



Coffee in PNG



Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is a small island nation in the South Pacific, home to over 9 million people and known for its diverse culture and rich biodiversity. The capital is Port Moresby. Over half of PNG's population live in rural areas on customary land and are subsistence farmers. With thousands of tribes and over 850 languages, it is a land full of ancient, unique cultures. PNG is amazing!



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Coffee was reportedly introduced to PNG in the early 1800s. Farming and cultivation picked up in the early 1900s, with coffee farmed largely on plantations when production picked up after World War II.



Varieties

The two main varieties of coffee grown in PNG are Arabica and Robusta coffee. The Arabica variety is grown mainly in the highlands of PNG and makes up most of PNG's coffee export. The popular arabica coffee variety is the Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee. Other arabica varieties include Catimor, Caturra and Mundo Novo.



Smallholder production

Today, smallholder farmers are the champions of PNG's coffee cultivation. Farmers grow coffee on land holdings ranging from half a hectare to five hectares in villages throughout the highlands, as well as the inlands of some coastal provinces. Most families farm, harvest and process their coffee, selling it to a network of independent buyers and then transporting it to PNG's main export centres.



Significance

Coffee is a household crop in PNG. Many families rely on coffee as their primary source of income, paying for children's school fees, traditional and customary obligations, and household expenses. Strengthening PNG's coffee sector leads to benefits for thousands of households.

MDF's role

In PNG, MDF supports businesses to improve coffee quality, increase their purchases of high-grade specialty coffee and invest in certified-sustainable coffee value chains. To find out more, visit our website [_____](#) →



Your daily cup of coffee changing women's roles in PNG

We all love a cup of coffee! Every day an estimated one billion people sit down to enjoy at least one cup of this favourite caffeine hit. But as you admire the white foamy fern on your familiar flat white or are just enjoying a simple cup of coffee at home, pause for a minute to contemplate how your coffee consumption is changing women's lives in rural communities in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

With consumers demanding better-quality coffee and questioning its origin, leading international coffee brands are now investing in single-origin coffees and considering issues including farming practices, environmental protection, the prevention of child labour, gender equality and other social factors. To meet this changing demand, the coffee industry in PNG is seeing more women take leadership roles in managing coffee production and trade.

Lakeh Petsy of Sogopegu village in the Eastern Highlands Province (EHP) has become a small-scale coffee farmer with about three hectares of coffee trees.

Lakeh, in the picture, stands in her coffee farm on just another lovely day in PNG.

Like most women in her village, Lakeh relies on farming to earn an income. She independently manages her family's coffee garden.

"I manage the coffee pickers, drying and pruning process and sell the coffee. I have taken on managing our coffee block and even assisted in starting a coffee cooperative in my village," Lakeh excitedly explains.

She teaches her children and family about quality coffee and explains the importance of sustainable farming practices and quality control measures essential for good coffee.

I have put into practice what I have learnt from coffee workshops that I have attended- how better to look after my coffee, and I have seen positive results. The quality of coffee from my garden is good, and I am getting a good price for it.

Coffee is slowly changing the general stereotype and tradition in PNG concerning a woman's place in society and is now providing greater employment opportunities for PNG women. So, is your coffee from a sustainable and ethical source? Does it recognise its role in increasing awareness of gender equality and human rights in PNG?



Your cup of coffee can contribute to changes in gender roles, and as a result, women in PNG can get more recognition for their hard work.

