

An illustration of three people running through a field of coffee plants. In the foreground, a man in a blue sweater and blue pants runs towards the left, holding a white, cracked ball. Behind him, a woman in a blue patterned dress and a man in a blue sweater and blue pants run in the same direction. The background shows coffee plants with red berries and green leaves. The overall style is a watercolor illustration with bold outlines.

**AFRICA IN
IMAGES**

BURUNDI

PLEDGING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

GET INVOLVED!

Are you concerned about injustice and violations of human rights in the world? Do you believe that YOUR actions can have a significant impact on the lives of citizens living in the Global South?

Across Canada, hundreds of young people are joining DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE in its action and awareness campaigns. These campaigns are a way to better understand global issues and to participate in concrete actions to build a world of justice.

You too can make a difference!

“In June 2012, my participation at the Rio+20 People’s Summit in Brazil as part of a DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE youth delegation allowed me the opportunity to meet a number of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE’s partners from the Global South and learn about the incredible work the organization does to build a world of justice. I believe supporting small-scale farmers is crucial. Why? Because our Earth depends on it! Small-scale farmers use very little non-renewable energy to feed their communities; they do not destroy forests or streams; and they respect Mother Earth. Our duty as citizens of the world is to ensure that all people have access to, and can fully benefit from the gift that God the Creator gave us: Earth, a world of justice and peace.”

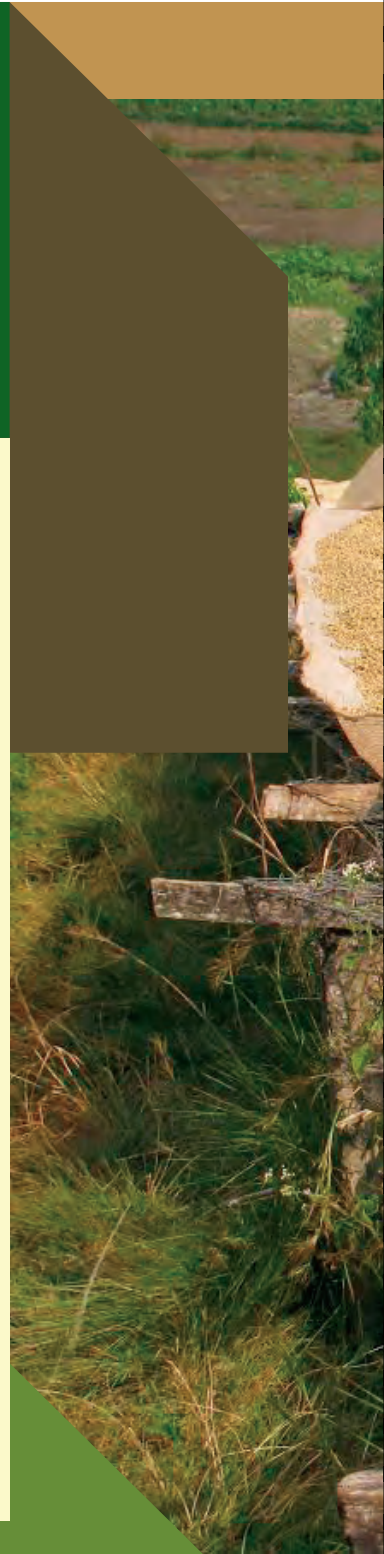
Janelle Delorme

Janelle has been an active member of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE since 1996, and has participated in many campaigns, including those on mining and access to water. Janelle is now the Regional Animator for DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE in Manitoba.

ACT

What can you do? Join the movement, lead an action campaign, get involved in advocacy efforts, connect with local groups across Canada or start your own!

www.devp.org



BURUNDI AND COFFEE

In Burundi, 90% of households rely on subsistence farming. This means that most of the food that people eat comes from their own crops. In order to earn money for clothes, school and medical care, many people reserve a parcel of their land to grow coffee. They are the nation's coffee growers!

A particular feature of coffee cultivation in Burundi is that it is mainly done by hundreds of coffee growers, rather than by a small number of large producers who are the only ones to profit from the coffee industry. This is seen in other coffee-growing countries, where they hire workers to plant and harvest the coffee. In Burundi, this type of large coffee plantation with endless fields is nowhere to be found. Coffee trees have become a part of the hilly landscape, since most households have coffee trees growing along with their other crops.

Even though Burundi's coffee growers own the coffee that they grow, they face a number of difficult challenges, especially when it comes to the amount of income they earn from the coffee they cultivate. Since all coffee beans grown in Burundi are sold outside the country, coffee growers are vulnerable to price fluctuations on the international market. If prices go down, their income automatically falls, and their purchasing power is further reduced.

This is why DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports organizations in Burundi, such as Inades-Formation, that provide training and technical assistance to small-scale farmers, including coffee-growers. They help these farmers organize into associations and cooperatives. The coffee growers themselves are the ones who know best how to promote their work in order to earn a fair living! When small producers join forces and work together, they are in a better position to express their concerns about Burundi's agricultural policies and to garner international support to address the problem of fluctuating or unjust coffee prices.

The coffee sector in Burundi includes the entire coffee-production process, from cultivation to export.

1920 TO 1962: THE COLONIAL PERIOD

Belgian colonists introduced coffee cultivation to Burundi as a way of ensuring that the colony was profitable. Currency was introduced and a monetary tax was imposed, forcing farmers to grow coffee and sell it to be able to pay the tax. Burundi's peasant farmers became dependent on this production to ensure they could generate an income.



1962: THE BEGINNING OF INDEPENDENCE

After Burundi gained independence on July 1, 1962, the state turned the coffee industry over to the private sector. Meanwhile, an international agreement seeking to balance the supply and demand for coffee was established, driving up the market price. The agreement introduced production quotas on countries, which steadied the market and stabilized the prices paid to coffee growers.



NOVEMBER 1, 1976: COUP D'ÉTAT

The new leaders of Burundi legislated reforms for the country, and the coffee industry was once again nationalized. Burundi acquired a loan from the World Bank to improve the quality of its road infrastructure, to ensure better transportation of coffee beans, and introduced a policy of forced plantation, which doubled the number of coffee trees in the country. Nevertheless, in the 1990s, production dropped: coffee growers either had too many plants to look after, or they planted them in areas that were not conducive to coffee cultivation.



KEY DATES

1989: END OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT

In time, many coffee-importing countries, such as the United States, no longer saw the need or benefit of maintaining the international agreement that had been established in 1962. The termination of the agreement caused a drop in coffee prices, which had a negative impact on coffee-producing countries. Burundian coffee growers were severely affected, as they now received much less money for the same amount of coffee and the same amount of work.

1993 TO 2002: TIMES OF CONFLICT

A brutal civil war in the country caused the displacement of more than 1.2 million people and the abandonment of many coffee crops. Most coffee-processing plants were destroyed, and many of the workers were murdered. This led to a decrease in the value of Burundian coffee on the world market, and exporting it became very difficult.



2005: RETURN TO PEACE

Due to years of conflict, the Burundian government was substantially weakened and it struggled with the management of the coffee industry. It once again considered privatizing and diversifying ownership of the coffee industry as a way to strengthen and revitalize the sector. The World Bank wanted the coffee sector in Burundi to be put into the hands of businesses from developed countries, while coffee growers wanted greater control over their own coffee production. In 2006, the Burundi Coffee Growers Confederation (CNAC) was created. This confederation gave local coffee growers the power to develop common goals and influence policies that would affect the future of the coffee industry.

AND NOW?

Since 1989, despite inflation and rising prices for basic commodities, the price of coffee has remained very low. For the most part, the price received by coffee growers for their crops is often less than the cost of production. This forces growers to have to produce more coffee to generate the same income. To do this, they often have no choice but to use land previously reserved for growing their food, thus threatening their own food security.



