



**Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern
Africa
Ethio-Latin Coffee Community of Practice Project**



Proceeding of a webinar on:

**Women, Coffee, and Climate: Women's Empowerment for Socio-
ecological Resilience of Coffee Value-chain against Climate Change
in Ethiopia**

Stakeholder Engagement Webinar – Episode 1



June 2023

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Introduction

The Women, Coffee and Climate project, implemented by the Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECID) Ethiopia in collaboration with partners from Ethiopia, Colombia, and Honduras, is aimed at empowering women in the coffee value chain amidst the challenges of climate change. Supported by the EU DeSIRA program, this project is being jointly executed with esteemed organizations such as the 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), along with other partners such as TECNICAFE from Colombia and CONACAFE from Honduras.

As part of our efforts, OSSREA has organized a webinar held on May 16th, 2023, on the Zoom meeting platform. The primary objective of this webinar was to introduce a research project that focuses on women, coffee, and climate change with the aim to explore the role of women in the coffee value chain, promote gender equity in coffee production, and develop sustainable coffee landscapes that can adapt to climate change.

Through engaging presentations and insightful discussions, the webinar sought to provide an opportunity for key stakeholders to learn about the project, ask questions, and provide feedback to help shape the direction of the research. Furthermore, we aimed to secure buy-in from key stakeholders and establish a network of collaborators who are committed to promoting sustainable and equitable coffee production.

Through engaging presentations and insightful discussions, the webinar sought to deepen participants' understanding of the specific challenges faced by coffee farmers and communities due to climate change. It also aimed to provide strategies for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the effects of climate change on coffee production. Additionally, the webinar fostered greater collaboration and engagement among participants and stakeholders in the coffee sector to collectively address the challenges posed by climate change and promote sustainability and resilience.

This webinar aligns with our project's operational plan, which includes various activities aimed at fostering socio-ecological resilience and women's empowerment within the coffee value chain in the face of climate change.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all the participants and stakeholders who contributed to the success of this webinar, as their valuable insights and active engagement played a crucial role in achieving its objectives.

Welcome

The webinar commenced at 4:00 pm with a warm welcoming note from Mr. Alemu Tesfaye, Regional Programs Manager at OSSREA. Mr. Alemu expressed his gratitude to all the participants for their presence in the webinar. He set the tone for the session by highlighting that the webinar was hosted by the Ethio-Latin Community of Practice and that it was entitled episode I because it was the first of many similar stakeholder engagement webinars to follow.

He once again expressed his gratitude to participants for joining in the webinar on such an important milestone of embarking on the journey of empowerment, resilience, and sustainability within the coffee value chain.

He made a note that the project team would seek women empowerment in social, economic and resilience of coffee value chain in Ethiopia. He added that the webinar was aimed to shade light on a ground-breaking research project which has the objectives of exploring the crucial role of women in the coffee value chain, promote gender equity in coffee production, and develop sustainable coffee landscapes that can adapt to the challenges posed by climate change.

Additionally, he highlighted that various aspects of the research project would be explored deeply throughout the course of the event. He further indicated that esteemed panel of experts were assembled to provide invaluable insights and present their planned activities and expected impact highlighting the significance of their work for the coffee industry sustainable production.

Mr. Alemu underlined that the webinar would serve as an opportunity for all key stakeholders including coffee producers, processors, retailers and traders, youths, policy makers and researchers to learn about the project, engage in fruitful discussions, and contribute their feedback.

Furthermore, he stressed that the active participation and inputs from the participants would be vital in shaping the direction of the research as the project strives to create a network of collaborators committed to promoting sustainable and equitable coffee production.

Mr. Alemu expressed his belief that by the end of the webinar, participants would have a clear understanding of the research project goals, its potential impact on the coffee industry, and ways in which they can actively participate and support its endeavors. He further expressed his belief that, together, it would be possible to pave the way for a resilient, gender equitable and sustainable coffee value chain.

