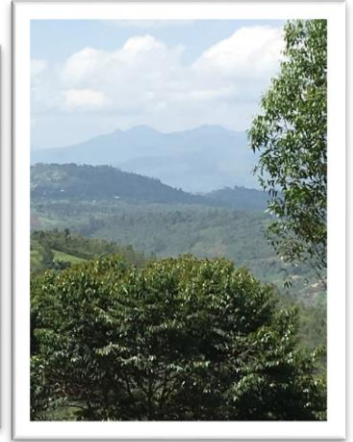




## Rwanda Agasaro Women-grown

*Agasaro means “precious bead” or “pearl”.*



*L to R: Ruth Ann with Francine NYRANGIRIMANA, president of the women’s group Agasaro. Interim Executive director Patricie UWIZEYIMANA and an Agasaro member present a gift made of small beads (Agasaro) to Ruth Ann. The mountain vistas in this southern part of Rwanda are amazing!*

**Region/Coop:** Western Province, Rusizi district, Rwimbogo sector. (Near the DR Congo border- one of the few places where DRC is *south* of Rwanda!)

**Parent coop name:** COCAGI (Coopérative des Caféculteurs de Gishoma)- 1,114 members

**Women’s sub-group name:** Agasaro – 291 members

**Quality:** grade A1, +15 screen, specialty grade, Euro preparation, clean cup.

**Certifications available:** Rainforest Alliance and Fairtrade

**Elevation:** 5,500 ft / 1,600 meters

**Variety:** Arabica, Bourbon (various heirloom varieties)

**Processing:** Fully washed, dried on raised beds

**Packaging:** Jute bags with Grain-pro liners



**Price:** TBD/lb green EXW. Includes +\$.136/lb bonus paid direct to the Agasaro women.

**Cupping Notes:** fruity, apricot fragrance; juicy strawberry jam flavor, cedar spice with increasing sweetness as it cools; balanced with raisin fruitiness; strong 85.5+ score.

**Expected arrival:** November each year; **Warehouse location(s):** Continental Terminals or Annex

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*R: COCAGI cuppers enjoying their java!*

**Story:** COCAGI, founded in 2004, is one of Rwanda's oldest cooperatives and has received dozens of awards and certificates over its 16+ years. They were one of the early cooperatives established by the PEARL project, which launched Rwanda's transformation into a specialty coffee producer by introducing regional washing stations. Japhet, COCAGI's executive director who just stepped down in January 2023, remembered the early days of the cooperative. Today the cooperative boasts an impressive infrastructure with a well-maintained cherry reception area, two MacKinnon depulping machines, long grading channels, seven fermentation tanks, large shaded sorting areas, vast areas with rows of raised drying beds and a headquarters equipped with a cupping lab and modern computer equipment for office operations. In 2018 they established their first women's group, "Agasaro", and today they have added a second one named "Susuruka".

The cooperative is proud of its efforts to train women to be official cuppers and they've hired two female agronomists to guide their members on best practices. One of them, Patricie UWIZEYIMANA, was recently named interim executive secretary for the coop. In 2020, the coop dedicated land and 25,000 trees to the women's group and the youth farming group. COCAGI cooperative is also a long-time supporter of Fair Trade. (The former ED served on the Fair Trade board for Rwanda for years.)



*L to R: COCAGI headquarters along the main road in Rusizi. Agasaro women receive their premium. Fermentation tanks at Butambamo washing station.*

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