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Background

The Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECID) Ethiopia in partnership with Ethiopian, Colombian and Honduran partners is implementing the Women, Coffee and Climate: Women's empowerment for socio-ecological resilience of coffee value chain against climate change in Ethiopia project which is funded by EU DeSIRA. The project is being jointly implemented with partners from Ethiopia: Ethiopian Coffee Tea Authority, Ethiopia Forestry Development, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research/Jimma Agricultural Research Center, Ethiopian Women in Coffee (EWiC) and Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA); partners from Colombia: Spanish Cooperation-Colombia, Tecnicafe; partners from Honduras: CONACAFE and ICAFE. The project partners from Colombia and Honduras visited Ethiopia from Dec 5th to Dec 11, 2022 as part of the second international learning exchange visit. Partners from Technicafe of Colombia, Spanish Cooperation of Colombia, Conacafe and Icafe of Honduras along with Ethiopian partners from Spanish Cooperation Ethiopia, ECTA, JARC, EWIC, EDF, Neumann Foundation, and OSSREA participated in the six days' exchange visit. The participating institutions had various interests in the international learning exchange visit. The main interests of the participating organizations were as follows:

The Ethiopian Forestry Development was interested in Non-Timber Forest Products related research and development. Ethiopian Women in Coffee were interested in coffee farming and post-harvest practices, research findings and interventions in improving productivity as well as the role of women in the coffee value chain in research and in administrative structures. EWiC has shown interest in these areas in order to identify areas for collaboration, and understand ways to engage with those institutions to enhance the participation of women in key decision-making areas, avoid redundancy in efforts and understand coffee value chain challenges in general. The Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA) were very eager to learn from the work of Jimma Agricultural Research Center's on coffee research from end to end in order to better coordinate with them. The OTC Colombia was interested in participating in triangular cooperation projects, because it allows visibility of the work carried out in the different OTCs, and how some joint problems can be solved with the exchange of knowledge and good practices. Participants from Technicafe were interested to know the origin of coffee and its environment, not only environmental but also productive and social aspects as well.

Being able to verify how the development of coffee growing in Ethiopia is and has been. Technicafe is also interested in three important themes in the lines of action of TECNICAFÉ: Women, coffee and climate. Understanding an environment totally different from Latin America, especially due to social, political, cultural and religious aspects, which are dominated by the male gender. Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung (HRNS) Ethiopia is interested in model farmers coffee production management, processing sites (drying stations) for natural coffee, and cooperatives, women farmers engaged in the coffee sector in production-management and processing for marketing. The ongoing innovative research and results/recommendations of JARC/ Jimma University in coffee, how crop diversification makes farmers resilient for climate change and create sustainable household income, the progress in enabling farmers to export directly avoiding the middleman and benefiting the producers. Taking the interests of the participating institutions the second international exchange visit kicked off with an opening workshop.



Kickoff Sessions

In order to address the various interests of the participating organizations, various events and activities at various sites were held in the six days' international learning exchange visit. On Monday Dec 5th 2022, a workshop was held at Daamat hotel in order to introduce the project partners and the various work that they are doing in the project. High level delegates from the Spanish cooperation in Ethiopia (Mr Mario Fanjul), European Union (Mr Mersha Argaw), Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (Dr Aduugna Debele) were present. Aurora Martin Martin, Program Manager at the Spanish Cooperation Agency in Ethiopia presented the agenda of the event and introduced the program, she welcomed the invited guests from Colombia, Honduras, Spain and Ethiopia and invited the head of the Spanish Cooperation in Ethiopia, Mr. Fanjul, to make a brief remarks and officially open the workshop.

Mr. Mario Fanjul, head of the Spanish cooperation Ethiopia, welcomed the partners from Latin America, Spain, Ethiopia and EU. He started by saying that the reason why the Spanish cooperation is working in women, coffee and climate is that coffee is the main export commodity of Ethiopia where over 60% women are engaged on coffee value chain and are the main actors, and the climate vulnerability is the prime focus for mitigation and adaptation measures. Therefore, the women, coffee and climate are strategic agendas of the Spanish cooperation with the objective to narrow down the gender gaps, to bring together the long history of working in coffee of the Ethiopian and Latin Americans experience for establishing good relationships where both can learn from one another. He extended his warm greetings to the participants and invited Mr. Mersha Argaw from the EU to give his remarks.



Dec 5, 2022 Project partners engagement workshop at Daamat Hotel

Mr Mersha expressed his pleasure to be part of the international south-south mission and welcomed the friends from Honduras and Colombia and said that the EU is very supportive for south-south (triangular) cooperation for knowledge, culture and experience sharing. He noted that the EU understands this event is very important for Ethiopia to explore more about the potential of coffee. He highlighted the lack of recognition towards the coffee sector as one of the bottlenecks to harness the potential of coffee. The



EU is working in supporting the Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve to address women and climate change actions. There is a deforestation free coffee project (DFCP) complementary project operational in the area by HRNS-Ethiopia which the EU believes to be productive and will contribute more.

Next, Dr. Adugna Debela (Director General ECTA), welcomed participants and extended his thanks for Spanish cooperation for bringing the coffee producer countries together in the homeland of coffee Arabica. He also appreciated EU for funding, and ECTA is mandated for all coffee value chains including policy, strategy settings and regulations. He said the event will help us to explore more for improving the coffee sector and to enhance women's engagements. He further noted that throughout the learning exchange visit, the team will have the opportunity to explore the true life of coffee farmers which will help the delegation to understand rural Ethiopia. He highlighted the point that the cooperation will help us to voice together for coffee producers. He assured the participants that more will be shared and explained about coffee production and culture during the visit of the delegation and wished all the delegation a pleasant stay. After the welcoming remarks by the delegates of the various institutions the floor was opened for presentation by partner institutions.

Fitsum Mengesha from ECTA presented about the vision, mission and values of ECTA. He said that the vision of ECTA is to see people free from poverty by 2025 while its mission is by sorting the major challenges in coffee, tea and spices agro-processing and marketing chain, implementing its remedial action, using and including research findings, utilization of modern and updated technologies, utilizing more customer oriented extension system, providing various capacity building and sharing best practices to enhance coffee productivity in the best quality for supplying to local and global market for earning better foreign currency from the sector and improve the benefit of farms and stakeholders.

ECTA's values are customer satisfaction & benefits, job creation, abolishing corruption, good governance, Institutional & professional partnership, Women & youth Participation & benefit, and Sustaining natural resources conservation and development. He then talked about the history of coffee where he said a fascinating mixture of history and legend lies behind the discovery of coffee in Ethiopia. No one really knows quite well where the legend ends. However, most experts agree that Ethiopia is the only place in the world where coffee grows natively. He mentioned that Ethiopia is the birthplace of coffee and around 56.7% of world production is Arabica and 43.3% is Robusta (ICO, 2019/20). Coffee has the highest value and is a leading export crop in the Ethiopian economy. It supports the livelihoods of around 5.5 million smallholder farmers (CSA, 19/20) and creates job opportunities for around 25% of the population in the country.

He talked about the potential of coffee production and the constraints in Ethiopia. He stated some of those potentials as suitable agro-ecologies, coffee genetic diversity, farmer's indigenous knowledge, known brands in the world market, encouraging policy environment, modern marketing system (ECX & Direct), and agroforestry based production system. He also mentioned some of the constraints as weak extension services, poor linkages between research-extension and farmers, weak access to inputs and financial services, inadequate sector coordination, climate change and deforestation, poor engagement of youth in coffee farming, increasingly competing cash crops such as 'Khat', inadequate technology transfer and research.



