



MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNIÓN EUROPEA Y COOPERACIÓN



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ETHIOPIAN COFFEE AND TEA AUTHORITY



**Women, Coffee and Climate:
Women’s empowerment for
socio-ecological resilience of
coffee value chain against
climate change in Ethiopia**

International Exchange

Visit Report: Honduras,

May 20 – 27, 2023

INTRODUCTION

This report encapsulates the rich learnings and experiences from the international exchange visit to Honduras, which transpired from May 20th to 27th, 2023. This event was facilitated under the DeSIRA project, coordinated meticulously by the Spanish Cooperation Agency for International Development (AECID) in Ethiopia. The delegation, composed of representatives from Ethiopia, Colombia and Spain, traversed the captivating terrains of Honduras to imbibe firsthand insights about its coffee sector and associated climate resilience strategies.

The Ethiopian delegation was a mosaic of individuals from various DeSIRA project partner institutions. This group included experts from the Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD), Jimma Agricultural Research Center, Ethiopian Tea and Coffee Authority (ECTA), Ethiopian Women in Coffee Sectoral Association (EWiC), Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA), and Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung (HRNS).

Marking the third international experience-sharing event under the thematic umbrella of "Women, Coffee, and Climate", the visit accentuated these critical aspects as integral components in the broader discourse around sustainable development and climate resilience. The trip's central objective was to facilitate a cross-pollination of ideas, insights, and best practices between Ethiopia, Colombia, and Honduras. The focal areas included coffee production methodologies, women's pivotal role in the coffee sector, and the impacts and adaptation strategies regarding climate change.

This international exchange visit was not just an academic exploration, but a socio-cultural confluence that aimed to weave together shared experiences, learnings, and common objectives from these diverse coffee-growing regions. The underlying objective was to contribute towards the global efforts for building more resilient coffee value chains and fostering gender equity in the face of a changing climate.

HONDURAS

As one delves into the rich tapestry of Honduras, it is impossible not to recognize the country's profound relationship with coffee. Situated in the heart of Central America, with a topography blessed with high-altitude ranges and fertile soils, Honduras has emerged as a powerhouse in the global coffee industry. These favorable geographical conditions, combined with the tropical climate, make the nation an ideal breeding ground for premium coffee.

The coffee industry, with its deep-rooted history, has played an instrumental role in shaping the economic and social fabric of Honduras. It accounts for a significant portion of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is a primary source of employment, particularly in rural areas. Coffee plantations, ranging from expansive estates to small, family-owned farms, are scattered across the nation, painting a breathtaking vista of lush greenery.

Honduras' coffee is renowned worldwide for its distinctive flavor profile. Each region imparts its unique touch to the beans. For instance, Copán's coffee exhibits a full body with hints of caramel and chocolate, while beans from Opalaca are revered for their citric acidity and aromatic qualities.

But the nation's coffee journey extends beyond cultivation. Honduras has demonstrated commendable strides in the coffee value chain, from post-harvest processes to marketing strategies, from research and development to sustainability measures. Organizations such as the Instituto Hondureño del Café (IHCAFE) play a pivotal role in advancing these efforts.

Moreover, Honduras' coffee industry is not just about the beans but the people behind them. The sector is witness to an increasing participation of women, contributing to gender equality and social empowerment.

As the world grapples with the repercussions of climate change, Honduras is leading the charge in implementing adaptive and resilient strategies in coffee cultivation. The country is at the forefront of research into climate-smart agricultural practices, focusing on the development of coffee varieties resistant to changing weather patterns and diseases.

In essence, Honduras' coffee sector is a remarkable amalgamation of traditional practices, innovation, and resilience, a testament to its enduring pursuit of excellence in the face of change. It offers a multitude of learnings for the global coffee community, making it a crucial destination for knowledge exchange and exploration.

LESSONS LEARNED

Women Pioneering Change in the Coffee Sector

Honduras' coffee sector is undergoing a dynamic shift, witnessing women's transformation from secondary roles to industry leaders shaping the entire coffee value

chain. This report chronicles our enriching encounter with the inspiring women driving this change during the DeSIRA project's international exchange visit.

Historically, coffee production in Honduras, as in many coffee-producing nations, was a male-dominated sphere. Women largely held supportive roles, primarily engaged in tasks such as sorting, cleaning, and packaging. Today, that landscape is evolving, with women managing coffee farms, influencing coffee tasting and grading, pioneering innovative research, and leading influential cooperatives.

This evolution has been galvanized by collective efforts from government entities, non-profit organizations, and private sector stakeholders. These bodies have spearheaded initiatives aimed at promoting female participation in the coffee sector, offering comprehensive training in agricultural techniques, business management, and leadership development. As a result, women have been equipped with the necessary skills to thrive within the coffee sector.

At the heart of this movement lies organizations like the Instituto Hondureño del Café (IHCAFE), showcasing their commitment to gender equity through a suite of programs designed to tackle challenges women face in the coffee sector, such as access to resources, land rights, and financial services. The positive impact of these programs was visible throughout our visit, with many women attributing their success to the support and education provided by IHCAFE and similar institutions.

Women-led coffee cooperatives have emerged as influential platforms, enabling women



to pool resources, negotiate superior market terms, and foster a community for experience and knowledge exchange. Far from being merely business ventures, these cooperatives foster a sense of empowerment and self-confidence among their members.

One such instance is AMUCAFE, the Honduran chapter of the International Women's Coffee Alliance (IWCA), committed to strengthening women's roles across the coffee value chain. During our visit, we met with AMUCAFE members, including Marysabel Caballero, a Cup of Excellence winner, whose family's well-managed coffee farm was a testament to the potential of women in enhancing coffee production and marketing value chains.



Similarly, we had the opportunity to visit COHORSIL, a women-led agricultural cooperative demonstrating the significant support cooperatives can offer coffee growers, from organizing their activities to accessing markets and increasing their bargaining power. Likewise, the RULAND coffee farm, run by a family

of four women, stood as a testament to strategic planning and sustainable practices, underscoring the potential of women-led enterprises in the sector.