KANEZA AND KAGABO, THE COMIC STRIP

From the time of colonization until today, Burundian leaders have made the coffee industry a cornerstone of the country's development. Throughout the various stages of Burundi's political history – colonization, independence, war, dictatorship, transitional government, reforms, and corruption – control and management of the coffee sector in the country has flipped back and forth between state ownership and privatization. Despite reforms, coffee growers generally find themselves with little or no influence on the coffee industry and live in a state of chronic poverty and instability. In recent years, in order to establish a more influential position within the coffee sector, growers have been uniting to form their own associations and are asking for the following:

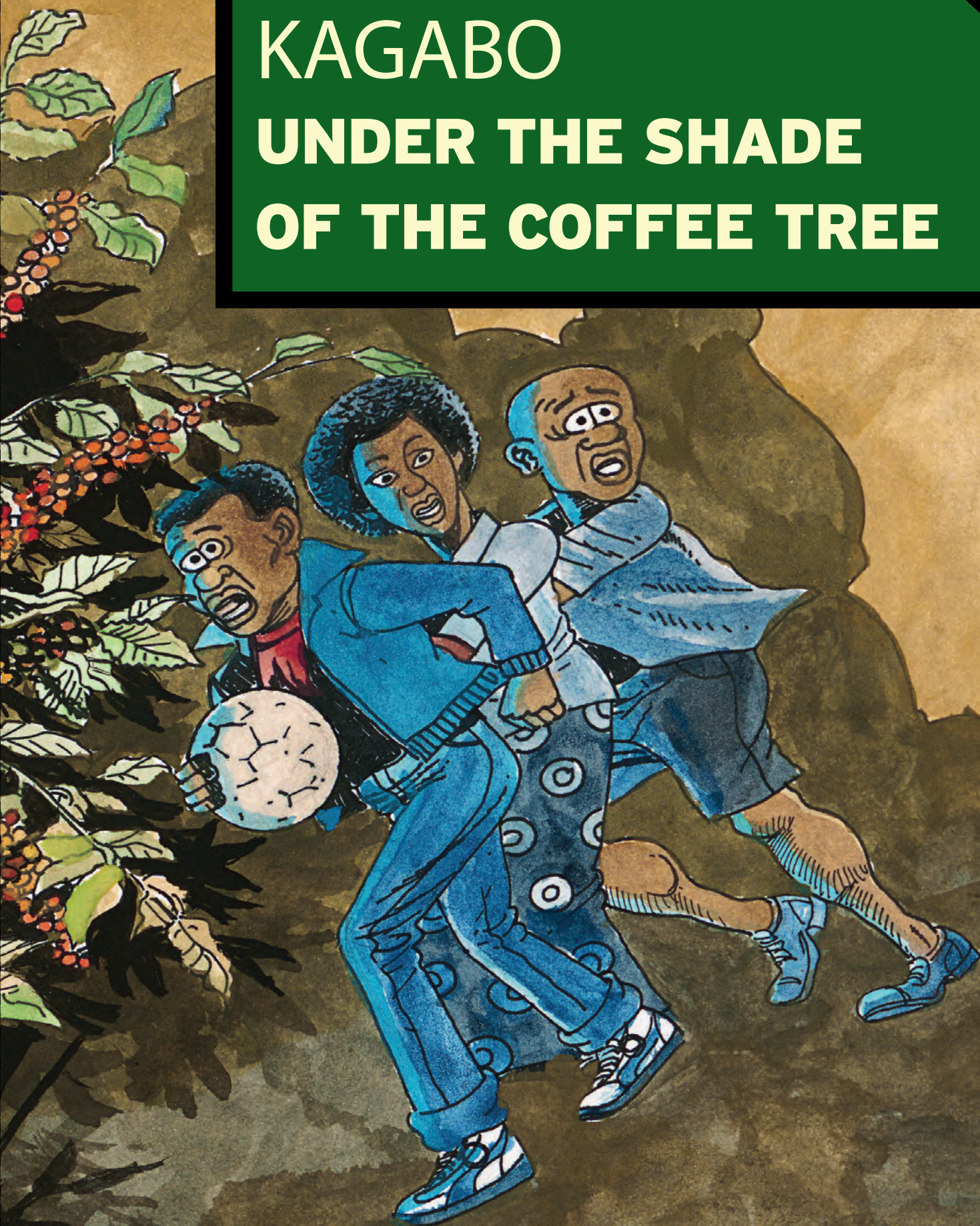
- **Greater control over their own coffee production;**
- **Their interests to be at the heart of any reform process;**
- **The price obtained from the sale of their coffee to be fair and guaranteed; and**
- **To minimize their dependence on coffee growing.**

Kaneza and Kagabo were born into a coffee farming family. Their parents are members of an association of coffee growers similar to those supported by Inades-Formation. As small-scale farmers, they face many challenges, including a distrust of decision-makers and leaders in the coffee-production chain who rarely take the concerns of coffee growers into account. Through the adventures of Kaneza and Kagabo's family, you will be introduced to the inspiring story of the rise of the movement to form associations and cooperatives in Burundi. It is a path marked by resistance, struggle, solidarity, and social change.

Thanks to the artistic talent of Burundian cartoonist Ilunga Albert Kaye, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is able to immerse you in the world of Burundian coffee growers and their efforts towards sustainable agriculture that benefits all.

KANEZA AND
KAGABO

**UNDER THE SHADE
OF THE COFFEE TREE**





KANEZA



KAGABO



NDABOZE



MARGERITTE



MUSOMA



JEANNE D'ARC



BUKUMI



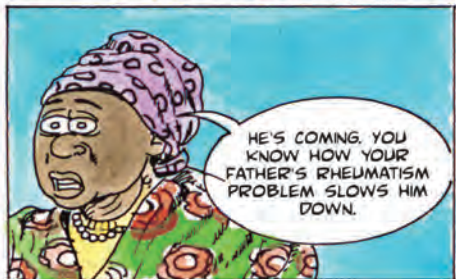
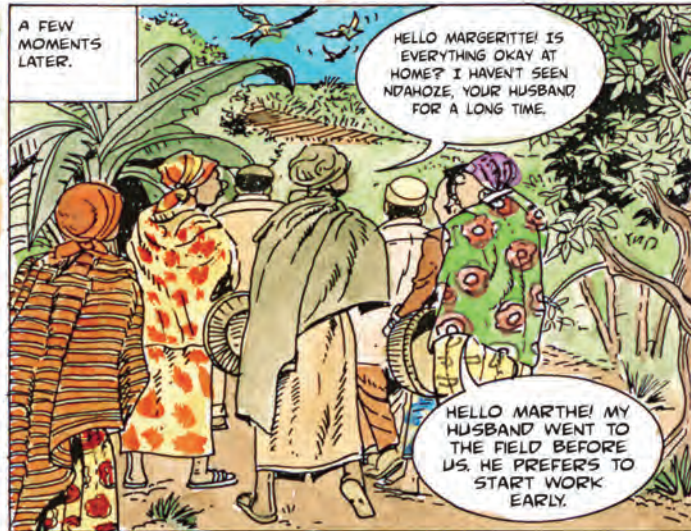
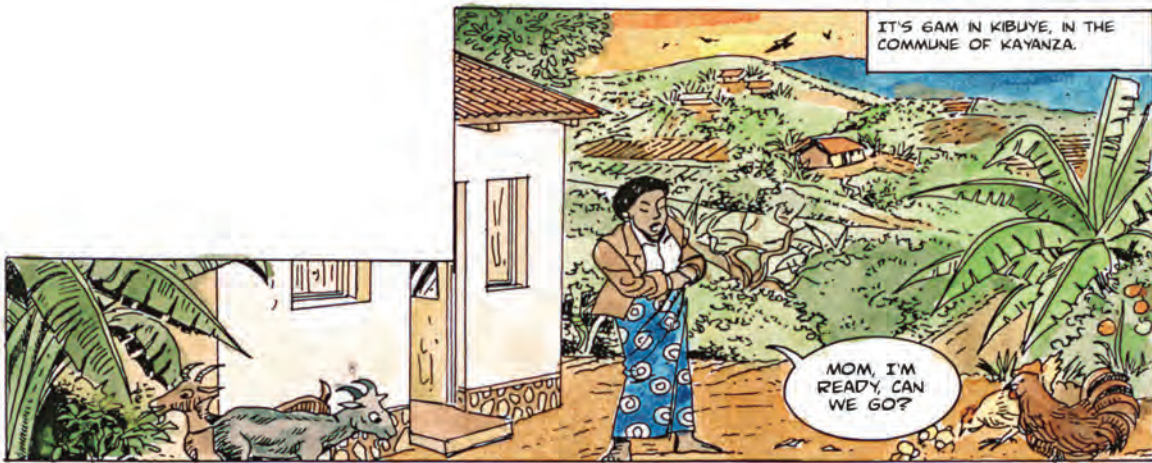
MUGO