Fitsum Mengesha also highlighted the activities performed by ECTA as the lead institution in the coffee sector in Ethiopia. He mentioned ECTA's responsibilities to strengthen modern extension services, implement different programs/ projects to benefit coffee farmers such as the women, coffee and climate project has been signed with ECTA and Spanish Cooperation to deal with the issues in Yayou biodiversity. He noted that for this purpose, the Spanish cooperation has granted ECTA 91,292 Euros to support efforts of the Authority in order to achieve its goals in gender equality.



A visit to the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority by the exchange participants

He further highlighted the achievement of the institution by raising its performance in export revenue. He said that through the activities carried out by the authority, the country was able to earn coffee exports and foreign exchange earnings for the first time in its history. He further noted that the country earned 1.4 billion US dollars by exporting 300 thousand tons of coffee in the last fiscal year. When compared to the same year of the previous fiscal year, it shows an increase of 51,002.66 (20.54%) tones and an increase of 488.14 million dollars (53.82%) in foreign currency earnings.

He then talked about the coffee, women, and climate change project stating its purpose as to enhance gender equality and sustainability of Ethiopian coffee value chain through eco-efficiency, social innovation, and south– south cooperation and its general objective as to ensure gender equality and sustainability of Ethiopian coffee value chain. He also highlighted the expected outcomes in this project.

Outcome 1: Interdisciplinary research on the role and contributions of women and indigenous/ traditional knowledge in landscape management is identified.

Outcome 2: Enhancing conditions on Gender and Climate Action and Coffee sector in Ethiopia.

Outcome 3: Enforcing transparency and inclusiveness to sustainable EU's Coffee Market.

Outcome 4. Coordination, communication, visibility, knowledge management, monitoring & evaluation.



He finalized his presentation by highlighting what ECTA has done so far in the project. He informed the participants that ECTA has prepared a plan which will be implemented throughout the project life cycle. After the Colombia international learning exchange event, ECTA have included new activities; like working on children (childhood coaching to sustain our coffee), input supply to women at association/individual level, and utilizing coffee straw to produce different co-products. He said ECTA is on the way to operate activities as planned such as conducting assessment, preparing best practice documents, awareness creation (training). He concluded by saying that the ECTA gender strategy has been prepared and is already under implementation. He further noted that the document is expected to be published soon and it will also be translated to English and Afaan Oromo.

Next, Wubalem Tadesse from Ethiopian Forestry Development was the second presenter and he started by talking about the mandate of the EFD which is to conduct and coordinate forestry Development and Research. He also noted that the institution is accountable to the ministry of agriculture. He further highlighted the main research focus areas of EFD: Plantation and Agroforestry, Industrial Plantation Research, Agroforestry Research, Smallholder Plantations Research, Forest Resources Utilization, Non-Timber Forest Product Research, Timber Products characterization and Utilization Research, Bio-energy and Biochemical Research, Natural Forest and Ecosystem management, Natural Forest Ecology and Management Research, Aquatic and Wetland Ecosystem Management Research, Forest Protection, Forest Pathology and Entomology Research, Forest Fire, invasive species and other forest pests Research, Socio-economic, Policy, Extension & Gender, Socio-Economics and Policy Research, Extension and Gender Research.

He said EFD has six research centers based at Hawassa, Bahir Dar, Dire Dawa, Jimma, Central Ethiopia, and Mekelle. He then talked about the role of EFD in the DeSIRA women, coffee and climate project. He started by describing the Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere reserve which is situated in South Western Ethiopia, where EFD will do its project activities. He said that the reserve currently covers approximately 167,021 Ha and the entire biosphere reserve stretches along six woredas. He highlighted the project activities of EFD; Activity 1.2 Studies on other Non-Timber Forest Products in YCFBR: Field survey on available and potential NTFPs in YCFBR, Assessment, sampling and identification of wild mushrooms with potential use in coffee forests, Develop mycoSilvi-culture management plan for the conservation of forest systems and mitigation of the effects of global change, Socioeconomic assessment on major NTFPs (Household survey, key informant survey, etc.), Demonstrative actions, dissemination and awareness of wild mushroom and other NTFPs.

Activity 1.3 Research on women and indigenous knowledge in sustainable coffee landscape in YCFBR: Assessment and documentation of indigenous knowledge on landscape restorations (afforestation/reforestation and soil and water conservation techniques), Documentation of ethnomycological knowledge in the communities around coffee forests, Promotion of selected indigenous knowledge (demonstration and trainings). Activity 1.6 Training on landscape management and Climate Action: Training on sustainable forest management and Soil and Water Conservation techniques, Capacity building in scientific/technical knowledge on sustainable forest management, NTFPs and Climate Change (through Master training in UVA only if budget will be covered by AECID).



Activity 2.1 Workshops on Gender and climate: Conduct training workshops, prepare guidelines and other communication materials, Alternative energy source (renewable energy sources, climate change adaptation and mitigation mechanisms, etc.).

Activity 2.2 Ethiopia's Gender and Climate Action Plan: From previous training, define the potential role of women on CC adaptation at national and local level through a GC Action Plan in agreement with National G and C key institutions (including training, meetings, networking).

Activity 2.3 Training on gender smart climate/ coffee instruments: Training on gender and climate smart agriculture (sustainable natural resources management: forest, soil, water resources, etc.), Training of women on mushroom cultivation and management of mycological resources. He completed his presentation by highlighting lessons to be learned from Colombia such as: Major NTFPs in your coffee-forests (in plantations and wild coffee-forests), Best practices, experiences in NTFPs management, conservation, value addition, commercialization, etc. Coffee husks and other wastes management and utilization (conversion for edible products, bio-energy, fertilizer, etc.). Women involvement in NTFPs management, commercialization, etc. Furthermore, he highlighted his experience sharing from Colombia by raising important points such as: Coffee by-products management and utilization. He pointed out the following points:

- ✓ In Ethiopia's coffee growing areas, large amounts of coffee husks and mucilage water are left unused (approximately about 192,000 metric tons). In most cases, left in the fields or disposed of by burning in open air pits – the latter causing pollution and environmental damage; the mucilage water often stays for months in large ponds.
- ✓ Based on the Colombian experience we have learned that other countries have also the same good experience:
- ✓ "To obtain the coffee beverage, approximately 90% of the edible parts of the coffee cherry are discarded as agricultural waste or by-products.

He concluded by saying that these coffee by-products are a potential source of nutrients and non-nutrient health-promoting compounds, which can be used as a whole ingredient or as an enriched extract of a specific compound.

Mr. Bekele Haile, manager of the project from HRNS-Ethiopia presented the EU DeSIRA project overviews with highlights of global significance of the project location; due to being coffee Arabica diversity naturally occurring, one of the 34 global hotspot areas and headwater regions contributing about near to half to Nile Basin, five agro ecologically interconnected UNESCO designated biosphere reserve regions where the global significance reflects our foreign delegation's common advantage with regards to coffee, climate and biodiversity conservation indicating that we are working for the benefit of all of us with EU funding. The project content, objective, working modality, integrated action research-based landscape approaches, the major challenges that make the project to come about, the major components (livelihoods through improved extension (Farmers Field School-FFS), women and climate actions at HH level, capacity enhancements, forest coffee ecosystem conservations) are highlighted. The Gender



Household Approach (GHA) and the FFS is uniquely explained in that the approach begins from farmers' home and farm. The one year moves of the project is explained briefly. The morning session concluded with comments and questions and answers from participants.