The transformation and increasing representation of women in Honduras' coffee sector are both a reflection and a driver of the nation's evolving socio-cultural landscape. The insights from our visit underline the importance of gender equity for a robust and resilient coffee sector, offering valuable lessons to coffee-growing nations worldwide.

The Integral Role of Development, Research, and Policy Institutions in the Honduran Coffee Sector

As one of the world's leading coffee producers, Honduras has established a formidable network of government-led, private sector supported and non-profit institutions that collaborate to oversee the holistic development of its coffee sector. These institutions span across the aspects of coffee production, research, extension, and commercialization, and have demonstrated exemplary coordination and collaboration to drive sector-wide growth. The CONACAFE and IHCAFE institutions stand as prime examples of the country's effective orchestration of the coffee sector, which became apparent during our exchange visit.

The National Coffee Council, known as CONACAFE, has been entrusted with formulating coffee sector policies and orchestrating all activities pertaining to the industry. This government institution is comprised of representatives from various ministries and coffee sector organizations, which ensures a broad-based and inclusive approach to policy-making. Its strategic planning, regulation, and oversight



functions decisively shape the future of Honduran coffee by influencing aspects ranging from production techniques to pricing and marketing strategies.

Complementing CONACAFE's policy work is the Honduran Coffee Institute (IHCAFE), the nation's main research and extension institute for the coffee sector. With a staff of around 1000 people, IHCAFE undertakes the implementation of sustainable coffee policies. These policies are centered on enhancing productivity, promoting quality, diversification, and financing the coffee sector. IHCAFE's strength lies in its technical capabilities, facilitating its role in setting guidelines for the coffee value chain and overseeing coffee production and exports.



During our visit, we were particularly impressed by IHCAFE's notable efforts to improve productivity and the quality of coffee. The institute has undertaken comprehensive research on coffee rust and pests, tissue culture, and adopted effective strategies to combat these issues. Their focus on diversification as a tool to improve livelihoods and decrease vulnerability to climate change impacts also made a significant impression on us.

IHCAFE has further introduced various incentives to coffee producers, including plantation certificates, carbon sale, environmental footprint recognition, and payment for ecosystem services. These initiatives, in tandem with their dedicated coffee research and training centers, stand testament to IHCAFE's autonomous operations and significant role as a private sector entity in coffee education and research.

A characteristic strength of the Honduran coffee sector lies in the robust interplay between research and extension. IHCAFE researchers have cultivated a participatory approach, working closely with stakeholders throughout the entire process of problem identification, research undertakings, monitoring and evaluation, and technology dissemination. This inclusive methodology has led to a high adoption rate of new technologies and improved varieties.

Another key to the successful growth of the Honduran coffee sector is the thriving collaboration between government institutions and the private sector. A prime example of this synergy is the shared headquarters of CONACAFE and IHCAFE in Tegucigalpa. This dynamic collaboration has garnered widespread acknowledgment and appreciation

from the farms and businesses we visited, underlining the importance of these institutions in the nation's coffee sector.

Collectively, these robust institutions embody Honduras' commitment to continually advance its coffee industry, invest in research and development, and foster an environment that is conducive to all stakeholders within the coffee value chain. Their unique roles and responsibilities intertwine to ensure the development, competitiveness, and sustainability of the Honduran coffee sector.

Income Diversification Strategies for Coffee Growers in Honduras

In a world characterized by market unpredictability, climate change, and coffee crop diseases, income diversification has become a central strategy for coffee growers in Honduras. These diversification strategies play a crucial role in ensuring their financial stability and resilience. They allow farmers to safeguard their livelihoods, mitigate risks, and strengthen sustainability, in the face of volatile coffee prices and environmental challenges.

- **Embracing Crop Diversification**

One effective income diversification method among coffee growers is crop diversification. Coffee farmers often cultivate additional crops alongside coffee, either for consumption or sale, to provide an alternative income source during periods of low coffee prices or in the event of crop failure due to pests or unfavorable weather. Popular crops include vegetables, beans, maize, and fruits like bananas and avocados. This approach does not only bring in supplementary income, but it also contributes to food security for farming households and encourages healthier, more diverse diets.

- **Utilizing Natural Resources for Agrotourism**

In recent years, agrotourism has become a promising alternative for coffee farmers in Honduras to diversify their income. Many coffee farms are situated in regions with breathtaking natural beauty. Farmers have capitalized on this by offering farm tours, coffee tastings, and even accommodation. This approach provides an extra revenue stream and promotes the uniqueness and quality of Honduran coffee, thereby adding value to their primary product.

- **Value Addition and Product Diversification**

Another increasingly adopted diversification strategy by Honduran coffee growers is adding value to their coffee products. This could involve roasting and packaging their coffee for direct sales to consumers, or investing in machinery to further process their coffee beans. Some innovative farmers have also ventured into producing coffee-related products such as coffee liqueurs or beauty products made from coffee byproducts, allowing them to capture a larger portion of the coffee value chain and potentially increase their income.

- **Engaging in Services and Non-agricultural Activities**

Beyond farming, coffee growers often diversify their income by providing services or taking part in non-agricultural activities. This could include transportation services, carpentry, crafting artisanal products, or opening small local stores.

- **Rearing Livestock**

Rearing livestock is yet another viable income diversification strategy. It serves a dual purpose by providing additional income through the sale of milk, meat, or eggs, and contributes to farm resilience by enhancing soil fertility and reducing pest problems.

- **Forming or Joining Cooperatives**

Another effective strategy for income diversification is joining or forming cooperatives. Through collective marketing, cooperatives can assist farmers in accessing higher-value markets or negotiating better prices. Additionally, cooperatives often facilitate training and capacity-building activities, equipping coffee growers with new skills for diversification.

