

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AUTHORITY
MIRAA, PYRETHRUM AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL
CROPS DIRECTORATE

MIRAA GRADES IN **KENYA**



INTRODUCTION

Miraa (Khat) is an important crop that is traded both in the local market and in the international markets. The local market has demographic differences, with each market segment has miraa consumers of different backgrounds, financial ability and individual preferences.

The miraa consumer have preference for different grades that is determined by various attributes which include taste, aroma, texture, freshness etc. The documentation of these grades has never been done. With the documentation of the different grades and the preferences by the different consumers, farmers can produce, sort and grade their miraa to meet the specific needs of different markets, increase the marketability of their produce, access more markets thereby enhancing their income and promoting the growth of the miraa industry

MARSABIT REGION

A) GRADE 1

Characteristics:

- Locally referred to as Kachu/Maini /Gobo/halwa
- Mainly 2 leaves and a bud;
- Short, tender and succulent;
- Has one node;
- Length of 5cm-7cm
- Usually consumed whole.



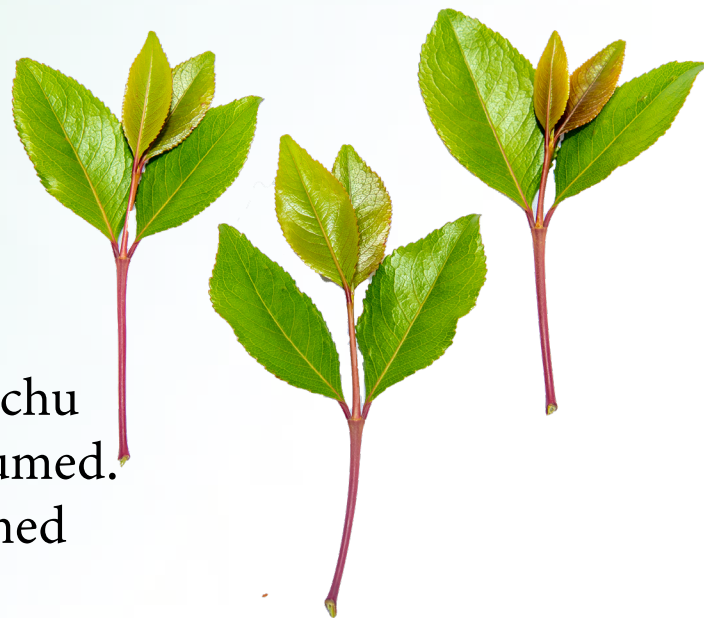
Market distribution:

- Primarily high-end markets,
- Market mainly: Moyale, Dukana, Wajir, Samburu, Isiolo

B) GRADE 2

Characteristics:

- Four leaves with no buds;
- Length of 7cm-10cm;
- Two nodes;
- Slightly succulent/harder than Kachu
- Two leaves and the bark are consumed.
- The 2 lower leaves are not consumed as they act as protector



Market distribution:

- Local markets, mainly sold in Moyale, Dukana, Wajir, Samburu, Isiolo

C) GRADE 3

Characteristics:

- Six leaves with bud;
- Length of 12cm-15cm;
- Three nodes;
- Fibrous twigs;
- Two leaves and the bark are consumed.
- Bigger in size, more leaves. The extra leaves are for protection against spoilage



Market distribution:

- Distributed to markets such as Totore, Dukana, Forole, Illelet, Border Town–Ethiopia At Korr, Ngurnit, Kargi, Sam-buru

D) CHAFFEE

Characteristics:

- Characterized by its maroon coloured twigs with short inter nodes and length of 30cm.
- Fibrous twigs and shiny, leathery leaves;
- Has long shelf life.

Market distribution:

- Limited to Marsabit and its environs.



MERU REGION

A) KANGETA

Characteristics:

- Long stem around 20cm-25cm;
- Twigs with young, tender leaves with succulent branches.
- Sorting and grading involves defoliating of the lower leaves, leaving the top soft leaves.

Market distribution:

- Preferred by local markets especially Meru and Nairobi



B) KISA 1

Characteristics:

- Short stem around 15cm-20cm;
- Twigs with young, tender leaves with succulent branches.
- Highly perishable
- Sorting and grading involves defoliating of the lower leaves, leaving the top soft leaves.

