





ROASTED TWO WAYS:

ORGANIC CONGO RISING SCAST

Bright & Complex SWEET | LEMON | PEACH | GREEN TEA

ITEM # 10460-D | CASE UPC: 745998408444



Sweet & Complex COCOA | GRILLED PEACH | SAVORY

ITEM # 10461-D | CASE UPC: 745998990499

FARMER GROUP: SOPACDI

origin: Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo

VARIETAL: Bourbon, Jamaica **Blue Mountain**

ELEVATION: 1460+MASL

EQUALEXCHANGE.COOP | (774) 776-7333

CONGO RISING IS A TESTAMENT TO THE COURAGE OF THE SOPACDI COOPERATIVE

in Democratic Republic of Congo and the strong women that push forward despite the continuous stream of obstacles put before them. Conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo is an ongoing story. Decades of violence, ethnic clashes and political instability have contributed to an environment that has been difficult to function in. Despite these challenges, the coffee sector has been an important driver of change in recent years by helping to build the economy, bringing small farmer coffee to market and giving hope to thousands of Congolese farmers.

There are 16 primary societies at SOPACDI, each with their own independent women's group. These women's groups have used their annual premiums to invest in small businesses, rent and buy land to farm coffee and more recently, establish a savings and loan program to help them to plan for the future. However, the dark forces of conflict are again on the rise and threaten the small advances that have been made. Political instability and active militias threaten the thriving coffee sector - along with the lives of

millions of people. A long overdue Presidential election took place in late December of 2018; however, an Ebola outbreak prevented almost 1 million people from voting at the polls. While the winner has been announced, it is a hotly contested election and the results will affect everyone. Times are difficult. The struggle is real, but there is always hope and the Congolese people will not give up.

We rise up with farmers of SOPACDI and we are committed to change. While we are unsure of what 2019 will bring, we stand beside our farmer partners as they work to survive these tumultuous times.



equalexchange.coop/ panzi-campaign