A Case Study: Mr. Victor Ventura

An exemplary illustration of successful income diversification is Mr. Victor Ventura, a model coffee farmer in Santa Elena, La Paz. In addition to coffee farming, Mr. Ventura and his family engage in carpentry and cloth handcrafting activities. They sell their



handcrafted products locally and at the airport, demonstrating the benefits of income diversification in promoting economic stability and climate resilience.

It's critical to understand that diversification strategies should be customized to the unique situations of individual farmers and communities. Elements such as access to resources, market linkages, skills, and local agroecological conditions should be considered when devising suitable and sustainable diversification strategies. Additionally, diversification efforts should be supported by conducive policies and adequate institutional backing to ensure their effectiveness.

Stringent Quarantine Measures for Coffee Protection in Honduras

Honduras recognizes the significant economic value of its coffee sector and understands the potential risks posed by pests and diseases. As a result, the country has implemented stringent biosecurity protocols to safeguard its coffee resources from introduced threats.

Upon arrival in Honduras, both personal belongings and luggage undergo thorough inspections at the airport. These procedures are critical to prevent the inadvertent introduction of pests or diseases that could jeopardize the health of the country's coffee crops. This rigorous approach serves as a stark reminder of the importance of adopting similar stringent protocols in other coffee-producing nations, such as Ethiopia.

In addition to these preventative measures at points of entry, concerted efforts are undertaken within the country to protect and maintain the health of coffee crops. A range of practices, including the diligent disinfection of coffee plants and the implementation of protective measures against diseases, are key components of Honduras' comprehensive strategy to secure its valuable coffee sector.

The seriousness with which Honduras approaches these biosecurity measures highlights the importance the country places on the health and sustainability of its coffee industry. These measures, while rigorous, are essential to the continued prosperity of the coffee sector and underscore the necessity of maintaining strict quarantine procedures to protect against the introduction and spread of harmful pests and diseases.

A commendable innovation in Honduras's coffee sector is the implementation of non-chemical methods to guard against coffee pests. This approach, pioneered by the researchers at the Instituto Hondureño del Café (IHCAFE), exhibits an impressive commitment to sustainable farming practices. They have successfully developed and applied pest management strategies that avoid the use of potentially harmful chemicals,

a remarkable feat that underlines their dedication to both the health of the coffee crops and the broader ecosystem.

Agroforestry and Shade Management in Honduran Coffee Farming

A crucial element of forest management in Honduras is the practice of agroforestry, which has deep roots in the nation's farming traditions. This practice significantly influences the management of coffee plantations, integrating various tree species into the agricultural landscape to enhance biodiversity and provide ecological benefits.

Within the Honduran coffee farming community, shade trees have emerged as an essential element. They offer numerous advantages, which include the creation of a beneficial microclimate that moderates extreme temperatures and minimizes evaporation, aiding in moisture conservation - a vital aspect for coffee plants. In addition, these trees play a crucial role in soil erosion control, contributing to organic matter buildup and promoting nutrient recycling, leading to enriched soil fertility.

An interesting practice among Honduran coffee farmers is the integration of multipurpose and high-value timber trees into their coffee plantations. These trees not only offer shade but also create an alternative revenue stream for farmers who can sell the timber or the fruit, depending on the species of tree. Species such as Inga, commonly used in Honduran agroforestry systems, have the added benefit of nitrogen-fixing, thereby enhancing soil fertility to the advantage of the coffee plants.

We learned that the choice of shade tree species has little to no significant effect on the yield and quality of coffee in Honduras. This is a noteworthy revelation as it suggests farmers have the flexibility to incorporate high-value timber species without compromising their primary crop's output or quality. It further paves the way for diversification and offers resilience against potential disruptions in the coffee market or climate-related adversities.

Organizations such as the Honduran Coffee Institute (IHCAFE) encourage the use of agroforestry practices by providing technical support and extending services to farmers. They disseminate knowledge about optimal agroforestry practices, covering the most suitable combination of tree species, planting methods, and best management practices.

In Honduras agroforestry practices offer direct benefits to coffee production and income diversification, but they also significantly contribute to environmental sustainability. They improve biodiversity, capture carbon, and boost the farming system's resilience

against the impacts of climate change - all critical objectives in today's era of escalating environmental challenges.

We had the opportunity to learn that the marriage of agroforestry practices and the strategic use of shade trees creates a sustainable and effective model for coffee farm management in Honduras. This approach is a significant aspect of the country's coffee sector, enhancing its economic sustainability and environmental resilience.

Sustainable Coffee Farm Management Practices in Honduras

Coffee farming in Honduras is characterized by unique and efficient management practices that significantly contribute to the sustainability of this crucial sector. Central to these practices is the philosophy of "Renew without stopping production," which focuses on maintaining or increasing productivity levels without negatively impacting the environment or the quality of coffee.

In the quest for sustainable coffee production, Honduran coffee growers have adopted a strategic approach to pruning and stumping coffee plants. This involves selectively cutting back the plant without completely removing it, thereby ensuring that coffee yield is not interrupted. This method of pruning and stumping is meticulously timed and carefully implemented across the entirety of the coffee farms.

The technique involves stumping the coffee plant - cutting it back to the main trunk to encourage the growth of new branches. This method is performed so that not all stems are removed at once, allowing the plant to continue producing while rejuvenating.

The main benefit of this strategy is to maintain a productive and healthy coffee plant. Over time, coffee plants can become less productive and more susceptible to diseases and pests. Strategic pruning and stumping allow growers to manage these issues effectively, ensuring the plant's longevity, maintaining yield, and, most importantly, guaranteeing the quality of the beans.

This strategy is beneficial from an economic standpoint as well. The continuous yield prevents income loss during the plant's rejuvenation period. The increased productivity from the renewed plants often results in improved financial returns for the farmers in the long run.

Given the proven effectiveness of this approach in Honduras, it presents an exciting area of study for researchers in other coffee-growing countries such as Ethiopia. By

examining these methods in depth, researchers could evaluate the potential adaptability and effectiveness of such practices in their local contexts.