Moreover, he extended a heartfelt gratitude to participants for their presence and participation in the webinar and framed expectations to seize the platform as an opportunity to foster dialogue, exchange knowledge, and work collectively towards a future where women, coffee and climate thrive in harmony.

Following his welcoming address, Mr. Alemu provided a brief overview of the webinar agenda and addressed housekeeping matters. With this, he graciously handed over the floor to Ms. Aurora Martin, Program Manager at AECID, to deliver a brief presentation on the overall picture of project and its goals.

Presentations

Ms. Aurora Martin began her presentation by welcoming participants and expressing her gratitude to take part in the webinar. She proceeded to highlight several key points, including:

- The project was entitled “Women, Coffee and Climate: Women’s empowerment for Socio-ecological resilience of coffee value chain against climate change in Ethiopia”.
- The project was funded by the European Union and the Spanish Cooperation (with the Spanish Cooperation support) and it was a kind of innovation program for rural development.
- The project has 30 months of implementation period starting from 1st of May 2022; however, the initiative of the community practice would continue beyond the lifespan of the project as an autonomous body.

- The project would be implemented with a national scope in Ethiopia, focusing on the Yayu Coffee Forrest Biosphere Reserve (YCFBR) of Oromia region.
- As the project has strong focus on South-South Cooperation, it was also working with two countries, namely, Honduras and Columbia, in partnership with ConaCafé and TechniCafé.
- The project had a strong gender perspective in the importance of women in the coffee sector.
- Listed all partner institutions of the project where (by which) four were from Ethiopia, one was regional, and two from Latin America.
- The general objective of the project was to enhance gender equality and sustainability of Ethiopian coffee value chain through eco-efficiency, social innovation and South-South cooperation.
- As the project is of a research nature with knowledge management, the proposed strategies to achieve the objective of the project would be participatory action research for the recognition of women as key-agents for socio-ecological resilience in coffee management practice; community of practice to share the knowledge that would be created in the course as well as the knowledge that has been already there, and exchange experiences among Ethiopia, Colombia and Honduras; improving capacity on gender equality and climate adaptation and mitigation to support sustainable coffee landscape; socio-environmental standards on coffee practices and landscape management/governance; academic research on sustainable and inclusive coffee at European Union level to unlock women's coffee
- Showed four main lines of actions (outcomes) of the project, list of activities under each outcome, collaborative partners for each activity, list of indicators, and outputs of the project.
- The first outcome of the project was “interdisciplinary research on the role and contribution of women and indigenous/traditional knowledge in landscape management and governance in YCFBE” that consisted of 7 activities mainly focusing on local level research and trainings.
- The second outcome of the project was “enhancing conditions on gender and climate action in the coffee sector in Ethiopia”; and it focuses on preparing guidelines, workshops, and forums to create awareness and ensure utilization of research findings at different levels from policy level to cooperatives, to research and businesses based on the evidence

generated under local level research activities undertaken through the first outcome of the project.

- The third outcome of the project that focus on “Enhancing transparency and inclusiveness sustainable EU’s coffee market” would seek on how to understand better the EU’s coffee market to see ways on how to create a connection between women and climate coffee as the EU coffee market has interest on specialty coffee, women coffee, and climate change sensitive coffee.
- The disproportionate effect of climate change on women within the coffee industry.
- Two international experience sharing events in Ethiopia and Colombia has been conducted with the objective of getting to know how the coffee infrastructure was working at policy level and local level, and to understand the different institutions, the connection among the institutions, how they operate at field level, the quality of coffee being produced, how they adapt to climate change, how they were improving women’s situation in the coffee sector. A third experience sharing event would take place in May, 2023 (after one week) in Honduras.
- There would be a webinar session in the future to share the learning obtained from the international experience sharing events.
- The fourth outcome of the project was related to coordination, communication, visibility, knowledge management, and monitoring & evaluation.
- One of the most important things to remember throughout the implementation of the project would be to listen to each of the partners, to understand the real activity that they are going to carry out, and to have an idea that the nature of project is mostly related to knowledge production, research, and experience sharing.