The afternoon session took place at the Spanish cooperation office where partner institutions were taken through the 1st international exchange visit report and the terms of reference of the community of practice. Alemu from OSSREA highlighted some of the important points from the 1st exchange visit by reminding the participants about the objectives of the learning exchange visits which are:

- Mutual knowledge sharing in women empowerment, climate adaptation/mitigation, policy instruments, agro-ecological practices, sub-products in the coffee sector;
- Making it possible for practitioners to see concrete examples and to understand the advantage of subsequently adapting these practices and applying them to their own contexts;
- Leading to changes in attitude and encouraging open mindedness and free choice.

He then went on presenting the various institutions, places visited, lessons learned from the visit and recommendations. The full report of the 1st international exchange visit is available on the website of the project.

After the presentation of the 1st exchange visit report, Alemu took the partner institutions through the terms of reference of the community of practice. He highlighted some of the important points such as the objective of the community of practice, roles and responsibilities of each institution as well as the roles of chairpersons and members. He also highlighted how the CoP will be set up and its associated online space. After the presentation Alemu opened the floor for discussions and comments. The partner institutions raised some questions and Alemu explained and finally all partners agreed on the content and processes of the establishment of the CoP and the session was closed.

Field Visit Details

The next activity of the exchange visit was to visit the facility of Primrose coffee exporters situated at Mekanisa area in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. Primrose is a private company specialized in coffee processing and export. The team arrived at the Primrose roasting facility and the owner welcomed the team and the manager gave a presentation about the company's activities. Primrose private limited company is a private green coffee exporting company founded in 2010 and it is one of highly competitive and respected coffee exporters in Ethiopia. Their company mainly focuses and works on coffee varieties such as Yirgacheffe, Guji, Sidamo, Limu, Lekempti, Jimma and Harar. It supplies specialty coffees of the mentioned origins. The visit enabled participants to learn more about the role of the private sector in the coffee sector. The team also had the opportunity to test various kinds of coffee roasted and brewed by the company.



Jimma Agricultural Research Center facility in Jimma Zone

The next day, on December 6, 2022 the international learning exchange visit started by visiting the Ethiopian Coffee, Tea Authority's facilities and training center. The team was welcomed by the director of ECTA, Dr. Adugna and the management of ECTA. Dr. Adugna briefed the team about ECTA. He said the organization has 300 permanent employees and is in charge of all the processes throughout the coffee value chain. The authority has two cupping centers in the country situated at Addis Ababa, and Dire Dawa, and it has a plan to open two more at Hawassa and Jimma. Dr. Adugna said that ECTA provides seeds and training to farmers. It also manages the extension services. He also pointed out that all coffee for export is cupped and graded by the authority and ECTA provides certificates of quality to the exporters. ECTA also gives certificates of the origin of the coffee to the exporters.

ECTA has a role as a regulatory body as well as ensuring the development of the coffee value chain in Ethiopia. Dr. Adugna said that currently about 1.4 million hectares of land is covered by coffee. He further informed the team that ECTA is a member of the inter Africa coffee organization (IACO), which comprises 25 African countries which produce coffee. In Ethiopia there are a number of associations around the coffee sector: farmers, suppliers, producers, roasters, women associations. In the near future, he said, the plan is to create an umbrella union of all the associations that will support the government in policy issues. He further noted that, ECTA has inaugurated a state of the art coffee cupping and training center with the help of Italian cooperation, UNIDO and ALICAFE of Italy. The ECTA training center takes 25 students at a time. It also uses experts from abroad to give training online. Trainees are expected to pay a certain amount per module for the training provided for them. After the presentation by Dr. Adugna the team had the opportunity to ask questions and comments and visit the training center. After that the team was welcomed by a grand traditional coffee ceremony which was held in the presence of the ECTA staff and management.

In the afternoon the team had the opportunity to visit the FPIC which is led by Dr. Shasho. The team was welcomed by the director and staff members and a presentation was given on the activities of the



institute. He briefed the team about the center's work on Food security and environmental conservation through the sustainable use of Fungi in Ethiopia. After the presentation the team visited the facility of the center and one of the labs for non-timber forest product, mushroom, which is being researched at the center. Dr. Shasho said that mushroom has a potential both in terms of providing nutrition to the society as well as a business opportunity.

The next visit was at the Ethiopian Coffee Quality Inspection and Certification Center. This is the center where all the coffee for export is graded and quality and origin certificates are provided. The team had the opportunity to learn about the various activities of the center and the visiting team from Colombia and Honduras and the local team had also the opportunity to test various kinds of coffee at the cupping center. It was a good opportunity to exchange skills and knowhow in cupping by experts from Tecnicafe and the cupping center experts.



A visit to the Ethiopian Coffee Quality Inspection and Certification Center

The next visit was at the Jimma Agricultural Research Center facility in Jimma Zone. The name of the center is called Melco. A team including the director of the center, Dr. Girma welcomed the team. JARC is located at around 350 km from Addis Ababa and was established in 1967. It had an area of 150.8ha. The vision of JARC is to be a center of excellence in Arabica coffee germplasm conservation and research in Africa. JARC is one of the federal research center under the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR). The center was established with the main objective of coordinating coffee research at national level and to support smallholder farmers with generation and expansion of improved technology. The center released 15 coffee berry disease (CBD) resistant coffee varieties by selection from the rich coffee diversity germplasm wealth of the country. In total JARC collected/maintained 7,000 accessions and



released 44 coffee varieties out of which nine are hybrids and 35 are pure line developed by selection. According to the experts at JARC, the selection varieties can yield up to 18Q/ha while the hybrid ones can yield 23-28Q/ha.

The team also visited the soil, plant and water laboratories at the center. These laboratories study the soil and coffee plant where the center operates. It specifically looks at soil fertility, acidity management, irrigation and organic farming, compost and vermicompost etc to support smallholder farmers. The other laboratory the team visited is the plant tissue culture laboratory. The laboratory produces various kinds of improved coffee seedlings. It also produces hybrid coffee varieties which are superior in quality and are also diseases resistant. The experts informed the team that these new varieties are not yet distributed to the farmers. They also informed the team that the F1 hybrid variety is expected to be propagated to the farmers in the near future. In addition to coffee the center has produced and distributed various varieties of pineapple, vanilla and ginger.

Next, the team had a chance to visit the coffee farm of a farmer researcher where the JARC team is working closely. The researcher farmer Ato Girma Urga (Mana Woreda-Melko) and his wife Seble Zewude, the couple are supported by JARC in developing an improved home garden coffee production. At his farm there is a mix of agroforestry integrated coffee systems. The couple collected their coffee in three rounds at this visit time and the coffee tree we observed is an improved variety with high yielding and good cherry bearing. Last cropping year (2021) the couple informed the team that they collected 15 quintals of green bean (GB) and earned about 400,000ETB.

