



የኢትዮጵያ
ቡናና ቫሽልጣን
ETHIOPIAN
COFFEE AND TEA AUTHORITY

FROM BEAN TO CUP:

A guide to the Ethiopian coffee
value chain in the context of the
EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)

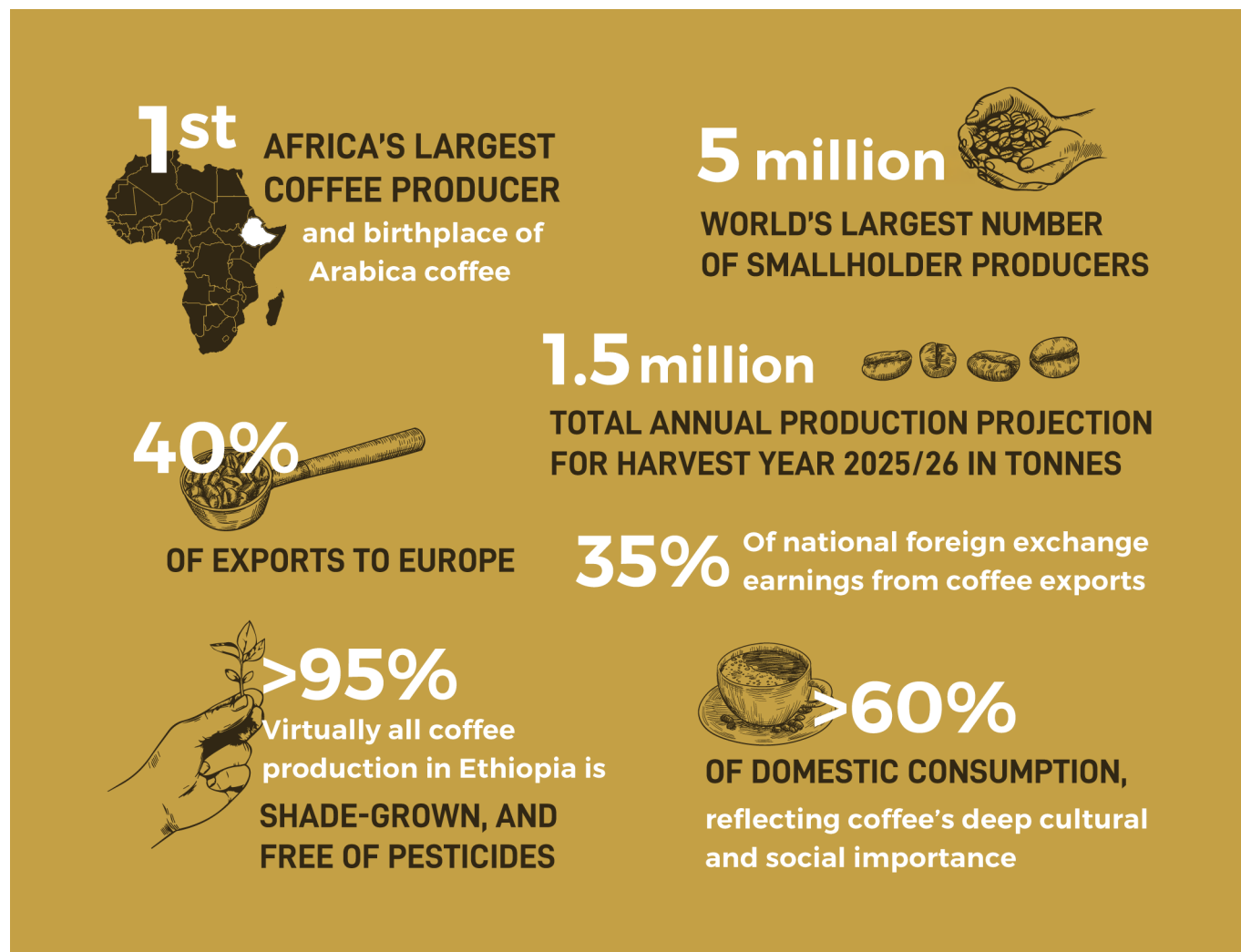
May 2026



Guide to Ethiopian coffee under the EUDR

This guide aims to facilitate accurate interpretation of Ethiopian coffee production, land management, traceability, and export systems in the context of international market requirements like the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). It was produced by the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA) with support of the European Forest Institute (EFI).