In addition to the strategic pruning and stumping, other sustainable farm management practices are also common in Honduras. These include the use of shade trees, as part of agroforestry systems, and practices like cover cropping and composting that enrich the soil and enhance its fertility, all contributing to a more sustainable and resilient coffee sector.

The sustainable coffee farm management practices in Honduras, particularly the method of "Renew without stopping production," present a viable model for continuous coffee yield without compromising environmental sustainability or the quality of the beans. These practices underline the country's commitment to preserving its rich coffee heritage while protecting its precious natural resources, ensuring the resilience and sustainability of the sector for generations to come.

Coffee Processing and Export in Honduras: A Visit to Beneficio de Café Montecristo (BECAMO)

Honduras has developed an efficient system for processing and exporting coffee, ensuring its flavorful beans reach markets around the world. A remarkable testament to this efficient system is the Beneficio de Café Montecristo (BECAMO), a leading coffee exporter in Honduras.

Our delegation had the opportunity to visit BECAMO, which provided us with an insightful perspective into the country's coffee processing and export system. BECAMO is renowned for its diligent practices that maintain high-quality standards while ensuring traceability throughout the coffee's journey from farm to cup.

What stood out at BECAMO was their commitment to sustainability and innovation. They employ eco-friendly, biodegradable polythene bags (ECOAI) for coffee seedling production. These cost-effective bags not only reduce the environmental impact but also offer a practical solution for nurturing healthy coffee seedlings, thereby ensuring the continued high quality of Honduran coffee. This best practice by BECAMO is a notable innovation that other coffee-growing countries could potentially adopt.

Quality control is a vital component of BECAMO's coffee processing operations. The beans are meticulously inspected, with defective beans removed. This grading process categorizes the beans based on size, weight, and physical imperfections, ensuring only the highest-grade coffee beans are selected for export.

Upon final processing and grading, the coffee beans are packaged for export. Honduras primarily exports its coffee as green beans, which are then roasted and packaged in importing countries. The United States and Germany are the primary markets, but Honduran coffee also finds significant markets in Belgium, France, and Italy.

The coffee production, processing, and export system in Honduras, as exemplified by BECAMO, is a complex yet efficient operation that consistently delivers high-quality coffee. This commitment to quality, sustainable practices, and traceability reflects the vital role the coffee sector plays in the Honduran economy and the livelihoods of its coffee farmers.

Fostering Future Resilience: The Honduran Coffee Sector's Investment in Youth and Women

In Honduras, coffee farming transcends a mere commercial activity; it's a tradition, a family legacy passed down through generations, and a vital thread in the fabric of the country's culture. The continuity and prosperity of the coffee industry rest heavily on the collective dedication and skills of Honduran families, each member contributing significantly to coffee production. Within this tapestry of familial and communal endeavors, two groups stand out for their crucial roles - the youth, representing the future of the sector, and women, pillars of its present and sustainability.

- **The Promise of Youth Engagement**

During our delegation's visit, Marysabelle's farm and processing facility provided a compelling glimpse into the future of the coffee industry. Marysabelle and her husband epitomize the collaborative family effort essential to successful coffee farming. Their commitment to quality and their hands-on approach serve as a model for the coffee-producing community. However, what truly resonated was their emphasis on preparing the next generation, particularly their son, for future leadership. Such efforts underscore the importance of actively engaging the youth and equipping them with the requisite knowledge and skills for the industry's sustainability.

Investing in the youth is more than just securing continuity; it's about infusing the industry with innovation, fresh perspectives, and an understanding of modern market dynamics, technological advancements, and sustainability trends. By fostering youth participation, we ensure not only the transfer of knowledge across generations but also the incorporation of new ideas crucial for the sector's growth and resilience.

- **Women: Crucial Contributors to the Coffee Value Chain**

The commendable inclusivity demonstrated by the Honduran coffee sector stands out, particularly in terms of women's visible and substantial contributions. Women are the backbone of coffee production, engaging in every step from cultivation to cup. They plant, nurture, harvest, process, manage finances, and handle the marketing, demonstrating their multifaceted role in the industry.

The remarkable achievements of these women have the potential to inspire those working within the Ethiopian coffee sector. Their success stories could stimulate Ethiopian women to explore and seize new opportunities within their local coffee industry, thus fostering its growth and long-term sustainability.

Our journey into the heart of Honduran coffee culture took us to Las Vegas, a location that truly embodies the concept of inclusive growth. Here, at a family-owned coffee farm, each family member had a distinct role in the value chain, irrespective of age or gender. Their transformation from humble coffee farmers to specialty coffee producers and café owners illustrates the potential for economic advancement and diversification within the coffee industry.

A shining example of the power of education within this sector is evident at FINCAS RULAND. This family-operated coffee farm is managed by a woman who holds a Master's degree. Her knowledge and expertise have undoubtedly enhanced the farm's efficiency and encouraged the adoption of innovative technologies. Another family member, also a Master's degree holder, leads the roasting and marketing operations. Their leadership exemplifies how education, especially among women, can drive the coffee sector forward, streamlining processes and adopting innovation. Women's education and empowerment are thus instrumental in shaping the future of this industry.

The resilience of the Honduran coffee sector is rooted in its effective engagement of both youth and women. This inclusive strategy ensures a vibrant industry while fostering a community equipped to tackle future challenges. The lessons from Honduras - nurturing future leaders among the youth, tapping into the potential of women, and promoting inclusive growth - offer valuable insights for coffee sectors globally. By engaging all segments of society, we can shape a sustainable and successful future for the coffee industry.

Government Engagement and Public-Private Partnerships: Key Contributors to the Success of the Honduran Coffee Sector

A remarkable aspect of the Honduran coffee industry that stood out during our exploration was the proactive involvement of the local government administration in coffee-related matters. This was particularly evident in our visit to the Marcala Department, where we witnessed firsthand the supportive role played by both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Our visit to the Catracha and a family farm was graced by the presence of the Deputy Mayor, signifying the local administration's commitment to coffee production. Such involvement of local government officials underscores the importance attributed to the coffee sector and its influence on local economies.

