

# PRODUCER PROFILE

**Name:** Gacharage Tea Factory

**Product:** Black CTC Tea

**Country:** Kenya

**FLO ID:** 4678

**Fairtrade Certified Since:** 2006

**Type of organisation:** SPO

**Number of Certified Members:** 5562



## Introduction

Gacharage Tea Factory co Ltd is a Small Producer Organization, 100% owned by small scale farmers. The factory is in Murang'a County, Central Province, Kigumo District, Gacharage Division, Mununga Location, Mununga Sub-location. It is 56Kms from Thika, 107Kms from the capital city Nairobi and 610 Kms from the port of Mombasa. The factory lies at 2188 metres above sea level. To the north is the great Aberdare range, which is the main source of the rivers that serve the over 3 million people in Nairobi and its environs with clean water. To the north east is Mt Kenya with its beautiful sceneries. To the West is the famous Ndaka-ini water dam. The Factory is led by Board of Directors who are democratically elected by the tea farmers. The Firm started its operations in the year 2002 and is committed to providing efficient and effective services in tea extension, green leaf collection, tea processing, packing and dispatch of high-quality tea for the benefit of over five thousand farmers and other stake holders in the tea sub sector

The factory manufactures Black CTC teas in the following grades:

**Primary grades** - BPI, PFI, PD, DI,

**Secondary grades** - FI, DUST, TMF2

## Tea Growing, Processing & Export

Individual members pluck green leaf and deliver to the buying centers where the buying centre clerk from the factory checks the quality of leaf. The good leaf is weighed, recorded electronically, then collected in leaf carriers and delivered to the factory for processing. At the factory the tea leaf is re-weighed and recorded into the green leaf reception book. Processing is done through Cutting Tearing & Curling (CTC) and through Continuous Fermentation. The processed tea is sold through Mombasa Auction, Direct Sales Over Seas, Direct Sales Local and Factory Door Sales. Tea is transported to Mombasa for auction through rented trucks where it is received and warehoused by "Chai warehousing", a subsidiary of KTDA.

The Marketing Department of KTDA allocates the tea to the appointed broker. The broker sends the samples and catalogues to the buyers.

At the auction, tea is bought by the highest bidder. Direct overseas sales are sent to the overseas buyer directly, without going through the Auction.



# Tea Profile



**Altitude:**  
2000 m



**Area of Production:**  
3260 ha



**Growing Practice:**  
Conventional



**Processing Type:**  
CTC



**Harvest Period:**  
Throughout the year



**Other Certifications:**  
Rainforest Alliance



**Tea Production:**

**Delivery:** Individual members to centers

## Benefits of Fairtrade

### COVID-19 Relief

Through Fairtrade we were also beneficiaries of the producer relief fund which was used to mitigate the spread of COVID 19 in our catchment. The funds were used to procure over 5000 reusable facemasks, hand washing stations and public education on how to combat COVID-19.

### Socio-economic

Through provision of community water, electrification of public utilities like Tea collection centre. Construction of resource centre which provides various economic activities. Upkeep of minority (disadvantaged members of the society).

### Environment

Propagating tree nursery (Indigenous and exotic trees). Planting indigenous and bamboo on reserved areas. Planting trees on the wood fuel farms.



### Infrastructure

Through opening new road, compensation of leeways, supply of material to the opened roads.

### Education

Through supply of textbooks, and Paying school fees to the needy.







### **Fairtrade Africa**

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### **Producer Organization**

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