Ms. Aurora Martin finalized the presentation by inviting participants to forward any question or comment. Accordingly, the moderator, Mr. Alemu Tesfaye, expressed his warm gratitude to Ms. Aurora Martin for her enlightening highlights about the project and invited the second presenter Dr. Wubalem Tadesse, Lead Researcher at Ethiopian Forestry Development, to deliver presentation on the role of Ethiopian Forestry Development in the project. Following that, Dr. Wubalem Tadesse took the floor by thanking the participants for their participation in the webinar and made his presentation highlighting on the following key points: -

- Ethiopian Forestry Development operates under Ministry of Agriculture with a role of leading and conducting forestry research and development.
- Listed the activities that would be carried out by the Ethiopian Forestry Development under the project including research activities, trainings, workshops, and preparation of materials (documents).
- The research activities include:
 - Socio-economic assessment on available and potential Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), with gender perspective
 - Assessment, finding and identification of wild mushrooms with potential use in coffee forests.
 - Assessment and documentation of women and indigenous knowledge on landscape restoration (afforestation, reforestation, and soil and water conservation techniques)
 - Focus group discussions on NTFPs, wild mushroom resources, and landscape restoration.
 - Demonstrative actions, dissemination and awareness creation on wild mushrooms and other NTFPs.
- The expected outputs from the research activities includes publication of at least three articles related to NTFPs, wild mushrooms and indigenous knowledge on landscape restoration; Micosilviculture management plant for the conservation of forest systems focusing on potential NTFPs and edible mushroom products in Yayu Forest; guidelines for different NTFPs and landscape restoration; production of communication materials (brochures, posters or leaflets); and at least two trainings to public and private actors.
- The activities that has been carried out so far were field visit trip to Metu (Yayu), discussion with relevant experts and authorities at the project area, partial field visit to the coffee forest, preparation of relevant questionnaires and checklists for FGDs, and deployment of a team at the project area that would stay in the field for two weeks and conduct the socio-economic assessment and FGDs on NTFPs and wild mushroom resources.

- EFD in collaboration with other partners would conduct trainings on landscape management and climate action, and gender smart climate/coffee instruments; workshops on gender and climate, etc.; and prepare manuals, guidelines for NTFPs, leaflets, etc.
- NTFPs are defined as “all biological materials other than timber which are extracted from forests for human use”.
- The main NTFPs available in YCFBR were honey, spices, edible tree/shrub products, medicinal plants, mushrooms, etc.
- Even though, the socio-economic contribution of NTFPs to the local communities, mainly for women was for consumption, income generation, employment opportunities, etc, NTFPs in Yayu are mainly used for domestic use so far.
- The research would be important for the coffee industry as there is a need to identify the challenges and to try to diverse commercial use of available NTFPs (including edible mushrooms) for local communities, mainly for women.
- NTFPs are sustainably produced and commercialized when the forest (either natural or plantation forest) is well conserved.
- One of the most important points in the production of NTFPs is that almost all NTFPs are produced without affecting the forest or trees as it is well demonstrated from the production of honey, mushrooms, and medicinal plants that the production of NTFPs doesn't require cutting of trees.
- How deforestation for fuel/construction wood will decrease as the community will have improved alternative livelihood resources and, therefore, how coffee production will be maintained or improved.

After that the moderator, Mr. Alemu Tesfaye, invited the next presenter, Mrs. Viviana Narvaez, Administrative and Financial Manager at Techni Café from Colombia, to deliver a presentation on “Coffee Eco-Technology, Women's Experiences in Landscape Management and Ecosystem Services, Coffee Policies, and Scientific Research”.