Furthermore, the hospitality extended to us by the Mayor of Marcala City was another testimony to the government's commitment to the coffee industry. During our meeting, the Mayor expressed unreserved support for the coffee sector, reflecting the deep understanding within the local government of the industry's significant role in job creation, economic growth, and community development.

Public-Private Partnerships: Fostering a Flourishing Coffee Sector

A thriving coffee sector is not a product of isolated efforts but the result of synergistic collaboration among various stakeholders. In this context, public-private partnerships (PPPs) are vital. They enable a collaborative environment where each player – government bodies, private entities, and coffee producers – can contribute to the success of the industry.

In Honduras, these PPPs have proven to be invaluable. They ensure the provision of technical support, knowledge sharing, and resource allocation, which are critical for enhancing coffee productivity, quality, and sustainability. Such partnerships also facilitate policy development and implementation that favor the coffee sector's growth and stability.

In conclusion, the meaningful involvement of government administration and the fostering of public-private partnerships are integral components of the successful Honduran coffee sector. These elements provide a robust support network that empowers coffee growers, promotes industry growth, and contributes to sustainable community development. They serve as excellent models for other coffee-growing countries looking to strengthen their coffee industries.

Technology Transfer and Job Creation: The Role of Model Farmers and Organizations in the Honduran Coffee Sector

The Honduran coffee industry showcases an effective system for technology transfer and job creation, facilitated through the instrumental roles played by model farmers and organizations such as IHCAFE and Catracha.

- **Model Farmers: Teachers, Trainers, and Job Creators**

In the realm of technology transfer, model farmers occupy a central role. These farmers, equipped with advanced knowledge and skills, function as teachers and trainers within their communities. They maintain a direct line of communication with researchers and agricultural experts, keeping abreast of the latest technologies and methodologies in coffee farming. Through this process, they become effective conduits for transferring knowledge and innovative farming practices to their neighbors and other interested parties.

Model farmers also significantly contribute to job creation. They hire a substantial number of both permanent and temporary workers for various roles in their farms, from coffee harvesting to processing. In doing so, they contribute to unemployment reduction and help foster sustainable rural economies.

- **IHCAFE: A Catalyst for Quality Technology Transfer**

The Honduran Coffee Institute (IHCAFE) has emerged as a standout organization for its exceptional work in quality technology transfer. A standout initiative by IHCAFE involves providing cupping training to the farmers. The program is designed to improve coffee quality by helping growers better understand how their farming practices impact the taste of their beans. To reduce the financial burden on farmers, IHCAFE generously covers half the cost of this training.

IHCAFE's efforts not only facilitate technology transfer but also create employment opportunities, especially for young people. This significantly contributes to reducing the unemployment rate in the country.

- **Catracha: Fostering the Next Generation of Coffee Professionals**

Catracha Coffee, a social enterprise, offers an exemplary model for technology transfer. They provide school students with training and opportunities to work alongside their family members on the farm. This early exposure to coffee farming helps cultivate the

next generation's interest and skills in the coffee business, ensuring the industry's long-term sustainability.

In conclusion, the effective use of technology transfer and job creation strategies in the Honduran coffee sector contributes significantly to its growth and sustainability. By leveraging the expertise of model farmers and the support of dedicated organizations, the country is building a robust and future-ready coffee industry.

Systematic Farmer Tracking: A Vital Tool for the Honduran Coffee Sector

A remarkable feature of the Honduran coffee sector is the implementation of a comprehensive and systematic coffee farmers mapping system. This strategic approach to tracking and documenting farmers and their farming activities holds multiple benefits for the sector's growth, sustainability, and the quality of its coffee production.

- **A Framework for Efficient Management and Decision-Making**

At its core, this robust mapping system serves as an operational management tool. It maintains a detailed record of all coffee farmers within the country, their location, the size of their farms, the types of coffee varieties they grow, and their farming practices. By collating this extensive data, the mapping system offers a comprehensive overview of the entire coffee production landscape in Honduras.

With this precise information at hand, the Honduran coffee sector can make informed decisions regarding resources allocation, capacity building programs, and policy formulation. The mapping system aids in identifying regions requiring specific interventions, types of coffee varieties popular among farmers, and prevalent farming practices, among others. Consequently, it allows for targeted actions and the efficient use of resources.

- **Enhancing Traceability and Quality Assurance**

The systematic farmer tracking also enhances traceability – a crucial aspect in today's coffee market, where consumers are increasingly concerned about the origin of their coffee and the practices employed in its production. With the mapping system in place, stakeholders along the supply chain, from roasters to consumers, can trace the coffee back to its farm of origin. This traceability not only fosters transparency but also builds consumer trust and allows farmers to potentially fetch higher prices for their beans.

Moreover, the farmer mapping system plays a vital role in maintaining and improving the quality of Honduran coffee. It enables the tracking of coffee quality back to individual farmers, helping identify practices that result in superior or inferior quality. These insights can then be utilized to inform training programs, enhance farming practices, and overall, uplift the standard of coffee production in the country.

In conclusion, the systematic tracking of coffee farmers in Honduras has proven to be a vital tool for managing the sector more efficiently, ensuring quality, and promoting transparency. It stands as an example of how effective use of data can transform an industry and enhance its competitiveness on the global stage.

Out Growers' Scheme Implementation: A Success Story in the Honduran Coffee Sector

In Honduras, one of the key strategies employed to bolster the coffee sector is the implementation of the Out Growers' Scheme. This model has been pursued with significant emphasis, and it has fundamentally transformed the coffee industry in the country, empowering smallholder farmers and enhancing overall production and quality.

The Out Growers' Scheme is a contractual farming arrangement where smallholder farmers grow and supply coffee to a larger farming entity or a processing company. The larger entity typically provides the smallholders with essential inputs such as seedlings, fertilizers, and technical assistance, while the smallholders commit to selling their coffee crop to the entity.

This model ensures a steady supply of coffee for the larger entities while providing smallholders with guaranteed markets for their produce, access to credit, and agricultural expertise, often leading to improved yield and income.