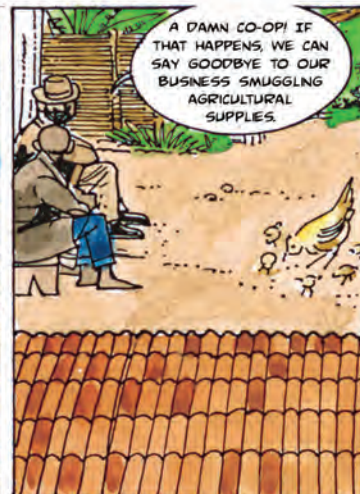


BIRIMA

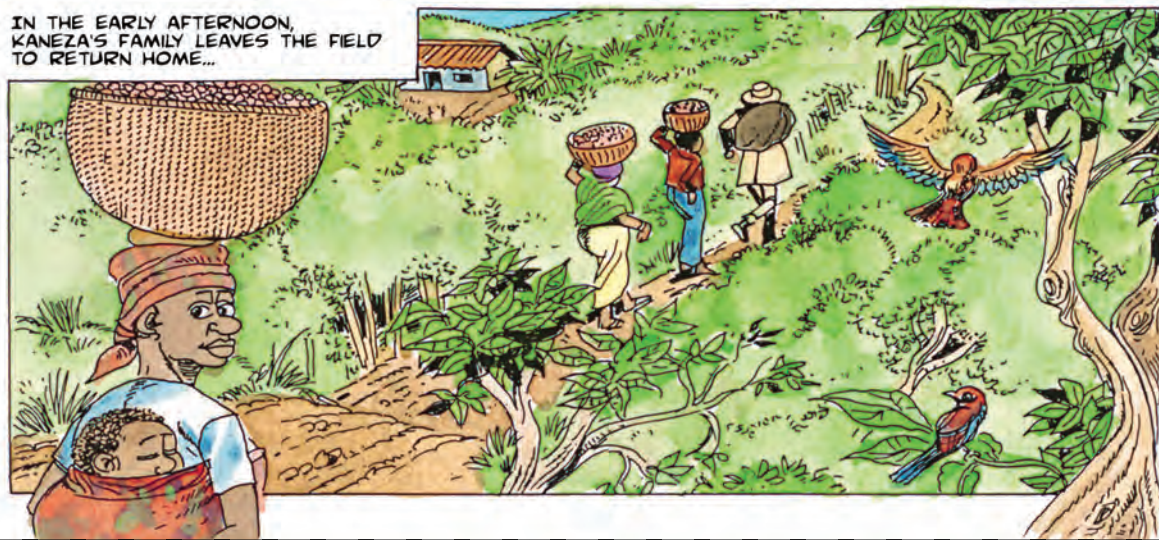


MUGO'S FRIEND

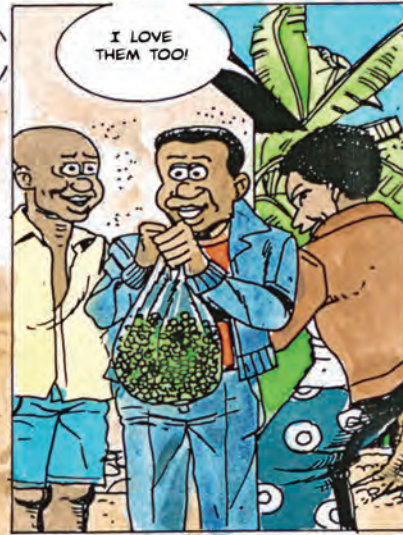


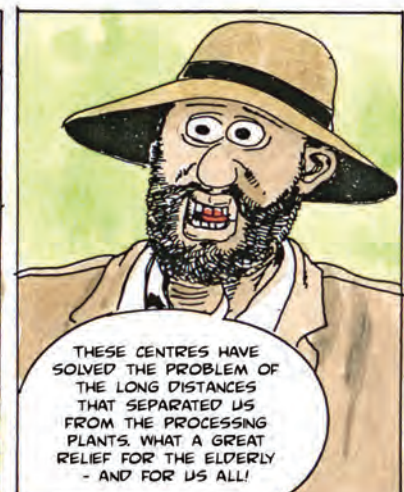
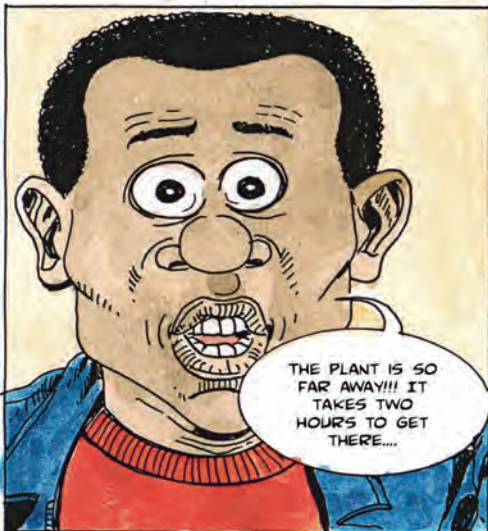


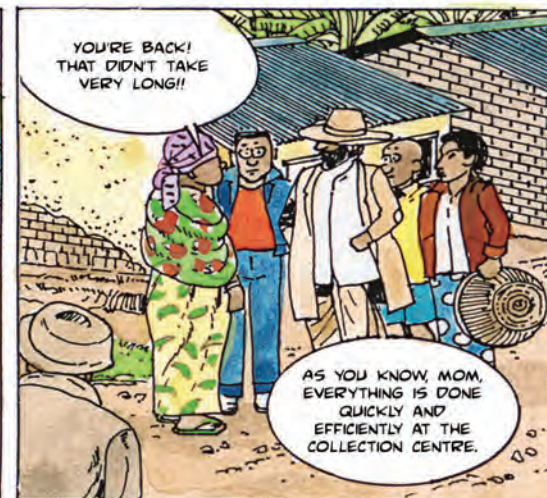
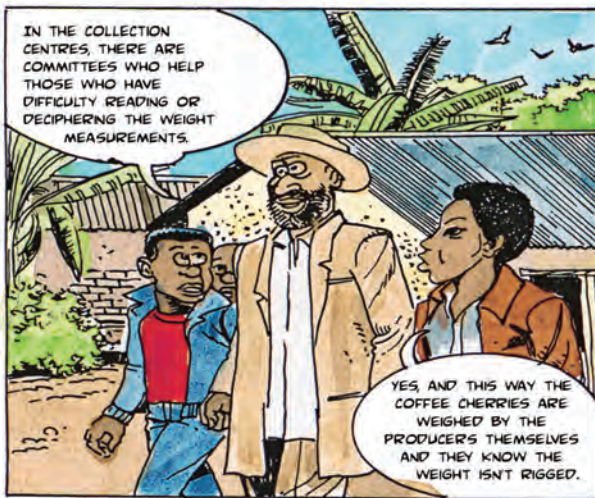
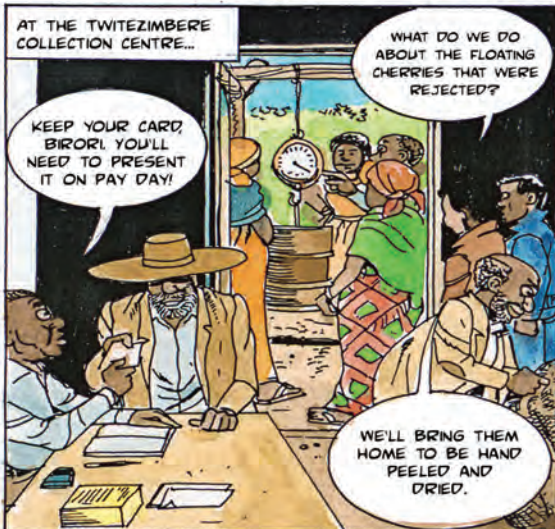
IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON, KANEZA'S FAMILY LEAVES THE FIELD TO RETURN HOME...

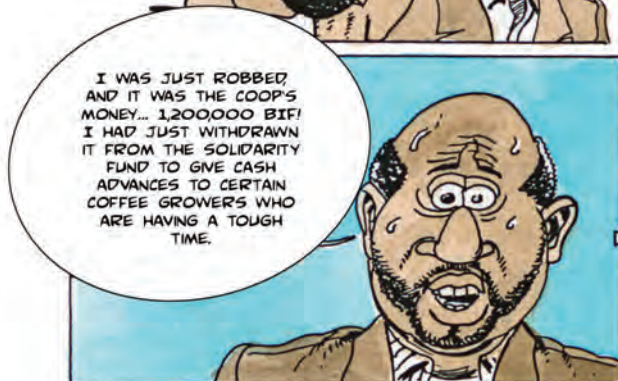
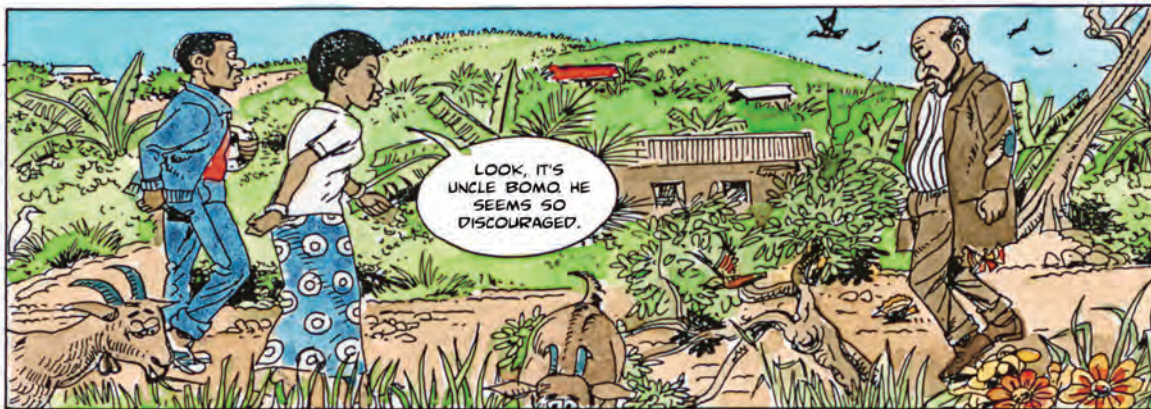