W/ro Seble welcomed the guests and where they adopted agricultural practices advised by JARC and growing coffee-fruit combinations like banana, papaya, sugar cane, shade trees, jackfruit, spices and beekeeping, and she also manages most of the work in the coffee farm. The couple informed the team that they work together on the farm and share the earnings from the farm to improve the livelihood of the family. Their children are attending college and even have bank accounts where the parents save money for them for their future endeavors. The couple welcomed the visiting team to their home compound and served food and drinks from their garden. The visiting team were so impressed with the heartfelt welcome and the hospitality of the family and thanked the family and the day was concluded.

The next visit was at Agaro town, Gomma woreda in the Jimma zone. The team visited a coffee cooperative called Birbirisa. The team was welcomed by Mohammed Safa, deputy head of agriculture of the Goma woreda. He informed the team that the woreda covers more than 49,200ha of land with coffee. It also has 31,000 coffee farmers. The woreda produces more than 30,000 tons of coffee per year. Out of this produce 24,000 tons is sold to the central market. The rest is sold for local markets. According to the Woreda report 40% of the coffee for the local market comes from the Jimma zone. The woreda has 36 kebeles out of which 28 have coffee cooperatives. The Birbirisa coffee cooperative has small holder farmers and those who have large plantations as members. Out of their members about 315 of them directly export by themselves.

The cooperative prepares 50% sundry and 50% washed coffee. They also have 93 pulping machines for the washed coffee. The farmers informed the team about the coffee production process including the



coffee drying process. They said that the coffee stays on the drying bed from 17 to 24 days and they told the team that it is collected every evening to prevent it from frost. They also use moisture free warehouses to store the dried coffee. All the husk is used as compost for the coffee trees. The Birbirisa cooperative was established in 2010 with 80 members. It currently has 163 members. Out of which 50 are women and 113 of them are men. Most of them are young women and men. The members produce only red cherry coffee beans. 72,000kg of coffee was cultivated by the cooperative in 2020. In 2021 it cultivated 245,000kg because the number of members was increased. The members submit part of their produce to the cooperative while using the rest for local consumption.

In 2022 they are planning to produce 500,000 kgs of coffee. The members of the coffee cooperative produce 8 to 10 quintals of coffee per hectare. They export it to Norway, USA, and Korea. The head of the cooperative said that 70% of the profit of the coffee is given back to the farmers. 30% remains at the cooperative for various activities. The cooperative buys specialty coffee from farmers through arbitration. Anyone who has a coffee farm can be a member of the cooperative. During the question and answer session, the team informed the cooperative that the cooperative should train its members on how to ensure coffee quality. If they do that they will know about the quality of their coffee and have a better price for the coffee they produce. The cooperative should also make sure that the training provided to its members should also be given to the farmers starting from harvesting. The cooperative in turn informed the team that they have received training from the woreda agriculture bureau, Technoserve and other NGOs including the USAID's project called feed the future but it is not enough. They also informed the team that the cooperative is certified as an organic coffee producer by ECTA.



Birbiri Coffee Cooperative at Agaro town, Gomma woreda, Jimma zone

After finalizing the visit at the cooperative the team visited a nearby coffee farm owned by one of the farmers of the cooperative. The team were informed that the farmers grow about 2,500 trees per hectare and after every prune the trees give fruit in two years' time. They also were informed that they



use partial pruning which helps them to get fruits in 8 months. Regarding rejuvenation/stumping of coffee, the team was informed that the average agronomic stumping cycle is 15- 18 years old however coffee growing under shade takes longer stumping age than the open grown coffees. The criteria for stumping could be due to yield reduction, disease situation, the branches unable to bear fruits among others.

The next visit was at a specialty coffee producing farmer called Aba Biya at Beshasha kebele. He owns his own coffee drying station. He told the team that he started his farm 5 years ago. He currently directly exports his coffee to various parts of the world. He plants on 5.5ha of land. His coffee is first quality and specialty standard. He has 18 employees who work for him in his coffee farm. His biggest challenge is the expense of preparation and processing of the coffee. He spends 14.000 birr/ha weeding and cultivation of the coffee. He informed the team that he uses 3kg of cascara per tree as compost. The team had the opportunity to test the coffee from his product.

The next visit took the team to a women coffee farmer called Merima Aba Fogi. She owns close to 30ha of land. Her farm is located at a place called Kume Fuja kebele in Goma woreda. She collects the cherry between 2 to 3 months' time. She also owns a pulping and washing machine which was provided to her through a project called Feed the future by USAID. She told the team that she has an export license but is unable to sell her coffee because of market linkages issues. She sells her coffee locally to brokers. She told the team that there are a lot of women who are unable to sell their coffee because of unavailability of market access.



The team was informed that out of 315 women farmers who have export licenses 45 of them are women. But all of them do not have access to the international market. The women coffee farmer informed the team that she has a farm of 20ha which is covered by coffee. She specializes in washed coffee. Washed coffee sells for 400 birr/kilo while the non-washed coffee is sold for half the price of that of the washed. The washing and pulping machine that she and other fellow farmers use is from Penagos. She informed the team that the machine is better than other machines that she used to use because it also washes the muselage. She said, it needs only 1/2 litre of water to wash 20 kg of coffee. The other advantage is that the local mechanics can easily fix the machine.

The woman farmer informed the team that she specializes in specialty coffee. The cost of processing specialty coffee is very high. She has 30 employees who are women out of which five of them are men. Even though she owns 20ha of land and specializes in specialty coffee and currently has 250 quintals in the warehouse and more is being cultivated from the farm, she is not able to sell her produce and



change hers and her family’s livelihood because of market access issues especially for women. She also informed the team that she has an export license but because of no market access she is forced to sell her coffee to the local brokers.

The ECTA people who visited the women witnessed the issue and said that ECTA will work with EWIC to address the problem. During the visit, Fitsum from ECTA said that the problem of market access is already a known problem by the government and especially women are highly impacted by it. The ECTA believes that the problem needs to be given emphasis and all institutional mechanisms should be utilized to solve the problem. He further said that, the ECTA gender strategy is developed to specifically solve such problems like the one the women farmer is facing. Integrating women coffee farmers vertically in the financial services is one aspect of the strategy and ECTA acknowledges that in order to solve such problems a concerted effort of all the stakeholders involved is needed.

The next visit was at the zonal administration of Jimma zone. Ato Yussuf, deputy administrator of Jimma zone and Ato Mohammed, head of the Jimma agricultural bureau welcomed the team. The agriculture bureau head briefed the team about the origin of Arabica coffee. He said that in the year 2022 the zone has done a lot of work to promote the origin of coffee. In terms of branding he said that they now have three coffee unions (Limu –Linya, Keta muduga, Jimma unions) who are producing coffee with the brand name Jimma Buna. The zone is working to establish 48 cupping centers in all the woredas of the 48 centers to ensure coffee quality, job creation for the youth and women especially. He also said that the plan to start exporting coffee direct from Jimma is underway in consultation with ECTA. In terms of cup of excellence, Jimma zone was able to participate in 146 coffee farmers in the competition. 31 of them have been selected as best while three of them managed to enter the top ten positions.

