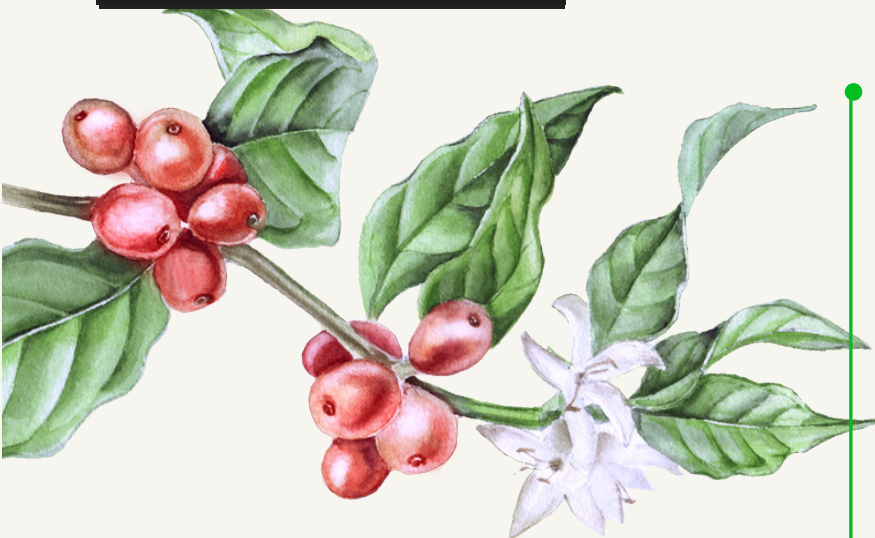


THE KENYAN COFFEE HISTORY



1893

The first coffee trees were planted in the Taita Hills.

1897

The first Kenyan coffee crop was harvested in Kibwezi.

1922

The colonial British government established the Scott Agricultural Laboratories also known as Scott Laboratories (SL), now known as National Agricultural Laboratories (NARL).

1923

The first drying, hulling and grading plant was established in Nairobi.

1926

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1932

The Coffee Board was established, now known as The Coffee Board of Kenya (CBK).

1934

The colonial government finally started to allow Kenyan farmers to grow coffee, but under very strict and prohibitive rules.

1934

The coffee section of the colonial Agriculture Department was transferred to Scott Laboratories.

Wednesday, September 25th 1935

The First Kenyan Coffee Auction (KCA) took place at 2, Mincing Lane (Now Haile Selassie Avenue), Nairobi. 1547 bags of 187Lbs each were auctioned.

1935 to 1939

The “super” strains SL 28 and SL 34 (now known as Kenya’s traditional varieties) were developed and released by Scott Laboratories.

1944

CBK created The Coffee Research Foundation (CRF) now known as Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO).

1946

The colonial government started to encourage Kenyans to grow coffee. Farmers could grow up to 100 approved seedlings but still only outside of settlers ‘coffee farms area.

1949

The Coffee Research Station (CRS) was completed at Jacaranda Estate, Ruiru. It is now known as The Coffee Research Institute (CRI).

1950

C.Dorman Ltd was founded by Charles Dorman.

1963

The Coffee Research Foundation took over Scott Laboratories.

1963

The Kenyan independence led the Director of Agriculture to promote the “Africanisation” of Kenyan agriculture; including coffee.

1985

The Ruiru 11 variety was made available on commercial scale by the CRF.

1987/1988:

Production of Kenyan coffee peaked at approximately 128,000 metric tons (over 2 million bags). Co-operatives produced 65% and estates produced 35%.

1993

The C.Dorman Quality Competition was created by George Howell and Jeremy Block to stimulate quality and therefore higher prices back to the farmers. The competition was the precursor of the world renowned Cup of Excellence (COE).

2004

The first Kenyan Barista Competition was held. This was brought to Kenya by C.Dorman.

2004

Dormans School of Coffee, now known as The Nairobi School of Coffee, was created.

2010

The Batian variety was released by CRF.

2017

The first Kenyan Aero Press competition was held.

2017

Martin Shabaya became the first African Barista to make it to the World Barista Championship (WBC) semifinal.