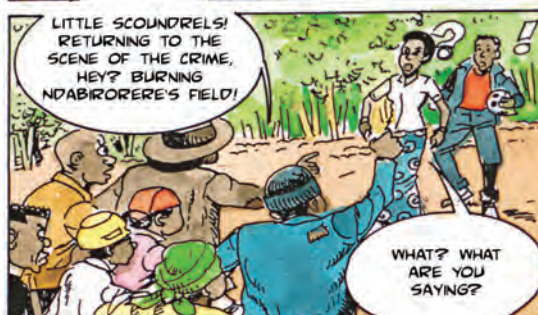
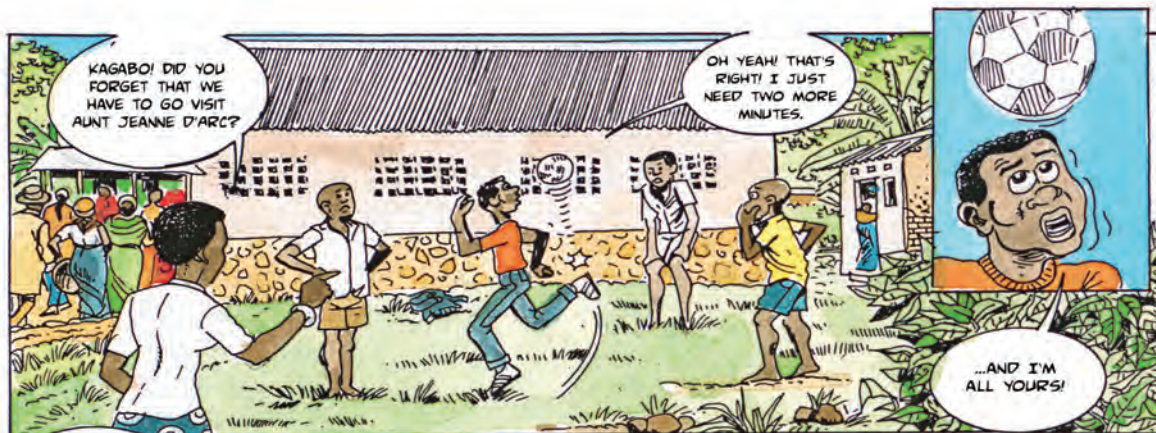




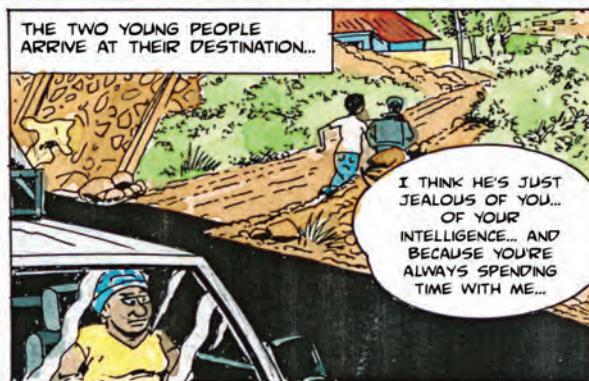
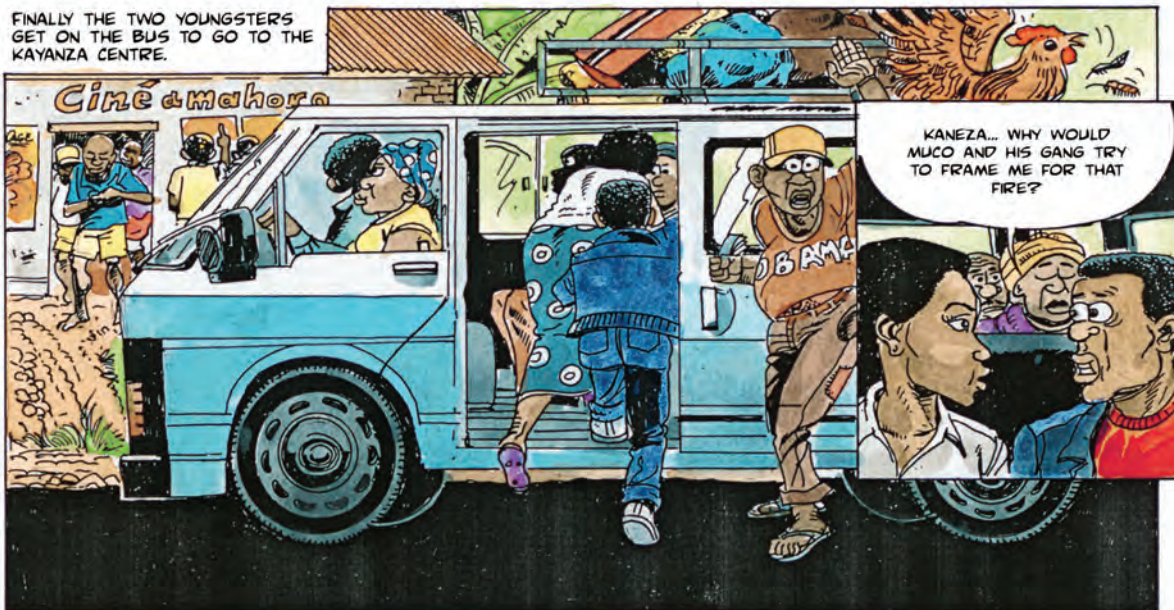


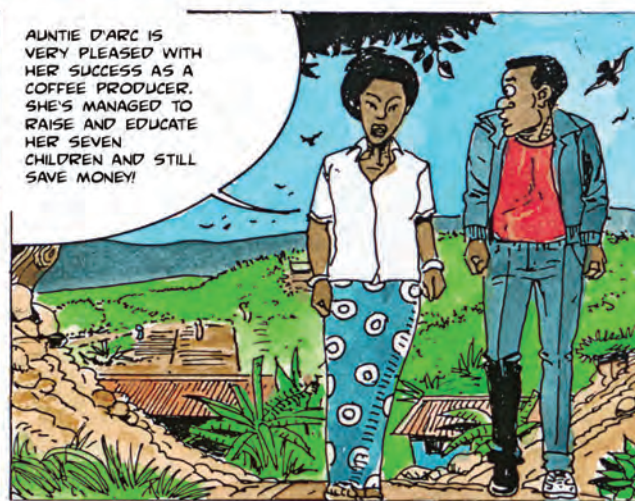




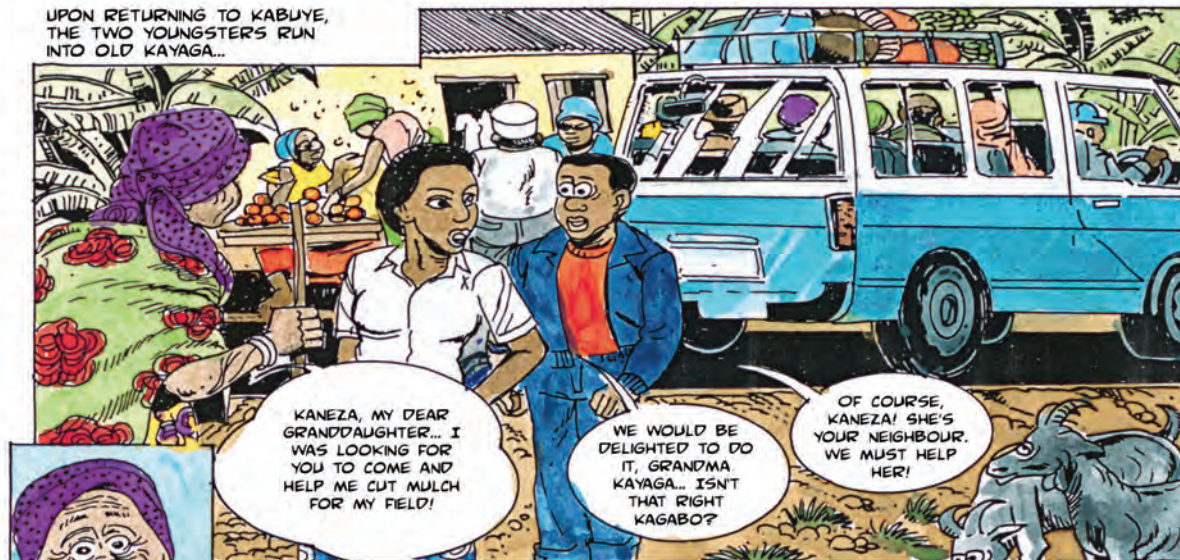


FINALLY THE TWO YOUNGSTERS
GET ON THE BUS TO GO TO THE
KAYANZA CENTRE.