One farmer managed to be awarded a presidential award of cup of excellence. His coffee was sold for 130 USD for one kg. Currently the zone is working in collaboration with the coffee development team to have a better understanding of coffee quality as well as other aspects of the coffee value chain. Because of this activity this year around 2,200 farmers are ready to compete for the cup of excellence. Currently about 533,526ha of land is covered by coffee farms in the Jimma zone. More than 520,000 people in the zone are benefiting from the coffee value chain. It is believed that around 60% of the zone’s community benefit from the coffee value chain in one way or another. He said that there is a saying in Jimma: Jimma lives on Coffee and dies in coffee. (የጁማ ሰው በቡና ይኖራል ሲሞትም የሚከፈነው በቡና በተገዛ ጨርቅ ነው)። Coffee in Jimma has high social value as it does economic value. The presence of coffee in the Jimma zone has helped the community to protect the environment by not cutting shade trees.

The bureau head says that the zone is also working on bee farming, forest management and coffee farming in an integrated fashion with the coffee development. Currently the zone has planted new trees of coffee taking a lesson from the success of wheat cluster farming approaches in Ethiopia. The plan is to plant coffee using about 3,200 clusters where one cluster is about 20 ha of land. Hence, with this approach around 228,000 tons of coffee is expected from the Jimma zone only. Last year, Jimma zone produced 208,000 tons of coffee. Out of which 62,000 tons were exported. This year it is expected to grow to 93,000 tons. The productivity of coffee in Jimma zone is about 15 Quintals/hectare according to the central statistics but the zone believes that the productivity is 18 quintals/hectare. This year a good



number of farmers in 8 woredas have exported their coffee directly. Around 316 cooperatives also export to domestic as well as for local consumption. Country wide 302,000 tons of coffee has been exported. Out of this 67% is from Oromia and from that around 20-25% is from Jimma zone.

In terms of productivity at national level it is around 7 to 8%, while the productivity in the Jimma zone is around 15%. This is mainly because of the conducive environment, good technology adoption rate and out of the 44 new varieties provided by JARC, 26 of them are conducive for Jimma zone. The zone acknowledges that women are the majority in the coffee value chain but benefit the least. The zone is working to address this challenge. Women are more favorable in the sorting and harvesting of coffee. The zone encourages women to benefit from the coffee value chain. The zone also acknowledges that there are no women coffee cooperatives yet but plans to help women coffee farmers to establish one. In addition to that, climate change is also another challenge. The zone is approaching the challenge of climate change by using an integrated approach of forest management by ensuring that shades are used on all coffee plantations.

The next visit was at Jimma University. The team visited the college of agriculture and veterinary medicine and specifically the Jimma coffee research Center. Dr. Solomon Tulu, dean of the college, Prof. Gezahign, director of the international coffee research center in Jimma University and Mr. Tamiru, director of community services welcomed the team. The college is one of the oldest agricultural colleges in the country. Presentations were made by Mr Tamiru and Prof. Gezahign. Dr. Solomon started his presentation by informing the team that Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine is one of the oldest agricultural colleges in the country which was established in 1952 (70 years) in collaboration with Oklahoma state university (then Oklahoma Agricultural & Mechanical college) in the USA. The University was co-founded with the institute of health sciences in 1999. It is located near to the birthplace of coffee Arabica where the mosaic natural resources exist. JU is 350 Km from Addis Ababa and is near to Gilgel Gibe dams and UNESCO biosphere reserves.

The college has five overarching goals: Academic excellence, Excellence in research and technology transfer, Excellence in Community service and engagement, Internationalization and institutional collaboration and Transformation of institutional leadership and good governance. It has two institutes: International Institute of Coffee Research (IICR), Institute of biotechnology and one center: Center of plant and animal biotechnology. It also has 19 laboratories out of which 16 are wet labs and three are dry labs. The college has over 100 hectares of research farm including coffee, field crops, horticultural crops, agroforestry etc. The college works in the complete coffee value chain – from seedling to cup quality test. He then further talked about coffee. He said that coffee is life and livelihood in the Jimma zone. Each year the college distributes 150,000 seedlings to farmers. 90% of the work in seedling preparation, management and processing is performed by women.

Ethiopia has four biosphere reserves suitable for coffee based ecotourism. Two biosphere reserves (BR) were established in 2010: Kafa Biosphere Reserve in the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples region, Yayu coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve in the Oromia region, and Sheka forest (SNNP) established in 2012 and the fourth one Majang Forest (Gambella) established in 2017. The Yayu coffee forest biosphere reserve which was registered by UNESCO in 2010 has a total area of 167,021 ha out of which



the core is 27,733 ha, buffer: 21,552 ha and transition: 117,736 ha. The Kafa biosphere reserve was registered in 2010 with a total area of 540,631 ha: Core: 41,319 ha, Buffer: 161,427 ha and Transition: 337,855 ha. The Sheka forest biosphere reserve was registered in 2012 with a total area of 238,750 ha: Core: 55,255 ha, Buffer: 76,395 ha, Transition: 107,100 ha. The Majang forest biosphere reserve was registered in 2017 with a total area of 224,925 ha: Core: 43,882 ha, Buffer: 73,397 ha, Transition: 107,645 ha.



A welcome coffee ceremony at the Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine

Prof. Gezahign, briefed the team about the international institute of coffee research (IICOR) which compliments what the Jimma Agricultural Research Center is doing. The vision of IICOR is to be a center of excellence in coffee science in Ethiopia and beyond and its mission is to contribute to the holistic development of the country by advancing excellence in coffee science through integration of science knowledge and technology in its research, training and service. It has four objectives: Conduct cutting-edge as well as applied research on coffee along its value chain in multi(trans) disciplinary approaches, serve as local, regional and international reference or collaborative research institute for coffee research, provide consultancy services in the production, sustainable supply, postharvest handling and value addition, marketing and consumption of coffee and Support graduate programs at JU and partner institutions to make graduate research productive and problem solving.

The University works in various thematic research areas: Coffee biodiversity, Eco-physiology and ecosystem services, Coffee quality, & value addition, Coffee pests (diseases, insects and weeds), Coffee economics, marketing & policy, Modelling and scenario analysis in coffee, Coffee genetics, biotechnology and biosafety, Coffee history & sociology and Waste Management (e.g. Waste recycling). He said that the logo of the center shows that the center entails work on the social and anthropological aspects of coffee. It entails the social, political, technological and economical spheres of coffee. He said that there are 12,000 accessions of coffee in Ethiopia. The forty-four varieties produced by JARC come from the 12,000 accessories of coffee. In Ethiopia it is believed that 6mil ha of land is suitable for coffee farming. He then briefed the team about the projects the center is currently involved in. The center is currently working



on four coffee projects by PhD students: response of coffee to climate change: modeling suitability, insect pest distribution and assessment of livelihood vulnerability; climate change adaptations along the Ethiopian coffee value chain; effects of coffee forest management intensification on Arabica coffee (Coffee Arabica L.) yield, yield quality and wild coffee genetics resources and Incidence and Ecology of rust (*Hemileia vastatrix*) on wild Coffee Arabica in most Ethiopian mountain forests.

The center is also running an EU funded project called Coffee Action for Ethiopia. Finally, the director of the center proposed four areas of collaboration with the DeSIRA Women, Coffee and Climate project: Research and development, Joint innovation development and dissemination, Joint business making and Resource sharing. The next event was a wrap up and closing workshop with stakeholders which was held in Addis Ababa at the Groove Garden in Ghion Hotel. Various institutions from women, coffee, climate, agriculture sector actors participated in the event. The honorable guest of the closing event was H.E Spanish Ambassador to Ethiopia, Mr. Manuel Salazar Palma. The head of the Spanish cooperation, Mr. Mariano Fanjul gave his opening remarks and welcomed the participants and invited the Spanish Ambassador, Mr Manuel, to give a keynote address. H.E. Mr. Manuel expressed his pleasure to all the participants for attending the second international learning exchange visit of the Women, Coffee and Climate project organized by the Spanish cooperation and supported by the EU.