Market distribution:

- Commonly sold in premium local markets, like Nairobi, Garissa, Mombasa and Lamu. some export to neighboring regions



C) KISA GRADE 2

Characteristics:

- Shorter compared to Kisa Grade 1 and greener stem, more leaves.
- Greener and short stem around 15cm-20cm;
- Twigs with overgrown shoots and fibrous bark.
- Sorting and grading involves defoliating of the lower leaves, leaving the top soft leaves



Market distribution:

- Commonly sold in Meru, Nairobi, Mombasa, Garisa, Eldoret, Kisumu, Busia

D) KATA

Characteristics:

- Low-grade,
- Same size as Kangeta
- Sometimes it is derived during pruning practice.

Market distribution:

- Often sold at lower prices,
- Sold in Isiolo, Nanyuki, Samburu



E) ALELE

Characteristics:

- Short stem around 20cm-203cm;
- Twigs with young, tender leaves with succulent branches.
- Leafier compared to other grades;
- Leaves and twigs are predominantly green
- Excess leaves could be plucked to get other miraa grades from it



Market distribution:

- Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Mandera, Wajir, Marabit, and many parts of North Eastern.
- Alele is also exported to Somalia and Israel.

EMBU REGION

All grades from Embu are commonly referred to as 'Muguka'

A)MCHELE

Characteristics:

- Mainly 2 tender leaves with color ranging from green to deep red;
- Has one node
- Length of 3cm-5cm
- usually consumed whole.
- Highest grade;
- Highly perishable
- Distinguished by its high potency;

Market distribution:

- Due its perishability, the main markets are Nairobi, Machakos, Garissa and environs



B)MEDIUM

Characteristics:

- Four leaves with color ranging from green to light red;
- Length of 5cm-7cm;
- Two nodes;
- Succulent;

Market distribution:

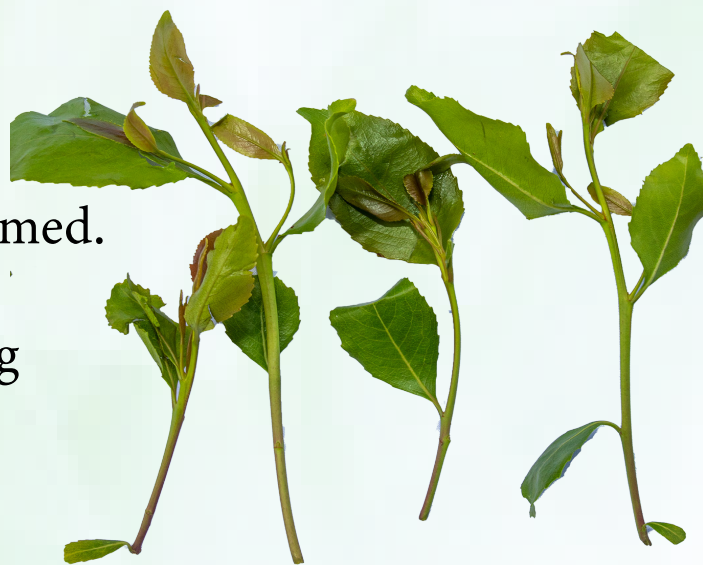
Local markets within the country



C) DIGITAL

Characteristics:

- Six leaves with bud;
- Length of 12cm-15cm;
- Three nodes;
- Fibrous twigs;
- Two leaves and the bark are consumed.
- Longer stems, more leaves
- Its appearance is similar to a young twig of miraa from Meru



Market distribution:

- Mainly local markets, exported in small quantities to Israel.
- Used for processing of miraa juice
- Longer stems with more leaves, longer shelf life, suitable for transportation to far distances.

D) CR

Characteristics:

- Mostly green and fibrous leaves;
- One to two nodes;
- Length of 3cm-5cm
- It has a longer shelf life.

Market distribution:

- Lower-end markets and far distance markets such as Mombasa, Mandera, Wajir, Kisumu, Nairobi, Machakos;
- Often used to make dried miraa