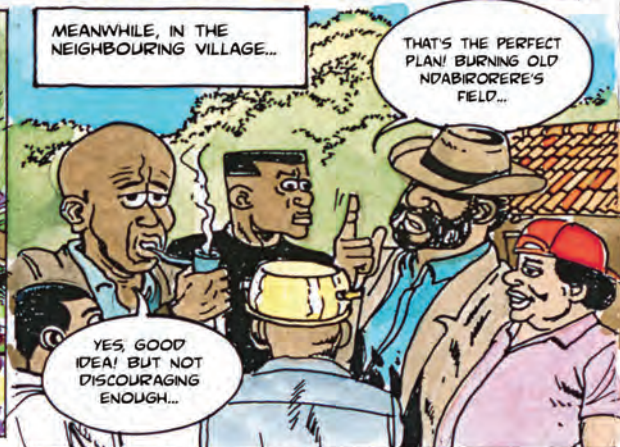


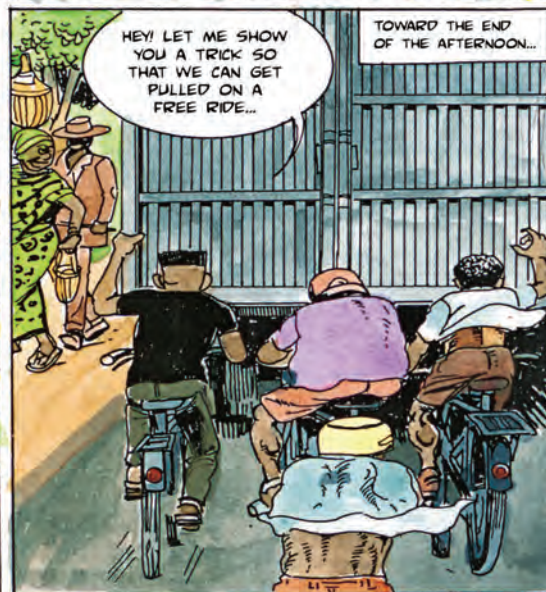
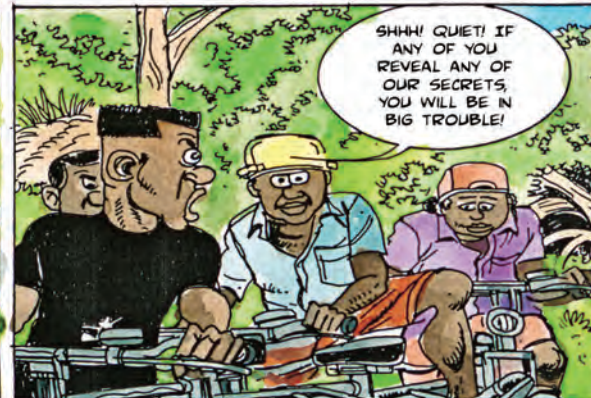
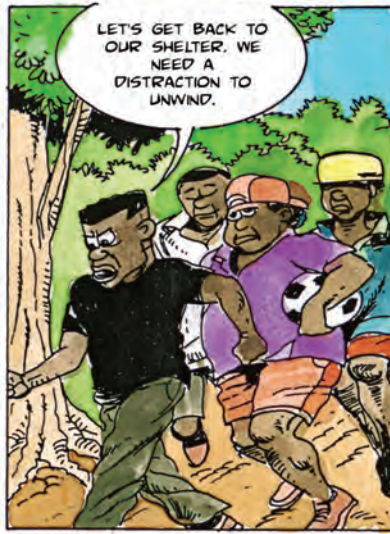
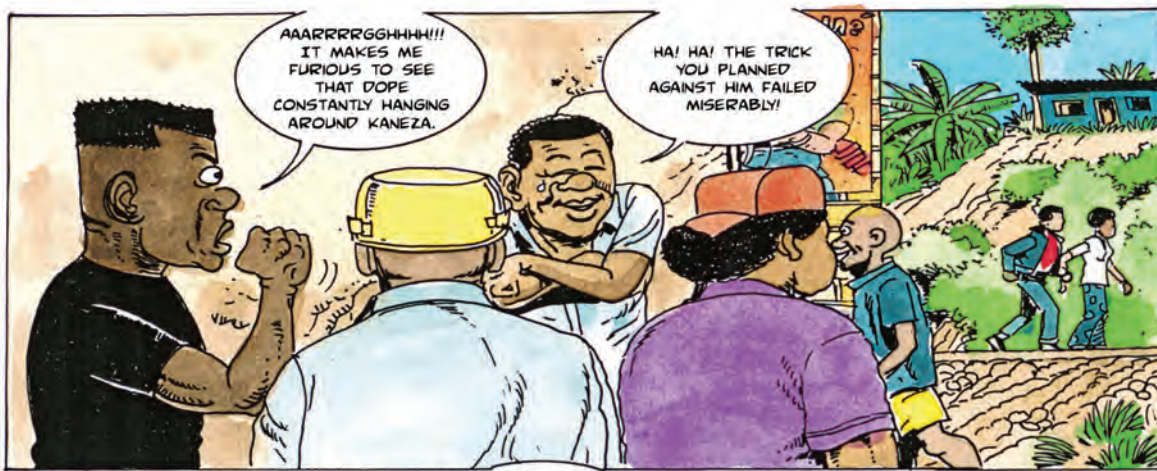


UPON RETURNING TO KABUYE,
THE TWO YOUNGSTERS RUN
INTO OLD KAYAGA...

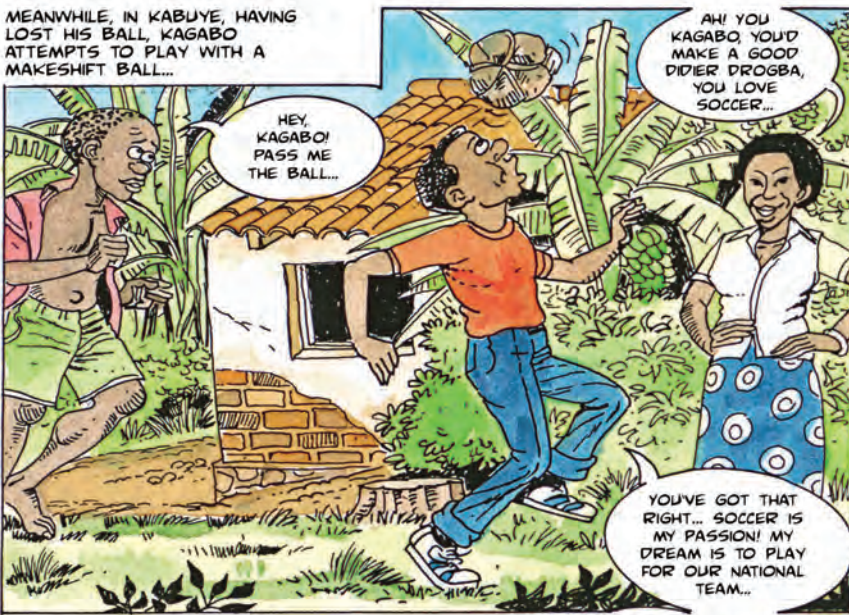


MEANWHILE, IN THE
NEIGHBOURING VILLAGE...





MEANWHILE, IN KABUYE, HAVING
LOST HIS BALL, KAGABO
ATTEMPTS TO PLAY WITH A
MAKESHIFT BALL...



HEY,
KAGABO!
PASS ME
THE BALL...

AH! YOU
KAGABO, YOU'D
MAKE A GOOD
DIDIER DROGBA,
YOU LOVE
SOCCER...

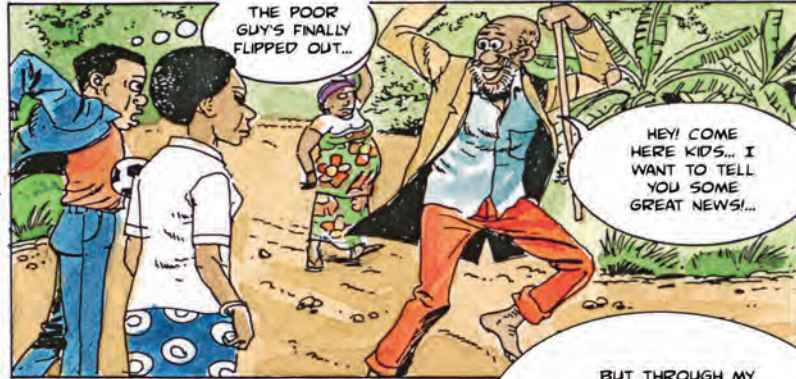
YOU'VE GOT THAT
RIGHT... SOCCER IS
MY PASSION! MY
DREAM IS TO PLAY
FOR OUR NATIONAL
TEAM...



GOAL!... HEY, WHO
IS THAT OVER
THERE? GEE... IT
LOOKS LIKE POOR
OLD NDABIRORERE!

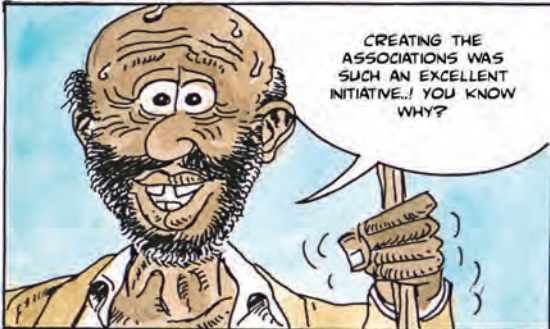


HE'S
DANCING...
HAS HE LOST HIS
MIND? FIRST, HIS
FIELD IS BURNED
TO A CRISP AND
NOW, HE'S
DANCING!