Wrap up and closing workshop at Groove Garden, Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa

In his keynote address, he mentioned that more than 70% in the coffee value chain in Ethiopia are women but they are not well represented in decision making and are not empowered and a lot needs to be done in this regard and because of this challenge the Spanish cooperation is very happy to support the DeSIRA research project which will work to address the challenge. He added the resilience of the coffee value chain in the face of climate change, empowering women through south-south cooperation is of prime importance. He noted that supporting Ethiopia's productive sector is the focus of the Spanish government. Climate change is a global phenomenon which needs global solutions and local adaptation mechanisms. He said that sustainable development without leaving anyone behind is our priority. Finally, he concluded by saying that the Spanish cooperation will continue to work with all coffee stakeholders to realize the objectives of the project and thanked the EU for the support.



The workshop was attended by various stakeholders in the coffee value chain. After the opening remarks by the Spanish Ambassador and the director of the Spanish cooperation in Ethiopia, a presentation on the gender strategy of Ethiopia and Honduras followed.

Mr. Fitsum from ECTA presented the Gender strategy for the coffee sector. He started by noting that although gender equality and fairness have been included in international and national policies, laws, strategies and plans, various studies including a field survey conducted by the authority show that it is still at a low level in terms of actual implementation process and benefits in Ethiopia. The coffee sector in the country, extension services, credit provision and access, provision of resources and technology are not gender-oriented, coffee development, value addition and marketing related to investment laws have no incentives for women. He also noted that there is also unbalanced gender composition. General attitudes about gender equality, low knowledge, skills and awareness have led to less women's access and participation.

Considering these challenges, the gender strategy has been prepared according to the direction set by the Director General of the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority to implement a gender equality strategy in the coffee sector in Ethiopia. The strategy was developed in collaboration with the EU-CAFE project. He said that it has been found necessary to prepare a gender equality strategy to make it as part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policies, strategies, laws, programs and projects issued by the sector in order to make it equally beneficial and fair by including the potential and knowledge of women and men in the sector.

The goal of the gender strategy is to ensure gender equality, fair use of resources and assurance of sustainable development in the sector. He further noted that the strategy was developed employing various methodologies: Desk Review was conducted to collect, organize and analyze national and international policies, strategies and studies regarding gender in the coffee sector. Data was gathered to evaluate the current status of gender equality in the sector, data was collected and analyzed in the field. KII, FGD and Questionnaire were used for data collection. Various documents of the Authority have been assessed. Field observations were conducted to find out the situation at the grassroots level. He then talked about the gender strategy.

He started by outlining the vision, which is to ensure equal participation and benefits of men and women (gender) in the coffee sector. The mission of the strategy is to establish and implement a gender inclusive system in the development and marketing of coffee continuously increasing production and productivity, improving quality, expanding effective processing industries and becoming competitive in the world market, increasing the foreign exchange required for economic growth and ensuring equal benefits for women and men at a higher level. The two strategic goals of the gender strategy are: 1) By 2030, women's participation and benefit in the development and marketing system will reach 100% 2) Gender equality is fully implemented in the structure of the sector.

The gender strategy has four objectives: 1) Objective 1: The decrees, regulations and guidelines issued in the sector will increase their participation by providing special incentives for women. 2) Objective 2: Gender mainstreaming is fully implemented in the sector structure. 3) Objective 3: Women's decision



making on land and other productive resources will increase. 4) Objective 4: The coffee research, extension and input system will be gender-responsive. The gender strategy has also designed intervention mechanisms for each of its objectives. For Objective one: Include special incentives for women in investment in coffee, marketing enforcement guidelines; organization of cooperatives, guidelines for the provision of credit services in the coffee, guidelines to engage in the work of resource providers and distributors;

For objective two: Develop and implement guidelines based on workplace gender policy; organizing and implementing the gender structure at every level; Establishing and strengthening institutions with similar interests and objectives through partnership; Appropriate inclusion of gender issues in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation process; promoting gender attitudes, knowledge, and skills;

For objective Three: Providing leadership skills, training and counseling services, enable adequate access during land allocation; Improving product and productivity of coffee farms, Train women farmers to use the savings and credit services, organize and use village savings and loan associations /VSLA/; Designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating projects that fill the gender gap and increase women's decision making on productive resources, Increasing the participation of women by capacity building trainings in coffee, tea and spices development and marketing.

For Objective Four: Ensuring that the extension service system is accessible and benefit to women; Working for women farmers to implement the whole package and take the lead; Promoting gender equality in coffee, tea and spice research practices; Conducting Gender Response and Status Study in Coffee, Tea and Spice Sector; Making the resource supply and use system inclusive of gender; Making the post-production handling and processing system of coffee, tea and spices gender-oriented. The gender strategy envisions implementing a monitoring and evaluation system. The system will be designed giving special attention to gender equality and will be conducted annually. He finalized his presentation by stressing the fact that in order to effectively implement the gender mainstreaming strategy of the sector, the authority should work in coordination and collaboration with various stakeholders and partners (like other government organizations, EUCAFE, Spanish Cooperation) by organizing trainings, workshops and seminars, using various media platforms to create awareness and by setting up forums for discussions on current development, value addition and marketing gender inclusion issues with renowned researchers, experts and entrepreneurs in the field.

The next presentation was by participants from Honduras. They presented the gender strategy for the coffee sector in Honduras. Currently the gender strategy is under implementation. The strategy envisages to address all gender gaps in the coffee sector by addressing challenges social, economically, technologically and politically. Women in the coffee sector have so many challenges in Honduras such as access to resources (financial. Legal, natural etc). The challenge of attracting young people to work in coffee farms. The first cup of excellence winner in Honduras was a 60 year old woman. The highest prize winner in the cup of excellence in Honduras is also a woman.

The workshop was completed by entertaining some comments and questions and answers. The importance of gender disaggregated data was raised by most participants. Participants said that gender



disaggregated data provides visibility into the issue of how women, girls and are impacted by various programmes and policies. It also helps to understand and design working policies by breaking it down into smaller subpopulations such as within school groups, within income levels, within resources availability etc. Another participant said that the problem starts from the household level. She asked how are you planning to address the issue at the household level. She said that women are in all the processes of coffee starting from farming, processing, roasting, cultivation, exporters, unions, wet processing, drying etc...Hence she said investing in women is increasing quality, increasing productivity and increasing export potential.

Lessons Learned

A questionnaire was share to the participants of the exchange visit to collect the lessons learned throughout the various activities and events in the six days and here are the responses of the participants:

- **Ethiopian Forestry Development:** The various institutions that we visited working in the coffee value chain from production, processing, quality control to export are very impressive. We had a chance to learn the current status of those activities in our country. The research activities mainly on coffee-by-products carried out by Jimma University (International Coffee Research Institute (ICoRI)) are encouraging. Until now the coffee by-products in Ethiopia are underutilized, burned, or thrown away contaminating the environment. EFD participants believe that it is important to support the university in order to advance the research and disseminate the results to wider and various stakeholders. We

have also visited that farmers are preparing compost from coffee husks and this should be properly promoted to other coffee growing farmers.