In numbers



Coffee production in Ethiopia is fragmented into millions of extremely small parcels, typically smaller than 0.5 hectare. A defining characteristic of Ethiopian coffee is its **permanent shade-based agroforestry system**. Tree cover visible in satellite imagery does not automatically indicate deforestation or forest conversion, which may be the case for only an extremely small fraction of cultivated areas in recent years. In Ethiopia, tree cover in coffee producing areas generally reflects long-standing agroforestry systems that pre-date 2020. National coffee maps for 2020 and 2024 – as well as an updated forest map – are under preparation by the Ethiopian Space Science and Geospatial Institute (SSGI) to support accurate interpretation of coffee agroforestry systems in the country (expected in December 2026).

Ethiopian coffee production systems

10% Forest coffee



- Grows naturally in indigenous montane forests with minimal human intervention.
- Canopy cover often exceeds 60%.
- These coffee-picking systems pre-date modern agricultural expansion and are a form of Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) extraction.
- In satellite imagery, forest coffee is indistinguishable from natural forests.
- Geolocation and traceability through cooperatives in demarcated Participatory Forest Management areas.

35% Semi-forest coffee



- Managed forest landscapes where farmers selectively prune and manage natural shade trees.
- Maintains substantial forest structure, usually above 40–60% canopy cover.
- Appears forested in remote sensing and requires historical land-use context for accurate EUDR interpretation.

50% Garden coffee



- Cultivated around homesteads in mixed farming systems.
- Integrated with fruit trees and multipurpose shade species.
- Plots are small and fragmented, making mill or cooperative-level traceability essential.

5% Plantation coffee



- Larger, commercially managed estates (state, private, or investor-owned).
- Unlike monoculture plantations elsewhere, Ethiopian plantations are predominantly shade-grown, often with about 20% canopy cover.
- As a result, plantations may appear forested in satellite imagery, despite being legally registered agricultural land established long before the 2020 EUDR cut-off date.