Accordingly, Mrs. Viviana Narvaez expressed her gratitude and made presentation highlighting the following points: -

- Techni Café has been working on women and coffee, promoting gender issues in the coffee sector in Colombia.
- The good practices that was established in the Cauca department of South of Colombia which are carried out by Women in Coffee, integrate the landscape management, and took in to account policies led by national coffee organization
- For more than 25 years, Supra Café has been generating ecotechnologies to promote sustainability.
- Ecotechnologies are defined as “efficient energy techniques and resources that are used as sustainable alternative for coffee production”.
- Those technologies would be more relevant when they are implemented within productive systems that are made to give certifications.
- More than 500 women were certified in Colombia and those ecotechnologies allowed them to better achieve the certification and to find sustainability with the certification.
- The technologies that were implemented by Techni Café,
 - in collaboration with another partner organization, implemented a technological system that uses bioproducts to cover coffee at its seedling and growth stages, and allowed a sustainable management of the seedlings using fewer plastic materials.
 - The ecotechnology was applied to five thousand coffee seedlings, and, thus, has contributed to avoid the use of that same number of plastic bags on a hectare that would have been needed through the traditional or conventional method.
 - the ecotechnology used by the project would require only two to three years to decay where plastic materials need lots of years.
 - The technology is efficient as it costs only ten cents of a dollar. The cost difference will help to have a sustainable management in that phase because it is one of the most polluting phases in growing coffee.
 - As the system is enriched with nutrients, it would allow a more uniform development of the coffee plants as well as provide better mechanism to control the system itself.
 - Another technology that was implemented to promoting women in the coffee growing was a strategy of making coffee grow in shades that has the benefits of covering the soil with plants throughout the whole time in the growth of coffee.

This system of shade cover would allow promoting the balance in the microsystem of the soil which is an alternative to climate adaptation and variability.

- The shade system also has mechanical advantage with a characteristic of serving as a buffer to avoid pest because the plant is shorter and have dynamic development and better relationship with the growth of coffee plant. Besides, during the time of shortage of rain, the shade plant would serve as a buffer and protect the soil by reducing water evaporation from the soil.
- A comprehensive assessment was done to identify the best choice of crop for the shade system that do not compete with the coffee plant. As a result, Graminia was the type of plant used in the shade system in coffee production which was also in line with the policy of the department of coffee in Cauca in Colombia that required not to have a hectare that is not planted under a shade. The strategy would allow to adapt climate change and protect to the sun through regulating the hydric cycles in which with more shade, the coffee plants would develop a more uniform hydric cycles and there would be no major variation in temperature from day to nighttime. Besides, the system would help to have more organic matter in the soil.
- Having a shade system with trees of different growing heights, would provide a better advantage of making nutrients available for the coffee plants as taller trees extract different nutrients at different depths in the soil.
- Pictorially demonstrated of the adverse effect of climate change and its catastrophic impact to women and men coffee growers during a particular summertime in El Salvador and other Latin American countries.
- The existence of those climate change events and their happening always would trigger alarm to get prepared through filling technological gaps.
- Ecotechnologies are related to systems that would allow to generate good transformative processes.
- Pictorially demonstrated an example of a low-cost water treatment technological system to coffee producers that had a positive impact of avoiding to deal (manage) with larger quantity of waste and able to create natural pesticide that can be used in the farm.

- It would be necessary to link good practices throughout the process of coffee growing during the transformation process as well as to have a sustainable waste management system.
- A range of alternatives has been implemented in Colombia with the aim of creating an impact to enhance sustainability. One of those was promoting of self-washed coffee products which uses a natural processing technology and has the advantage of conserving the amount of water to be used in the process.
- Farms that use a washing process with none of those technologies would use 6-10 Liters of water to produce one kilogram of dried coffee. However, with the utilization of the technological processes, it would only demand half a Liter (400-500 cm³) of water to produce the same amount of coffee. Additional advantage of utilizing such technology has also brought huge market need from international clients who demand natural products.
- Women are doing very important work not only in supporting the economy among their families but in utilizing and strengthening agro-forestry production system by cultivating maize, beans and other various crops in coffee farms that would contribute to ensuring food security.
- Lately, we have been working with International Tropical Center called Coffee and Corn Happy Marriage and provided corn seeds to women to grow it together with coffee so that the access to food to the households would get improved.
- Women in CAUCA department have been working on productive relation with good practices in coffee production and agro-food system that promotes food security. They have also been implementing agro systems that allowed diversification of income from the farms and for the families that was very efficient for the land and the eco-system.
- All those initiatives were related to the coffee policies.
- In CAUCA department in the national land of Colombia, various researches were developed for policy input that would promote sustainability and resilience in the coffee industry.
- The following ten policy strategies to be implemented within the next ten years from 2022-2032 has been defined by the CAUCA department: -