- **Ethiopia Women in Coffee:** EWIC participants learned from this visit how Ethiopian Women in coffee institutions need to be creative enough on how to work with the various stakeholders to find new and current innovations and relevant strategies to support women in coffee. For example, we were able to visit only one woman with her own coffee farm and wet mill. This was not enough. The woman said that over the past years she has suffered a lot as a result of lack of market access for her coffee. From what we heard from a single farmer we can imagine the challenge Ethiopia women coffee growers are going through. Another thing that we observed was how much the ECTA staff is motivated, starting from the director to the Zone level to support the coffee value chain. At JARC we observed that there is serious commitment to avail improved varieties to farmers working closely with the producing community in helping them understand the benefits of good agricultural practices. The farmers we visited are a true witness to the work done in changing mind-sets about women's role in the coffee value chain. We have



also witnessed that at the university level there is commitment to address issues without duplication of efforts with JARC and the vision to become the center for coffee research supported by technology which we have found to be very impressive.



EWIC members at a coffee tasting organized by ECTA

At Jimma Zone and Woreda administration level the motivation to do more work in supporting coffee producers to become more productive is promising, the regional ambition to export coffee directly from the source without supplying the central market is also interesting. The missing part we think is that JARC is doing a lot and needs additional support to do more to disseminate technologies and improved coffee varieties to the farmers and do more research as we have seen in other countries including Colombia. Another area that needs to be improved is to bring more women to the leadership area in the coffee sector.

- Ethiopia Coffee Tea Authority: Participants from the ECTA believe that Ethiopia is in a good position and has a lot of potential to improve and benefit from the coffee value chain from production to processing. ECTA believes that if the coffee community is properly supported, Ethiopia could be the leading coffee producer and supplier in the universe. ECTA also believes that Ethiopia also has potential in coffee production and value addition. It also acknowledges that it is the institution's duty to search for a market for women and men coffee producers. It believes that ECTA has learned a lot from the DeSIRA partner organizations and needs to work in collaboration with them and other state and non-state actors to realize women empowerment in the coffee sector as well as ensure climate change resilience coffee value chain in Ethiopia.
- Spanish Cooperation – Colombia: The OTC-Colombia has learned that there are joint problems, which, through the transfer of good practices adapted to each context can help in solving them. It has also



learned that the involvement and collaboration of the authorities that make decisions in the different areas is very important, so that the transfer of knowledge is really successful. The participants emphasized that despite the existence of gender policies, if work is not done to achieve a real empowerment of women, beginning with access to information, decision-making, leadership and economic autonomy, few real changes can be achieved. It also believes that the collaboration of actors and institutions that are involved in the exchanges, has very good potential of generating fruits in all areas of the coffee value chain.

Regarding gender policy, despite the efforts they are making, it is noticeable that not all the institutions are aligned around a single vision of the policy. The real benefits or incentives for women are not evident, since 70% of the coffee population and the harvest and post-harvest tasks are being carried out by women. The role of women in marketing processes is not reflected, despite the fact that the coffee authority grants women's associations registration to export, in practice it was not evidenced. There was no evidence of the training of women in tasting, barista, roasting processes and other links other than field work, unskilled labor.

- **Tecnicafe – Colombia:** Participants from Tecnicafe believe that drastic changes cannot be achieved just through technical approaches only. It is essential to have the local institutional decision so that the policies are adjusted in a participatory and inclusive manner without affecting other fundamental aspects of the coffee value chain in Ethiopia and thus generating greater competitiveness at a global level. The knowledge transfer processes must be adjusted to the local culture because misunderstandings can arise when the community feels that something is imposed on them. Trust-building processes are essential to achieve a public policy proposal that can be implemented, with respect for the customs, religion and practices of the society. Tecnicafe participants also believe that the rapprochements of participating institutions in Colombia and Ethiopia are weaving networks of trust. The positive collaboration of actors in the network allows the network to be expanded in the commercial, social, and environmental fields and facilitates the generation of good conditions to structure the proposed implementation and its subsequent management.
- **Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung (HRNS) Ethiopia:** Improving engagement of farmers is observed in coffee including quality management especially post-harvest handling where most quality defects occur in coffee; Emerging women coffee farmers in production management, processing and marketing (women are careful in coffee quality management). Some of the issues that are observed and need to be improved are: Market linkage support and communication gaps from government in general and specially for women coffee farmers is missing, The linkage between Ethiopian Women in Coffee and women coffee farmers is not strong enough.



Recommendations

The following recommendations were drawn from the participants of the exchange visit participating institutions:

- The coffee by-products utilization research activities being carried out by Jimma University is an eye opener to continue working in this line with different underutilized agricultural by-products and other organic waste materials in Ethiopia.
- During the visit to the coffee growing farmers, the main challenge they repeatedly mentioned is access to the market and market information. Therefore, responsible DeSIRA project partners have to provide empirical evidence on the existing market related challenges raised by coffee farmers, mainly women coffee farmers.
- The research and project activities should be shared to a wider stakeholder through workshops and other activities.
- Ethiopian Women in Coffee in collaboration with key stakeholders need to work on links with women coffee producers and their families.
- Governmental structures like ECTA and Cooperatives can help Ethiopian Women in Coffee in order to connect and serve the women in coffee at farm level.
- Government/ECTA/Zonal and Woreda leaders should work in close collaboration with the Ethiopian Women in Coffee association to address some of the issues related with women empowerment in the coffee sector.
- As we have seen from the previous visit it is possible to market more coffee and to do that we have to work on promotion, marketing, quality and productivity.
- ECTA and regional staff need to contribute more to support the efforts of coffee growers throughout the country.
- JARC needs to produce more research based seed varieties to be climate change resilient, disease resistant and improved productivity to be competitive at the international market.
- ECTA has to work to equip coffee farmers with recent coffee production and processing technologies. ECTA is also committed to revise its 2023 plan and include the lessons learned from the exchange visits in Ethiopia and Colombia.
- ECTA believes that they need to look for an export market in order to support farmers at all levels of the coffee value chain and the need to encourage investors to invest more in the coffee sector.
- Different studies have shown that a real empowerment of women not only generates changes for her and her family, but also for her community and therefore for society. Those stakeholders who are involved in the coffee value chain should work more to realize the empowerment of women in the sector.
- According to the available evidence, about 70% of the workforce in the coffee industry in Ethiopia are women, therefore if there is no real involvement of the Institutions in making action plans and allocating resources for implement the gender policy that allows a real empowerment



of women, beginning with access to information, decision-making, leadership, access to credit, direct marketing and real economic autonomy, little can be achieved.

