

ABOUT THE PHILIPPINE COFFEE

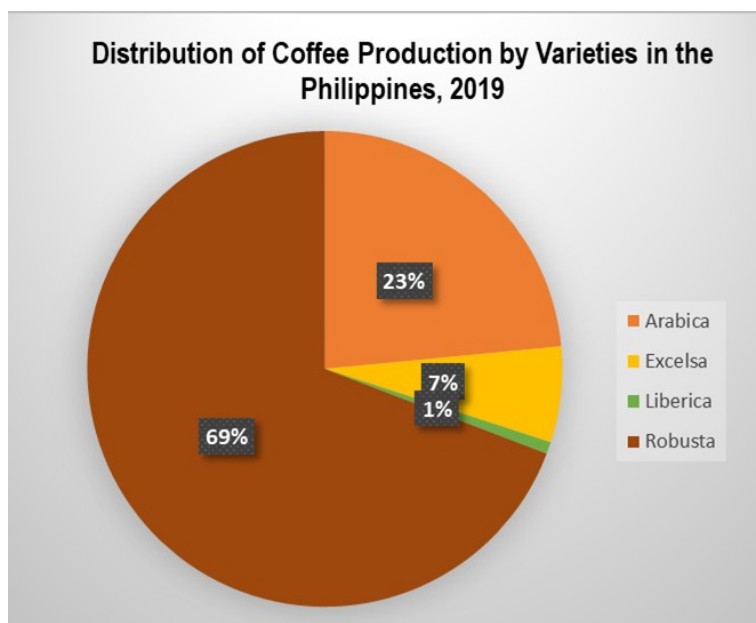
The Philippines is one of the few countries that produces the four varieties of commercially-viable coffee - **Arabica**, **Liberica**, **Excelsa** and **Robusta**, because its climatic and soil conditions, whether in the lowland or the mountain regions, make the country suitable for all four varieties.¹ Robusta is the most commonly produced variety, contributing 69% of the Philippines' total 2019 coffee bean production.² It is mainly used in espresso and instant mixes.



Arabica, which contributed 23% of the total production in 2019, is mostly cultivated in high elevation areas (1000 meters above sea level) and sells at a premium price. It is primarily used for brewing or blending. The other varieties are Excelsa (7%), with berries bigger than Arabica but smaller than Liberica, and more drought and pest resistant than other varieties, and Liberica (1%), also known as *Kapeng Barako*, which has a strong flavor and sharp aroma.³

Small farmers are the country's main producers of coffee in Mindanao. Based on data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, there are nearly 276,000 coffee farms in the country, with about 79.4 million trees. The median farm size is 1-2 hectares. Most farms are intercropped with vegetables, coconut, fruit trees and forest trees, especially in the case of Arabica coffee. There are very few commercial scale plantations in the country.⁴

In 2018 and 2019, the top three producing regions were concentrated in Mindanao, namely, Davao Region, Central Mindanao (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City) and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, collectively contributing 68% of the country's total production, with 60,300 and 62,062 metric tons of



¹ Philippine Coffee Board Inc., www.philcoffeeboard.com.

² Major Non-Food and Industrial Crops Quarterly Bulletin, Philippine Statistics Authority, www.psa.gov.ph.

³ Department of Agriculture and Department of Trade and Industry, 2017-2022 Philippine Coffee Industry Roadmap.

⁴ Department of Agriculture and Department of Trade and Industry, 2017-2022 Philippine Coffee Industry Roadmap.

coffee, respectively. From January to June 2020, the Philippines' production of dried coffee berries reached 23,104 metric tons.⁵

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WHERE TO FIND PHILIPPINE COFFEE

The search for our country's coffee origin will take us on a trip around the different mountainous and volcanic areas that make the Philippines one of the most ideal coffee-growing countries in the world.

Map Labels:

- Cordillera Mountain Range - Robusta / Arabica
- Mt. Malarayat - Robusta / Liberica
- Sorsogon - Robusta
- Mt. Kitanglad - Robusta / Arabica
- Bolilo - Robusta
- Mt. Kanlaon - Robusta
- Zamboanga Peninsula - Robusta
- Mt. Matutum - South Cotabato
- Mt. Apo - Robusta / Arabica / Liberica / Excelsa
- Island Provinces of ARMM - Robusta
- Sultan Kudarat - Robusta / Arabica
- Davao Region - Robusta / Arabica
- Palawan - Robusta

⁵ Major Non-Food and Industrial Crops Quarterly Bulletin, Philippine Statistics Authority, www.psa.gov.ph.