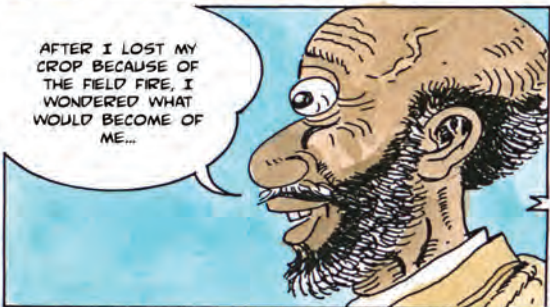


THE POOR
GUYS FINALLY
FLIPPED OUT...

HEY! COME
HERE KIDS... I
WANT TO TELL
YOU SOME
GREAT NEWS!



CREATING THE
ASSOCIATIONS WAS
SUCH AN EXCELLENT
INITIATIVE...! YOU KNOW
WHY?



AFTER I LOST MY
CROP BECAUSE OF
THE FIELD FIRE, I
WONDERED WHAT
WOULD BECOME OF
ME...



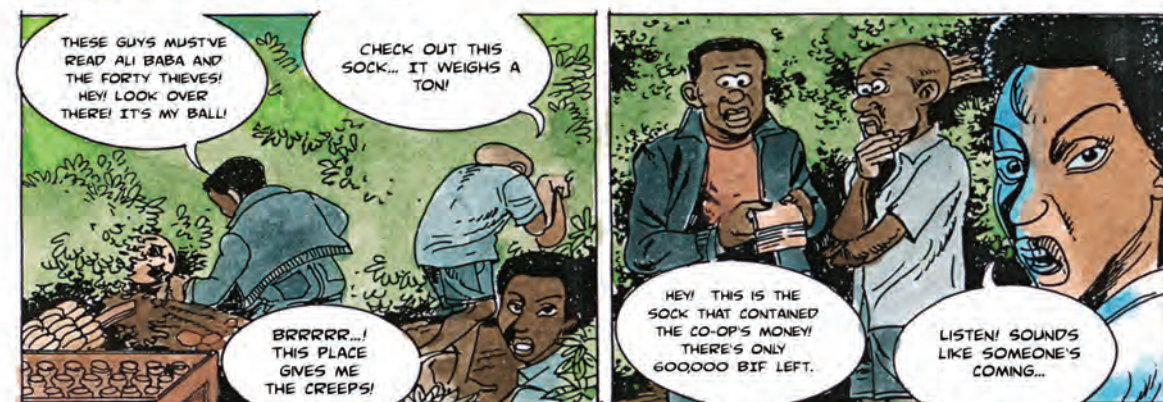
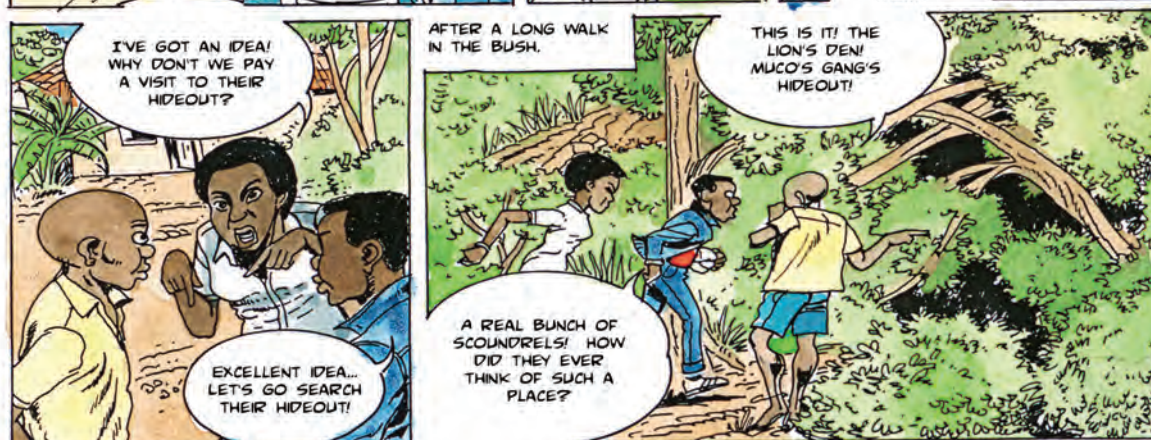
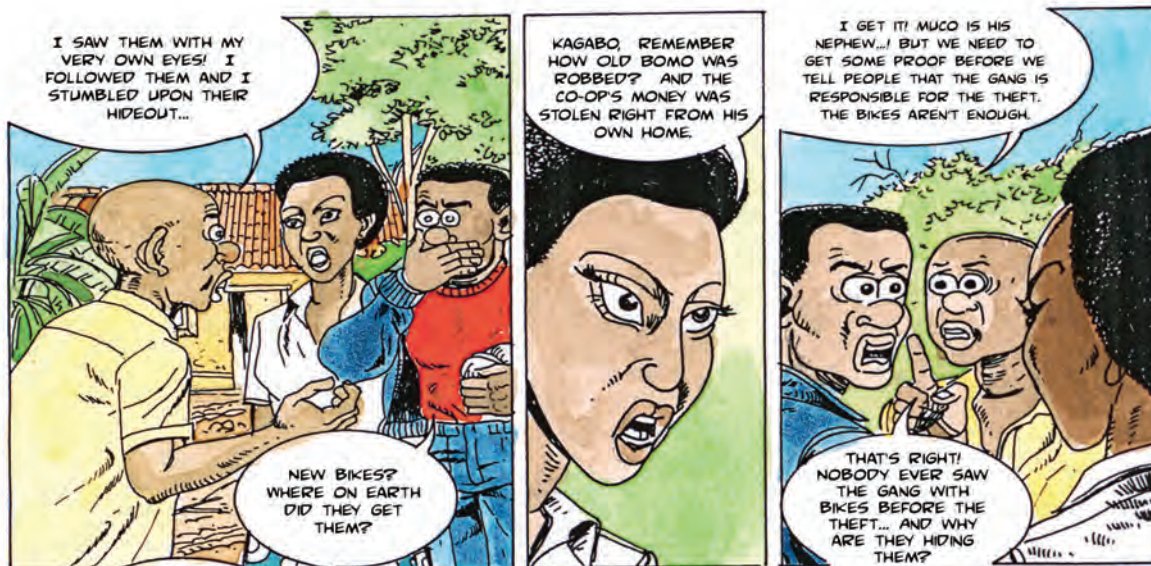
BUT THROUGH MY
MEMBERSHIP IN THE
TURIBAMWE SOLIDARITY
FUND OF MPARAMRUNDI
ASSOCIATION, I'VE JUST
BEEN GRANTED AN
INTEREST-FREE LOAN TO
RE-WORK MY FIELD! ISN'T
THAT WONDERFUL?!

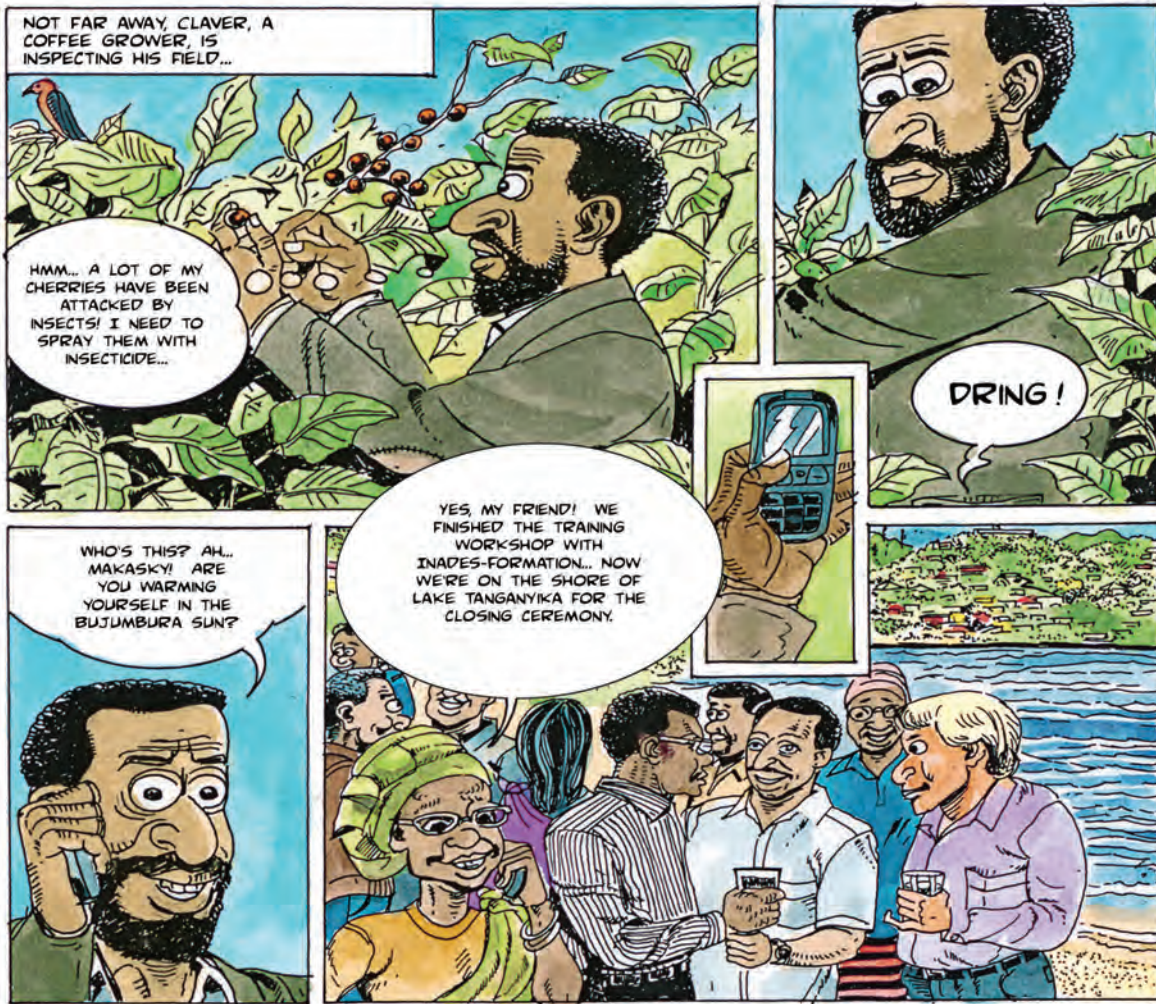
OH YES! IT'S SO
WONDERFUL!