THE ETHIOPIAN COFFEE VALUE CHAIN



PRODUCTION

Managing / Marketing



PRIMARY PROCESSING

Wet Mills • Dry Mills



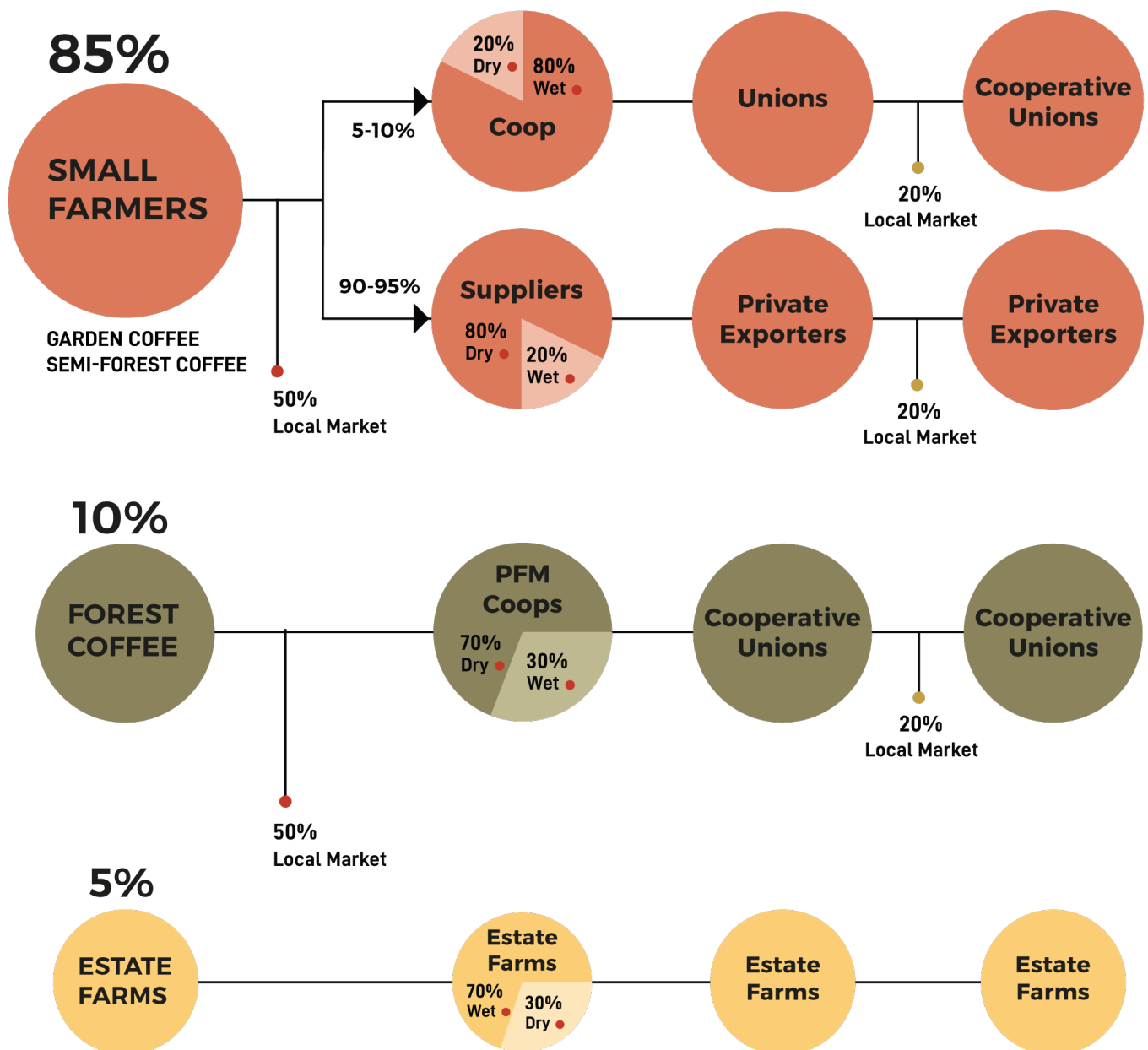
FINAL CLEANING

Processing plant



EXPORT

International Market



Coffee traceability

ECTA established the Ethiopia Coffee Traceability and Management System (ECTMS), a national electronic system to track coffee from origin to export.

ECTA Regulates the coffee sector	ECTMS Tracks coffee movements
• Registration & mandatory licensing of processors and exporters • Systematic quality inspection & grading in regional centres • Registration and verification of traceability documentation by lot • Issues quality and phytosanitary certificates • Issuance of certificates of origin	• Registration and mapping of farm plots • Origin of specific lot • Volumes, processing method, and quality grades of coffee (assigned at regional quality control centers). • Movement through the supply chain, based on transit permits, truck IDs, warehouse lot numbers, port of Djibouti departure info. • Actors involved at each stage

Regional counterparts also play an important role in coffee sector regulation. Through regional Coffee Quality Inspection and Certification Centers, they oversee coffee suppliers and owners of primary processing facilities, ensuring compliance with quality standards, certification requirements, and relevant regulatory provisions at the regional level.



ECTMS was developed as an upgraded component of the ECTA Market Information Management System (MIMS) to align the national coffee sector with the requirements of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

MIMS was originally developed to track and secure coffee movements and quality, in particular to control risks of smuggling of coffee destined to export markets. It also supports the branding of coffee from different regions with distinct flavour and quality, increasingly known in international markets.

MIMS systematically tracks all coffee movements from local districts (Woreda) to export, based on daily recording of information by ECTA and local administration personnel at district-level checkpoints and regional coffee quality control centres.

The ECTMS upgrade to MIMS adds the first-mile traceability component, i.e., the missing link between the first Woreda checkpoint and the geolocation of the coffee plots that contributed a specific lot. The ECTMS first-mile module establishes traceability at the point of origin by capturing key information directly from the farm. This includes recording the physical geolocation of the coffee plot through the ECTA mobile application, and scanning the farmer's Second-Level Land-Use Certificate (SLLC), which is then attached to the corresponding digital lot record. Together, these measures create a verifiable link between the coffee produced, the specific plot of land where it originated, and the legal documentation confirming the farmer's land-use rights. This is most advanced where there is existing traceability from cooperative and union-based systems or established third-party certifications (organic, Fairtrade, etc.) with traceability components. The quality of the geodata recorded by local supply chain actors varies. Geodata quality verification and land-use legality checks have recently been integrated into ECTMS.

ECTA regulatory oversight compliance requirements

ECTA's regulatory oversight and licensing framework requires compliance with key legal and sustainability requirements across the coffee value chain. This includes adherence to the Ethiopian Labour Proclamation, which prohibits child labour and forced labour; compliance with environmental regulations, including mandatory Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and pollution control measures for coffee processing facilities; and observance of trade regulations, including the mandatory registration of export contracts and tax compliance through the ECTMS. These requirements help ensure that coffee production and trade are conducted in accordance with national legal, environmental and social standards.