- Coffee is a food, therefore, the entire chain must involve safety plans and how to avoid cross-contamination, it is an issue that must be worked on a lot in Ethiopia.
- There is a need to ensure close collaboration and partnership among institutions, academia and civil society organizations that work around coffee.
- Strengthening of the coffee cooperatives in Ethiopia and improving the services they provide to their members and providing small holder farmers with access to better technology can help to improve productivity in the sector.
- Women in Ethiopia are not well represented at various levels in the coffee value chain. Increasing the role of women in decision-making including at the board of directors levels is imperative.
- Ethiopia should work more in the exploitation and industrialization of coffee co-products.
- The opportunity to know other experiences from the institutional, cultural, regional, scientific; It allows one to make comparisons, which, although uncomfortable, can provide great experiences, such as recognizing that in the Colombian case, the union's institutionality has given coffee growing a particularly important economic and social context, to such an extent that the areas Colombian coffee makers are the most developed in the country.
- Gender policies in the three countries (Ethiopia, Colombia and Honduras) exist but in all the cases they are not yet mainstreamed within the value chain as they should be. More concrete and decisive actions need to be enacted for the implementation of the gender strategies. Likewise, there needs to be increased institutional support for grassroots women organizations, which require greater associative, technical, strategic, and organizational support.
- Technological development is essential to guarantee processes of traceability, control, and quality management of coffee. Institutions like Tecnicafe can help to advance the same with entrepreneurs in innovation technology to close gaps.
- Tecnicafe believes that continuing to position the Technology Park as a knowledge campus for knowledge transfer is a fundamental task that leads us to maintain certification processes with the highest quality standards.
- There is a need to align strategies to achieve common objectives of various institutions in the coffee value chain in order to benefit all the actors involved in the value chain.
- There is a need to improve processes in the commercial links since there is a partial ignorance of quality evaluation protocols, especially in the management of the spaces where the evaluations must be made, sample handling, grain moisture, roasting degrees, sample preparation ratios, asepsis, stainless steel equipment.
- It is not advisable to carry out a ritual, no matter how cultural and beautiful it may be, of preparing coffee in the Jebena, in the same space where the cupping is done, because there is cross contamination.
- Greater emphasis should be placed on production systems, which can be improved by placing clearer processes, especially in nutritional management. The fact that the coffee produced is strictly organic can also lead to commercial success.



- From the genetic point of view and taking advantage of the valuable potential that Ethiopia has, a range of proposals can be generated to obtain materials resistant to climate variability and change, which are a latent need in all producing countries.
- Ethiopia needs to continuously work in updating regional and national statistics on coffee and coffee growing in each region.
- The research systems approach, based on responding to phytosanitary problems, can have an improvement, through the inclusion of other processes that can determine different cultural management.
- It is necessary to give a more social emphasis, especially in the inclusion of women, to the cooperative sector, taking into account the cultural, political and religious situation of the environment. In this case, there is an invisibility of women in all the links of the chain, gender equality is not noticed.
- The added value and the use of coffee co-products will be a key tool in the generation of environmental practices and proposals for the generation of additional income, which will allow producers and the union sector to generate a much more ambitious commercial and economic strategy and be sustainable.
- The involvement of the academia in the different links of the coffee value chain is very weak, since there are excellent universities, scientific knowledge should be used more to propose better ones in the chain. Doctoral stays in countries such as Colombia and Honduras could be useful for generating processes of greater institutional empowerment and knowledge transfer.
- The involvement in the educational curriculum of rural schools of a special chair of coffee, can contribute to a large extent to the appropriation of knowledge, sense of belonging, generational integration, rural entrepreneurship.
- ECTA should work in creating more model farmers and upscaling them
- ECTA, EWiC should work towards encouraging women farmers for more beyond coffee and to coffee co-products
- The project should create an opportunity to arrange knowledge exchange visits for peer learning for farmers and cooperatives of our beneficiaries
- ECTA should work towards modernizing the whole coffee value chain to explore all the potential market options
- Strong institutional support to JARC primarily by the Ethiopian government (ECTA/MoA) and if flexible from donors (as coffee is a global commodity) for generation of innovative research results in coffee for farmers.
- JARC is established to improve what the country gets from coffee and it has not benefited from its work in coffee as much expected. ECTA and MoA should invest more in the activities of JARC which will benefit the country at the end of the day.



Proposed Topics for Further Exploration

The participants expressed the following topics to be explored further in the community of practice, and other activities of the project.

- Ethiopian Forestry Development
 - Provision of coffee marketing information and support for smallholder coffee growers, mainly women headed coffee producers.
 - Promotion of coffee by-products utilization and promotion of obtained achievements regarding the same from Ethiopia and Colombia. For Ethiopian case Prof. Gezahegn Berecha (Director of the International Coffee Research Institute (ICoRI) can be invited to present his experience at Jimma University.
 - Promotion on the implementation of a gender strategy prepared by ECTA.
 - Promotion of edible mushroom production using different by-products.
- Ethiopian Coffee Tea Authority
 - How to sustain the coffee value chain through programs using school childhood coaching and engaging youth and women in the coffee sector is very essential. Experiences from other countries could be explored further in the community of practice.
 - How to support women coffee farmers either individually or at association level.
- Ethiopian Women in Coffee:
 - Understanding the challenges of women coffee growers through similar exchange visits and also through the community of practice
 - How can Jimma Zone administration, JARC and Jimma University work collaboratively in order to address the various challenges in women empowerment, climate change resilience in the coffee sector both in conducting research as well as dissemination of findings.
 - The provision of export licenses to farmers and enabling them to use the opportunity requires a strategic approach. For instance, having an export facilitation and support office in their respective Woredas could be one approach to consider for ECTA through this project.
- Spanish Cooperation – OTC Colombia
 - Honduras has a very strong gender policy, and it would be very productive to see how it has been implemented and the achievements that have been realized so far.
 - Explore the various mechanisms or tools available to achieve greater productivity per hectare planted with coffee in the three countries.
 - Explore further the partnership among academia, the state and nonstate actors in the coffee value chain.
 - Stories of change regarding women coffee growers who can tell about their experiences and how they have managed to overcome the different barriers that have arisen, what help they have obtained from the government, cooperatives or other organizations.
- Tecnicafe



- o Do research and propose solutions on how to ensure that Ethiopian women can have a greater role in the coffee value chain.
- o Show successful experiences of women in coffee transformation processes from the three countries.
- o Explore the management of coffee co-products from Honduras coffee growers.
- o Visit Universities that carry out research processes in specific areas of coffee, in order to articulate, within the framework of specific agreements, collaborative work that can later be appropriated by the coffee communities.
- o During the exchange visit to Honduras, ensuring a broader participation of women, which better determines the experiences of the sector in this regard is essential.
- o Delving deeper into the problems faced by female coffee growers in Ethiopia through research activities and the community of practice
- Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung (HRNS) Ethiopia
 - o Model Farmers practice, Model Women coffee farmers practice
 - o Innovations/research from JARC in coffee production (tissue culture), disease resistance selection and quality (we may not do the research, but implement/practice the recommendations through skill training for our smallholder farmers),
 - o Product/crop diversification both for climate mitigation measures and household income improvements by creating alternative income options to sustain smallholders throughout the season.

Evaluation of the 2nd Exchange Visit

An open ended question to evaluate the second exchange visit was provided to participants and here is a summary of the responses.

- The second international exchange event was well organized and all planned activities were successfully implemented.
- It is necessary to have greater presence of institutions from each of the countries that work around coffee, to choose the most representative person per institution, and that there need to be representation of women coffee growers who consider themselves leaders in coffee in each of the countries so that they can share their experience and how they have managed to overcome the different barriers that have been witnessed.
- More women representation especially from coffee growers in Ethiopia so that they can witness the reality of coffee growing in other latitudes and achieve greater empowerment.
- It would have been even better if we had the opportunity to explore more creative and applicable approaches at various levels in the coffee value chain.
- Time management and/or allocating sufficient time for each activity needs to be improved during the planning stage.