointy top. These baskets are used to bring gifts! On a wedding day, for example, it's not uncommon to see folks dressed in their best clothes, walking to the wedding with these beautiful Agaseke (pointed baskets) balanced on their heads.

The parent cooperative, Kopakaki, has been very supportive of the women. They have even arranged to roast a large batch of the women's coffee and package it in beautiful consumer packaging so that the bags of whole-bean coffee can be sold to visitors to their cooperative.

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