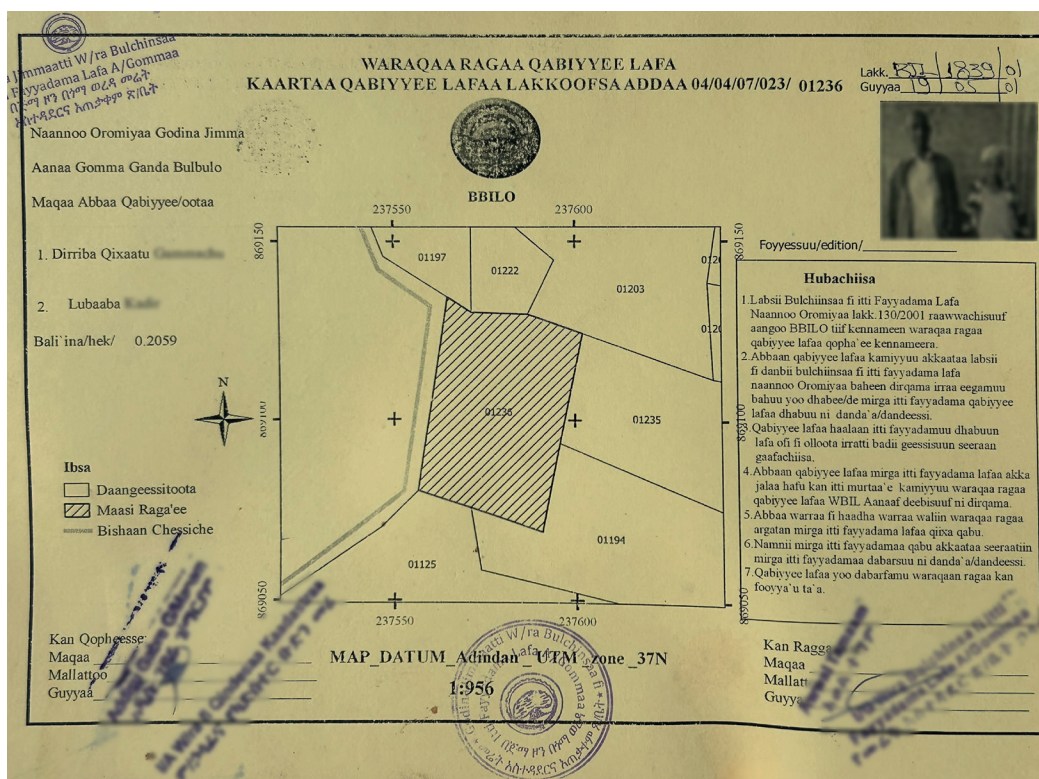
Legality of land-use rights

1st Largest rural cadaster in Africa, covering more than 32 million agricultural parcels

- Under the Ethiopian Constitution, all land is owned by the state and the people; private ownership of land is not permitted. Farmers and private land developers are granted legally recognised use rights. Rural farmers receive land-use rights through the land administration

system and are issued land certificates, which provide evidence of their rights to use, inherit, lease (within legal limits), and benefit from the land.

- Legal documentation takes the form of land-use certificates. A majority of farmers have 'Second-Level Land-use Certificates' (SLLC) which include a map of the farm's boundaries.
- These certificates are legally valid under Ethiopian law and form the basis for agricultural legality; they also provide high-quality geolocation data.
- A national digital land certification and mapping programme has already mapped farming plots in half of the coffee-producing districts.
- These land certificates are scanned and integrated into the ECTMS.



Picture: SLLC held by a coffee farmer (husband and wife), containing multi-point geolocation information, even for very small coffee plots (in this example, 0.2 ha).

With more than a decade of experience with the national roll-out of the SLLC, the recording of geolocation information is handled by trained personnel from the regional administrations. This is done using specialised GPS equipment and with the participation of neighbours and village authorities, including through public displays of information to ensure all interested stakeholders are informed, and land dispute resolution occurs when necessary. SLLC are not issued in places with unresolved land disputes or overlaps with restricted or protected areas. Land certificates are updated whenever there are changes in ownership or landholding status – for example, in cases of divorce when land is divided between spouses, inheritance when land is transferred to heirs, or marriage when ownership rights may be adjusted according to the law.

The SLLC information is digitalised and centralised in the National Rural Land Administration Information System (NRLAIS) at the Ministry of Agriculture. Ethiopia's NRLAIS system is the largest active land registration system in Africa, with more than 32 million parcels registered, out of an estimated 55 million agricultural parcels. In coffee-growing areas, 223 out of 320 districts are already fully covered by SLLC, creating a solid foundation for verifying the legality of production areas and minimising risks of land-use conflicts. Information for a specific parcel can be retrieved with the SLLC reference number (Lakk) or a geolocation point situated in the parcel. Efforts are underway to geolocate parcels and collect coffee information in all remaining 97 coffee-producing districts.

The Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with ECTA and the Ethiopian Coffee Association (ECA) composed of coffee exporters, is developing data access modalities for market actors seeking information for due diligence.

For specific enquiries on ECTMS: info@ectms.com

For specific enquiries on NRLAIS: info@nrlais.com

Cover Photo: © Mathias Putze / Adobe Stock

Disclaimer. This briefing has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

© European Forest Institute, 2026