

Rwanda fully washed AB Plus Supreme Ishema Womens CWS

Full Name:

Ishema Women's Washing Station, Joy Tushabe

Supplier Group:

500 -600 farmers

Summary:

Ishema Washing Station was built in February 2014 by Joy Ishema. Joy spent over 10 years working at Technoserve, for whom she built numerous wet mills, before setting out on her own. She desired to cultivate a working environment and community that created equal employment opportunities for women in Rwanda, which she said is a difficult market to tap into. She came to us in late February 2014, and RTC began providing working capital to Joy in March, which has equipped her with the cash she needs to buy cherries from local farmers and operate her washing station.

Ishema sits at approximately 1372 meters in elevation, and is nestled between three large fertile hills, each standing over 1600 meters and are perfect for coffee production. The area already produces a very good *Inzovu* grade, but with further agronomy training could produce an even higher quality coffee. Joy operates the only business within 50km that provides employment to 30 women, and has plans to offer a new coffee that will be farmed, cleaned, and processed entirely by women.

Service to Farmers:

She has been working with farmers to provide higher levels of agronomy training, and expects their quality to improve substantially over the next several seasons. By continually educating her employees in the coffee trade, Joy believes Ishema can vastly improve the quality of its coffee while simultaneously continuing to make a direct impact in the lives of those who work there. She has plans to work with local women and plant more coffee trees in the surrounding areas, as well as expand the land that Ishema currently sits on. She has also doubled her drying bed capacity since February, and plans to double it again by next season. Profit earned by Ishema is shared between the women who work there and the wet mill, which has created a unique and powerful incentive.

“Women can come here and get some money...and provide for themselves and their families,” Joy said. Through her entrepreneurial spirit, vision, and diligent endeavors, women throughout the community now have more money for food and better housing for their families, as well as a work environment they can call their own.

Joy has six children and lives in Kigali, Rwanda.

Coffee Profile:

Inzovu – Very clean cup with properly balanced acidity, smooth mellow body and a sweet lingering aftertaste.

Location:

Gasetsa Sector, Ngoma District, Eastern Province, Rwanda