WELL THEN, YOU REALLY
DO HAVE SOMETHING TO
DANCE ABOUT, THAT'S FOR
SURE!

FOR US COFFEE
GROWERS... THESE
ASSOCIATIONS ARE
INDISPENSABLE!



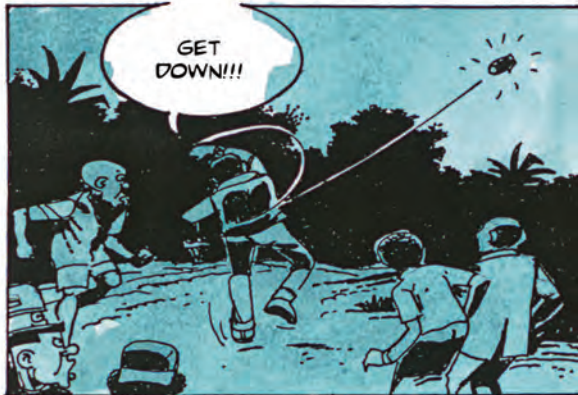


A FEW HOURS LATER,
AT MUCO'S UNCLE
BOMO'S HOUSE...

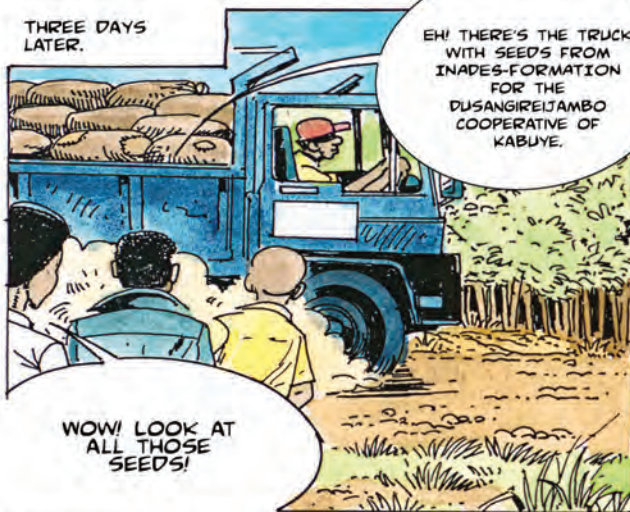


THAT EVENING,
AT BIRORTS...



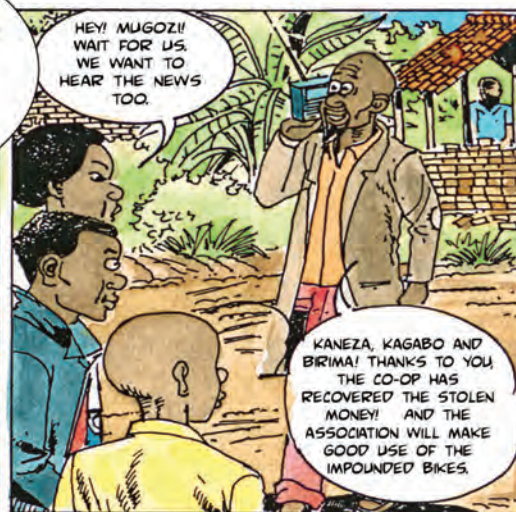


THREE DAYS LATER.



EH! THERE'S THE TRUCK WITH SEEDS FROM INADES-FORMATION FOR THE DUSANGIREJAMBO COOPERATIVE OF KABUYE.

WOW! LOOK AT ALL THOSE SEEDS!



HEY! MUGOZI! WAIT FOR US. WE WANT TO HEAR THE NEWS TOO.

KANEZA, KAGABO AND BRIMA! THANKS TO YOU, THE CO-OP HAS RECOVERED THE STOLEN MONEY! AND THE ASSOCIATION WILL MAKE GOOD USE OF THE IMPOUNDED BIKES.

AFTER A YEAR OF GOOD WEATHER, THE FARMERS ARE REPORTING A HEALTHY HARVEST.



A LITTLE LATER ON...

THERE ARE SPECIALIZED BROADCASTS ON COMMUNITY RADIO CHANNELS DEDICATED TO KEEPING THE LOCAL COFFEE GROWERS INFORMED.



WE'RE PUTTING UP POSTERS TO ANNOUNCE PAYDAY!

YES, AND IT INCLUDES INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOLIDARITY FUNDS...



THE PEASANTS ARE HAPPY TO COLLECT THEIR AFTER-HARVEST PAY!



LOOK! MAMA JUST GOT PAID TOO!

AND THAT EVENING, THE WHOLE VILLAGE GATHERS AT BIRORI'S ... WELL, ALMOST THE WHOLE VILLAGE ... WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MUCO'S GANG THAT IS!



WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR THIS YEAR'S GOOD WEATHER. THE INCOME FROM OUR COFFEE WILL FUND OUR PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES, AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO PAY THE SCHOOL FEES OF OUR CHILDREN AND THE EXTRA MONEY WE WILL HAVE...

...WILL BE INVESTED AS USUAL IN OUR INVESTMENT BANK ACCOUNT WITH THE SOLIDARITY DEVELOPMENT FUND!

INADES-FORMATION

Although the end of the conflict in Burundi was followed by significant efforts to revive the economy, more than 70% of Burundians still live below the poverty line. It is the rural population, the peasants, who are most heavily affected by this poverty.

Since 1975, Inades-Formation has developed projects that promote greater food security and improved access to resources for the rural population. By supporting farmer and peasant associations across Burundi, Inades-Formation strengthens the capacity of the most vulnerable people. Today, there are 115,000 coffee cooperative members who benefit from the experience and dedication of Inades-Formation.

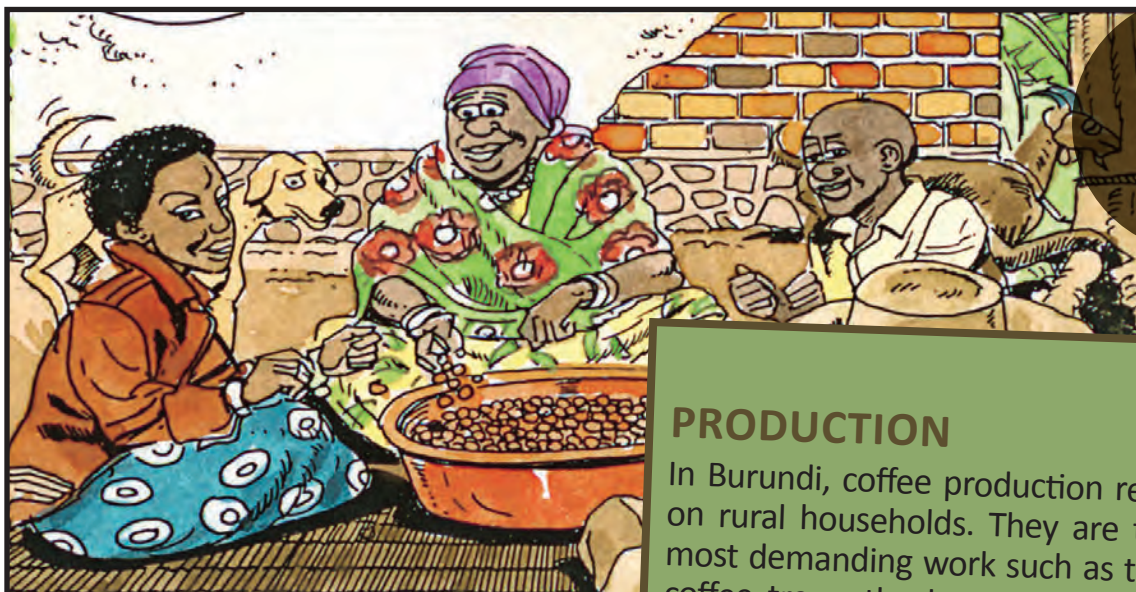
Thanks to the work of Inades-Formation, which has been supported by DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE for close to 15 years, small-scale farmers are now better equipped in harvesting, storing and marketing their produce. With their increased revenues, they are able to invest in new agricultural techniques and commercial activities, which are helping to improve their current yields.