The Out Growers' Scheme has made a profound impact on the Honduran coffee sector. It has been instrumental in integrating smallholder farmers into the broader coffee value chain, thereby fostering inclusivity and broad-based growth.

- **Improved Productivity and Quality:** By giving smallholder farmers access to high-quality inputs and technical assistance, the scheme has boosted coffee productivity and quality. This is especially critical in Honduras, where the majority of coffee is grown by smallholders who may lack resources and expertise.
- **Economic Empowerment:** The scheme provides farmers with a secure market for their coffee, shielding them from market price fluctuations and ensuring a stable

income. This stability has significant implications for the livelihoods of these farmers and their families.

- **Sustainable Farming Practices:** Many Out Growers' Schemes also place an emphasis on sustainable farming practices, providing training and support for organic farming, soil conservation, and other environmentally-friendly practices. This focus is helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Honduran coffee sector and the land on which it depends.
- **Building Relationships and Trust:** The scheme fosters long-term relationships and trust between farmers and the larger entities, encouraging collaboration and mutual growth. It also strengthens connections between Honduran coffee growers and the global market, enhancing the sector's competitiveness.

The Out Growers' Scheme implementation in Honduras offers a compelling model of a win-win partnership between smallholder farmers and larger entities. The success of this scheme is testament to its potential as a powerful tool for achieving sustainable, inclusive growth in the coffee sector and beyond.

RECOMMENDATION

1. **Document and Implement Best Practices:** Document and prioritize the best practices observed in Honduras and consider implementing them in Ethiopia. Organize awareness creation forums such as webinars and seminars to disseminate these practices among coffee stakeholders.
2. **Half-Day Seminar for Policymakers:** Host a half-day seminar for high-level policymakers, such as State ministers or directors of related institutions, to present primary findings and recommendations. This will ensure that key recommendations reach decision-makers and promote effective policy implementation.
3. **Collaborative Project Development:** Select relevant topics for future collaborative project development between different stakeholders in the coffee sector. Encourage partnerships and joint initiatives to address specific challenges and drive sustainable development.
4. **Digital Networking Platform:** Establish a digital networking platform that facilitates the exchange of innovative ideas and successful practices. This platform can connect coffee professionals, researchers, and stakeholders, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing.
5. **Integration into Women in Coffee Ethiopia Initiative:** Integrate the knowledge and lessons gained from the trip into the Women in Coffee Ethiopia initiative. Share insights with the coffee-producing community and other participants in the coffee value chain to empower and support women's involvement in the sector.

6. **Strengthen Cooperatives:** Focus on establishing effective cooperatives for coffee producers, maximizing benefits for both producers and the nation as a whole. Cooperatives can provide support, training, and market access for farmers, enhancing their competitiveness and collective bargaining power.
7. **Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation:** Conduct further research into adaptive and mitigation strategies to tackle climate change impacts on the coffee sector. Identify innovative approaches to enhance resilience and sustainability in the face of changing climatic conditions.
8. **Dissemination of Pest Management Technologies:** Disseminate pest management technologies developed by the IHCAFE Research Center to other coffee-growing countries. Collaboration and knowledge-sharing can help address common challenges and promote sustainable pest control practices.
9. **Household-Based Approach to Technology Utilization:** Adopt a household-based approach to promote sustainable technology utilization in the coffee sector. Provide awareness creation training to heads of households and family members, including husbands, wives, and children, to ensure effective adoption and utilization of technologies.
10. **Inclusive Development Approach:** Offer agricultural technology training, specifically in coffee, to men, women, and younger family members. This inclusive approach promotes sustainable development in the coffee sector and contributes to the overall economic progress of developing nations reliant on agriculture.
11. **Commitment to Coffee Quality:** Emphasize the importance of diligent and consistent efforts to enhance coffee quality. Foster a commitment to quality at every stage of production, from farm to packaging, involving all stakeholders in the coffee sector.
12. **Expansion of Training Centers:** Consider expanding training centers for coffee production and management in major and potential coffee-growing areas in Ethiopia. Provide cupping training opportunities for young people to address youth unemployment issues and cultivate a skilled workforce in the coffee industry.
13. **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:** Strengthen gender equality and women's empowerment across all regions of the country. Support initiatives that empower men, women, and young individuals, recognizing their vital role in national development and the coffee sector.
14. **Foster Public-Private Partnerships:** Encourage partnerships between private companies and coffee producers to improve coffee quality. These collaborations can support producers in adopting best practices, enhancing their competitiveness, and accessing markets for high-quality coffee.
15. **Enhance Market Linkages:** Facilitate better market linkages for coffee growers by establishing direct trade relationships with international buyers and promoting specialty coffee certifications. This can help increase market access, improve price transparency, and create opportunities for premium pricing.

16. **Strengthen Research and Development:** Invest in research and development initiatives focused on coffee production, processing, and quality improvement. This includes studying new farming techniques, disease-resistant varieties, and sustainable practices to enhance productivity and competitiveness.
17. **Promote Access to Finance and Credit:** Support coffee growers in accessing affordable finance and credit facilities to invest in their farms, adopt new technologies, and improve their productivity. This can be done through partnerships with financial institutions and the development of tailored financial products for the coffee sector.
18. **Strengthen Extension Services:** Enhance extension services and agricultural advisory support for coffee growers, particularly in remote and underserved regions. This includes providing technical training, agronomic guidance, and access to information on best practices, pest management, and climate-smart farming techniques.
19. **Encourage Climate-Smart Farming:** Promote the adoption of climate-smart farming practices, such as agroforestry, soil conservation, water management, and renewable energy solutions. These practices can help coffee growers mitigate climate change impacts, enhance resilience, and contribute to environmental sustainability.
20. **Support Organic and Sustainable Certification:** Facilitate organic and sustainable certification processes for coffee growers, enabling them to access premium markets and cater to the growing demand for environmentally and socially responsible products. Provide technical assistance and training to help farmers meet certification requirements.
21. **Strengthen Quality Control and Certification Systems:** Enhance the capacity of quality control and certification systems to ensure consistent adherence to international standards. This includes investing in infrastructure, equipment, and training to improve cupping, grading, and traceability practices.
22. **Foster Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange:** Encourage collaboration and knowledge exchange between coffee growers, researchers, and industry stakeholders through workshops, conferences, and networking events. This promotes learning, innovation, and the sharing of best practices across the coffee value chain.
23. **Promote Sustainable Water Management:** Encourage sustainable water management practices in coffee farming, including efficient irrigation systems, rainwater harvesting, and watershed protection. This supports water conservation, reduces environmental impact, and ensures long-term water availability for coffee production.
24. **Advocate for Policy Support:** Advocate for policies that support the sustainable development of the coffee sector, including favorable taxation, access to land and resources, and incentives for sustainable farming practices. Engage with policymakers to create an enabling environment for coffee growers and facilitate sector growth.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our exploration of the Honduran coffee sector has provided valuable insights and learnings that can be applied to the development and enhancement of the Ethiopian coffee industry. Honduras serves as an exemplary model in various aspects of coffee production, from sustainable farming practices to inclusive engagement of youth and women, technological innovation, and effective public-private partnerships.

