

Farmers name: Samuel Degelo
Farm name: Bishan Dimo washing station
Kebele: Hadeso
Woreda: Odo Shakisso
Zone: Guji
Altitude of farm: 1850 – 2050 m.a.s.l.

Varieties: Mixed heirloom, 74110, and 74112
Harvest period: December 1st – January 15th
Processing: Washed
Drying days: 7 days

About Samuel Degelo

Coffee professionals throughout the world are realizing that Guji, as a coffee region, is significantly different than its neighboring regions, Sidamo and Yirgacheffe. Guji zone was previously categorized as a sub-region of Sidamo but has proven itself as distinct. It has gained reputation and stature because of its unique and differentiating flavor profiles.

The Oromo people of Guji consider their region as the ancestral cradle of Oromo culture. The ceremonies, rituals, and lore that come forth of the Gada age-group system, are still subsequently and widely practiced among Guji's inhabitants. Besides the system, coffee farming has ancient roots within the Guji culture – the two are inseparable.

Samuel Degelo, the producer of a beautiful washed Guji (auction lot #28), is proud of this heritage. He was born and raised within the coffee community of Bishan Dimo, Guji. His parents raised him with a deep respect for coffee. Samuel learned how to farm coffee in the area of Bishan Dimo since he was young. Like many children of coffee smallholders, Samuel assisted his parents on the farm, and learned the craft.

Samuel is a well-educated young man. Besides being a coffee farmer, he is a teacher at the Danbi Uddo Primary School. Because of his academic background, and eagerness to always learn more, he can easily understand new concepts and implement innovative ways for cultivating coffee – like creating compost from organic materials, for instance. This combination of teaching and farming makes Samuel quite unique in Bishan Dimo. They call him the teacher-farmer, Mr. Samuel.

As one of the model farmers of Testi Trading Plc. - one of Ethiopia's most quality-oriented specialty coffee exporters, Samuel receives financial support for composting, training, and picking. Testi invests in key-figures like Samuel, in order to inspire other growers.

“My goal is to help my neighbor farmers to aim for great coffee as well. Together we can show the entire world that the Bishan Dimo farmers can make the best Ethiopian coffees. I strive to get an income from quality coffee, because I see that prices are far higher than commercial coffees. With this better income, I can improve the lives of my family and relatives” says Samuel.