THE COFFEE INDUSTRY IN BURUNDI: FROM THE COFFEE TREE TO OUR CUP

Before being poured into our cup, coffee travels a long road, and at each stage, it acquires a little more value. Coffee growers are the starting point; they are the ones who harvest the coffee, but the profit they harvest is not nearly as bountiful. Indeed, the price at which they must accept to sell their coffee sometimes does not even cover the cost of its production.

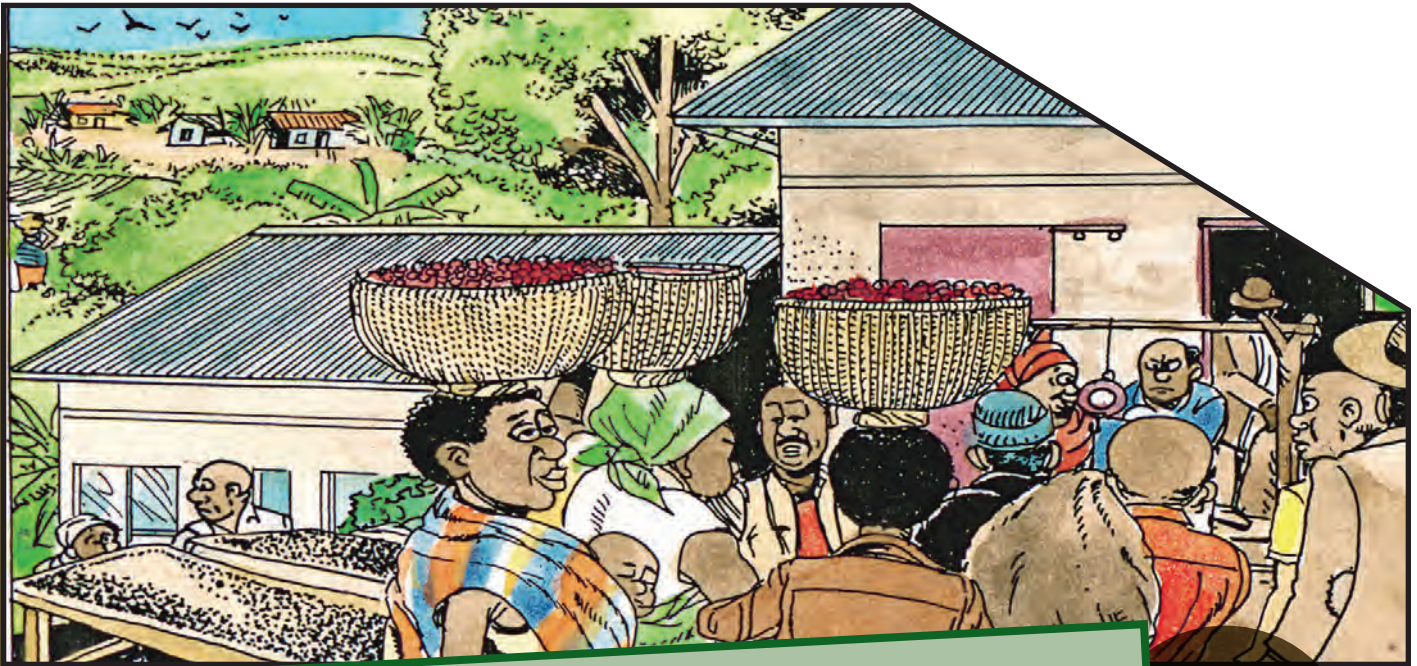
The privatization process proposed by the government and the World Bank mainly affects the stage that comes after harvesting the coffee beans, namely the pulping and hulling of the beans in processing plants. While the ownership and management of these processing plants has changed from public to private many times, coffee growers have usually been excluded from participating in these discussions.

We, as coffee consumers and citizens working to build a more just world, have a responsibility to better understand the cycle of coffee production so that we are informed about the issues and challenges faced by coffee growers in Burundi and elsewhere in the world.



PRODUCTION

In Burundi, coffee production relies almost entirely on rural households. They are the ones doing the most demanding work such as the daily care of the coffee trees, the harvesting, and the hand-sorting of the cherries in which the coffee beans are found. These are long and arduous activities that require great care and attention if the superior quality coffee that consumers seek is to be obtained.



WASHING, PULPING AND HULLING

In order to remove the coffee bean from its husk, several steps are required. The skin must be removed and the coffee must be dried. This step is called pulping. Then the hard shell (parchment) that covers the coffee bean must also be removed. This is called hulling.

At this point, the coffee is still owned by the coffee growers, but now they need to rely on and work with private or public washing and hulling centres. In Burundi, 85% of coffee is treated in industrial washing stations designed to improve the quality of the coffee. The rest is processed using traditional methods, which produces a lesser quality coffee. Coffee growers demand the right to retain ownership of their coffee and participate in the management of these washing and hulling centres.

These production steps require specialized equipment. It is for this reason the government constructed processing plants. Whether privately- or publicly-owned, the costs associated with this part of the process will have an influence on the price and quality of the coffee. If it is too expensive for coffee growers to process their coffee in these plants, they will instead turn to using traditional methods, and the price received for the coffee will be lower. If this service is free or costs less, but the processing is of poor quality, the price obtained will also be unsatisfactory. This is why coffee growers are demanding full management of the processing plants!

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EXPORTING AND COFFEE ROASTING

These are the steps over which coffee growers have the least control. Whether or not growers are grouped into associations, if the big coffee buyers refuse to buy at a fair price, coffee growers will not be fairly compensated. When prices decrease, coffee growers must grow more coffee to receive the same income. Where land is scarce, they need to plant coffee in fields normally used for food crops. The consequence? Less family income and less food.

Without roasting, the coffee bean, known as green coffee, has a whitish appearance and is not desirable for consumption. The brown or black coffee beans that we are familiar with are beans that have been roasted, that is, heated at a temperature of about 250 degrees C. The more intense the roasting process, the stronger the coffee. Coffee roasting does not take place in Burundi, but happens in the countries that import the green coffee beans, such as Canada. It is at this stage that coffee acquires the most value.

For many years, the export and commercialization of coffee were handled solely by the state, however, now the Burundi Coffee Growers Confederation (CNAC) manages the sale of coffee outside of the country. Although this is a step forward for coffee growers, who are seeking greater control over sale prices, they are at risk of losing this position if they are not included in the privatization process that is currently being pursued by the World Bank.



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CONSUMPTION FAIR PRICES?

Once it is packaged into smaller quantities, the coffee is then sold for consumption. On average, the Burundian coffee producer's return is only 5 cents for a large latte (7g) that has a sale price in Canada of about \$4. In other words, this is about 1.3% of the retail selling price. A better pricing policy would allow coffee growers to reap a greater share of income from their coffee harvest. The World Bank opposes such a step.

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THE REQUEST OF COFFEE GROWERS IN BURUNDI

Organized into associations and with the support of Inades-Formation, coffee growers have identified and outlined various ways to increase their participation in the privatization process. They have also proposed measures to promote a fairer distribution of the revenues generated by the coffee industry. Among other things, coffee growers want to retain ownership of their coffee until it is exported, share in processing businesses, and have genuine participation in decision-making processes that affect the entire coffee industry.

They feel that the privatization plan being imposed by the World Bank is primarily designed to further increase the profits of stakeholders from developed countries rather than to protect the viability and profitability of Burundian coffee producers.

Coffee cultivation in Burundi is almost entirely the business of peasant households who produce coffee on their small-scale farms. The precarious nature of their livelihood and their struggle to be heard by those who hold the economic and political power to tip the scales more in their favour, reflects the situation lived by many small-scale farmers. If this issue is important to you, we invite you to take action to ensure that the rights of small-scale farmers are respected. You can do this by pledging your support and participating in DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE's action campaigns.

Want to know more?
Ready to take action?
Please visit:
www.devp.org

AFRICA IN IMAGES

Africa in Images is a series of graphic novels designed to educate and inform Canadian youth about the injustices and challenges that affect much of the population in Africa.

This second issue is devoted to Burundi, where small-scale farmers who grow coffee have united to improve their living conditions and those of their families. Through the adventures of Kaneza and Kagabo's family, you will be introduced to the inspiring story of the rise of the movement to create farmer associations and cooperatives in Burundi. It is a path marked by resistance, struggle, solidarity, and social change.

The projects that have been put in place in coffee-growing communities in Burundi by Inades-Formation and DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, with funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada, have become great sources of hope.

The comic strip ***Kaneza and Kagabo, Under the Shade of the Coffee Tree***, illustrates the power of these community projects and is a tribute to the brave women and men who contributed to making them a reality.



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