The Honduran coffee sector's success can be attributed to a combination of factors, including the commitment of coffee growers, the support of government institutions, the involvement of research and development organizations like IHCAFE, and the active participation of private entities and cooperatives. These stakeholders have worked collaboratively to promote sustainable practices, enhance coffee quality, and foster economic growth.

One of the key takeaways from our visit is the significance of youth engagement and involvement. The Honduran coffee sector has effectively harnessed the potential of the younger generation by providing them with knowledge, training, and opportunities for leadership roles. By integrating the ideas and perspectives of the youth, the industry has embraced innovation, adaptability, and a forward-looking approach.

Additionally, the prominent role of women in the Honduran coffee sector cannot be overlooked. Women are involved in every aspect of coffee production, from farm management to processing and marketing. Their empowerment and active participation contribute to the growth, sustainability, and gender equality within the coffee value chain.

Furthermore, the adoption of sustainable farming practices, such as agroforestry, shade tree management, and water conservation, demonstrates the sector's commitment to environmental stewardship and resilience in the face of climate change. The emphasis on organic and sustainable certifications, as well as the use of innovative technologies, highlights the importance of quality, traceability, and meeting international standards.

To capitalize on the lessons learned from Honduras, we recommend a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Ethiopian coffee industry. This strategy should include targeted capacity-building programs, knowledge transfer initiatives, strengthened research and extension services, improved market linkages, enhanced access to finance, and the establishment of supportive policies and regulations. Emphasis should also be placed on youth empowerment, gender equality, and environmental sustainability.

It is crucial to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders, both domestically and internationally, to promote continuous learning, innovation, and the sharing of best practices. Platforms such as webinars, seminars, and digital networking can facilitate these exchanges and create opportunities for meaningful partnerships.

Ultimately, by adopting a holistic and inclusive approach, Ethiopia has the potential to create a thriving and sustainable coffee industry that benefits all stakeholders, supports rural development, and contributes to the country's economic growth. The journey of transformation begins with the commitment to learn, adapt, and implement the lessons and recommendations derived from our exploration of the Honduran coffee sector.

In summary, the third learning exchange trip to Honduras was a resounding success, achieving its objectives of exploring advancements in coffee research, women's empowerment, climate developments, marketing, and extension efforts. The selected institutions, coffee farms, exporters' yards, and laboratories showcased Honduras's comprehensive progress in the coffee sector.

The meticulous planning and execution of the program ensured seamless progress, thanks to the exceptional coordination by Karla Maria Calidonio. Her dedication and availability played a crucial role in the smooth implementation of the activities.



We extend our appreciation to the AECID office in Ethiopia for their exceptional organization and coordination, mirroring their successful handling of the Colombian trip. The contributions of project coordinator Aurora Martin Martin were instrumental in planning the visit, coordinating administrative tasks, and ensuring efficient visa processing and travel arrangements. Her efforts resulted in a seamless international travel experience to Honduras.

The DeSIRA project, led by AECID, has made wise choices in selecting both Colombia and Honduras, along with their respective institutions, CONACAFE and TECNICAFE, for the learning exchange trips. These countries have demonstrated remarkable progress and valuable insights for the development of the Ethiopian coffee industry.

The knowledge and experiences gained from the Honduran trip, combined with the insights from Colombia, will be instrumental in shaping the future of the Ethiopian coffee sector. By implementing the recommendations gathered from these learning exchanges, Ethiopia can foster sustainable practices, youth engagement, gender equality, technology transfer, and public-private partnerships to ensure a thriving and resilient coffee industry.

Overall, the successful journey to Honduras has laid a solid foundation for collaboration and knowledge exchange among coffee-producing nations. With ongoing efforts and dedication, Ethiopia can harness the potential of its coffee sector, create new opportunities for its coffee growers, empower women and youth, and contribute to sustainable economic development and environmental stewardship.

ANNEX

- Link to various media outreach
- Interviews and testimonials
- Maps of coffee growing region in Honduras
- Selected photographs
- Presentations



WOMEN, COFFEE, AND CLIMATE: WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT FOR SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE OF COFFEE VALUE CHAIN AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN ETHIOPIA

AGENDA 20th to 27th May

III WOMEN, COFFEE AND CLIMATE EXCHANGE

SATURDAY 20 MAY

- 12.00 mReceipt at Airport
- 12.50 pm Passenger arrival Colombia
- 5.55 pm Passenger arrival Ethiopia

- 6.00 pm Transfer to Marcala according to arrival
- 8.00 pm Installation Hotel Frismann; Colonia Melgar Castro, Calle Principal , Marcala
- 8.30 pm Dinner local restaurant

SUNDAY 21 MAY

- 07:00am - 08:00am Breakfast at the hotel
- 08:10am - 09:15am Transfer to Santa Elena, La Paz
- 09:25am - 12:00am Visit Santa Elena, La Paz
 - Community Project with Catracha Coffee.
 - Tour of the facilities
 - Walk and visit to producer Víctor Ventura and Family
 - Small snack at the Ventura family home.
 - Visit to bocachi composting plant
- 12:30 pm - 1:30pm Lunch and conversation at Catracha Coffee house at village
- 1:40 pm - 2:50pm Return to Marcala
- 3:00 pm - 5:00pm Discussion on the role of women in the coffee value chain in Ethiopia, Colombia and Honduras.
Venue: HOUSE OF CULTURE
- 6:00pm - 7:30pm Dinner Cafeteria Aroma Café
Owner: Nancy Hernández , AMUCAFE



MONDAY 22 MAY

- 06: 30am Departure for Finca el Puente
Owner: Marysabel Caballero COE Winner 2016 // AMUCAFE
- 07.00 am Arrival at Finca
- 07.00 - 08.00 am Traditional Breakfast, Courtesy Marysabel and family
- 08.00 - 08.30 am Transfer to the Finca
- 08.30 - 09.45 am Tour on a plot - Cultivation practices
- 09.45 - 10.00 am Transfer to benefit
- 10.00 - 11.00 am Wet and dry benefits tour
Export procedures
- 11.00 am - 11.30 am
Departure for Marcala
- 11:30 pm - 12:00 pm Space for ETEA
- 12.00 - 1.00 pm Lunch in Marcala
Courtesy Municipality of Marcala
- 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm Library visit supported by AMUCAFE.
INSTITUTIONAL PRESENTATION OF AMUCAFE
- 2:10pm - 4:30 pm Visit to Denominación de Origen - Café de Marcala
- 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Presentation of Catacion DO Marcala experience
- 7.00 pm Cultural dinner
Courtesy of Solidaridad, Rony's Restaurant



TUESDAY 23 MAY

07:00am - 08:00am	Breakfast at the hotel
08:10am - 10:20am	Departure to Siguatepeque
10:30am - 11:00am	20pm Visit to COHORSIL Co-operative Experience of Karin Jiménez, woman at the head of an export company Tour of facilities 11:30pm -
12:00pm	Transfer to Restaurant ECOFINCA
12:00pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch ECOFINCA Restaurant
1:40pm - 2:00pm	20pm Transfer to Centro de Investigación y Capacitación Jesús Aguilar Paz
2.30 - 3.00 pm	La Fé Village, Ilama, Santa Bárbara
3:40pm - 5:00pm	pm Installation in rooms 40pm Tour of CIC-JAP stations - Part 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tissue Culture and Breeding Laboratory ✓ Phytoprotection and Rust Laboratory ✓ Integrated Pest and Disease Management of Coffee Laboratory ✓ Processing and Industrialisation
7:00pm	pm Dinner at local restaurant
8.00pm	pm Accommodation CIC JAP Research and Training Centre



WEDNESDAY 24 MAY

07:30 - 08:15

amBreakfast at CIC JAP

08:30 - 09:00am

Transfer from CIC -JAP to Finca RULAND (Finca Vitrina)
Las Vegas, Santa Barbara

Experience of the Extension Model "Renovate without Ceasing to Produce" Approach to Productive and Business Sustainability. Outstanding leadership of Suyapa Landaverde and her daughters in coffee growing Coffee landscapes and generational splicing

09.00 - 09.10

amWelcome to participants and objectives of the event

09.10 - 09.50

amHistory of the farm and development strategy

09.50 - 10.30 amAgronomic management on the farm

10.30 - 11.10 amMarketing Experience

11.10 - 11.50

amPromotion and Local Marketing of Ruland Coffee

11.50 am - 12.00 mPlenary

and closing of the event

12:10pm - 1:20pm

Lunch at Finca Ruland, Courtesy of Family Rubí

1:30pm - 2:00pm

Transfer to CIC . JAP

2:30pm - 5:

00pmTour of CIC JAP - Part II
Tasting Laboratory
Welcome to the participants and objectives of the event Escuela Superior del Café ESCAFE

6:30pm -

AdelanteAsado al Aire Libre CIC JAP



THURSDAY 25 MAY

7.00 - 7.20	amTransfer La Fe to Frank Coffee, Peña Blanca
7.30 - 8.30	amBreakfast at Frank's Coffee
08.40 - 09.40	amTransfer to Exportadora BECAMO Villanueva, Cortes
09.50 - 10.50	amVisit to Exportadora BECAMO Welcome by General Manager Emilo Medina
11:00 - 11.45	amTransfer to San Pedro Sula
11.45 - 12.00	Arrival at the Coffee Quality Control Laboratory - IHCAFE San Pedro Sula
12.00 m - 1.00 pm	Traditional Honduran homemade lunch
1.00 - 2.00 pm	Facilities tour and tasting session
2.20 - 2.30	pmTransfer to Guamilito Market
2.30 - 3.00	pmShopping for handicrafts and typical souvenirs
3.15 - 3.45	pmCoffee Shop Mil Rosas
4.00 - 6.30	pmTransfer to the city of Comayagua
6.30 - 7.00	pmInstallation at Hotel Condesa and Hotel Caxa Real
7.30	pmDinner local restaurant



FRIDAY 26TH MAY

- 7:00 - 8:00 am Breakfast at hotel (Condesa and Caxa Real)
- 8.00 - 9.00 am Meeting with OSSREA - Community of Practice
- 9.15 - 9.45 am Institutional Meeting (Caxa Real)
- 9.45 - 12.00 am Press Conference
- 1.00 - 2.00 pm Lunch in local restaurant
- 2.30- 5.00 pm Closing
Meeting Conclusions
Questions and Answers
Future Actions Follow-up
- 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Visit to Colonial Zone and Dinner

SATURDAY 27TH MAY

- 8:00 - 9:00 am Breakfast at hotel (Condesa and Caxa Real)
- DEPARTURE TO HOME
- COUNTRIES FREE TIME