- Rural education – demands big engagement and commitment from different institutions and stakeholders to integrate the different generations to promote progress like school in coffee.
- Support added value in the technologies presented above to bet for the circular economy- how to use and take advantage of products and sub-products that normally has been used in the productive system such as the coffee husk in which only 5% has been utilized by coffee producers.
- Sustainable environment for agro-food systems
- Social communication to strengthen the relations within the whole community (among the various coffee cultures) – invites the different stakeholders from coffee value chain.
- Focus on gender and strengthen the engagement of young people in order to create big impact in the local and regional governments.
- Different dynamics for the coffee production to create sustainable economy – focuses on soil preservation, microclimate preservation and the social dynamics in the whole coffee production system.
- To bring dignity to the conditions of life
- The social infrastructure to welfare – strategies to allow welfare and obtain different products like coffee.
- Promote support in social economies with incentives to innovative structure to the marketing.
- Strengthening food safety with gender and climate perspectives.

After that, the moderator, Mr. Alemu Tesfaye, thanked Mrs. Viviana Narvaez for the presentation and invited Mr. Fitsum Mengesha, Executive of Women & Social Affairs Department at Ethiopian Coffee, and Tea Authority (ECTA) to deliver presentation on the objectives, findings and overall status of assessments planned to be conducted by ECTA. Besides, he forwarded a reminder to the participants to put any questions they have on the chat box in the meantime until the Q & A session starts.

Following that, Mr. Fitsum Mengesha, expressed his gratitude, made a note that his presentation would cover on the findings of an assessment that has already been accomplished and on a

proposal for another assessment that would be conducted soon. After that, he delivered his presentation highlighting the following points:

- Coffee was originated from Ethiopia, and it was one of special gifts that Ethiopia has given to the world.
- The importance of coffee in the Ethiopian national economy that it constitutes for about 30% of foreign exchange and 40% of agricultural exports.
- Coffee is a backbone for Ethiopian economy as it has created employment opportunity for unemployed segments of the population, environmental value of appreciating forestry, and ensuring food security. Besides, it also has important mark in the social and cultural values of the community like coffee ceremony.
- Systematic gender equality and fair use are enforced as part of international and national policies, laws, strategies, and plans, however, various studies, including a context analysis conducted by ECTA showed that it was still at low level of tangible compliance process and utilization.
- The main gaps related to gender in the coffee sector include lack of gender mainstreaming in resources and technology provision, lack of access to credit services, low sectoral development, etc.
- Similarly, a study conducted by EU-CAFÉ indicated that women in the coffee production sector face constraints such as access to capital and institutional credit, poor technical skill, poor access to formal and informal market information system, minimal ownership and control over coffee resources, etc.
- Lack of in-depth assessment on women's participation and benefit in coffee value chain in YCFBR was a major gap to make informed decision on the preparation and implementation of policies, programs, and projects in the sector.
- The study aims to bridge the gap by conducting assessment on the practices and level of women's participation, and the practices of landscape management and gender equality in the targeted area.
- One of the assessments conducted by ECTA on women's participation and benefits in the coffee value chain in YCFBR was accepted by reviewers and is underway for publication.

- The general objective of the study was to assess women's participation and benefits in the coffee value chain in YCFBR.
- The study attempted to answer three research questions on the level of women's participation in the coffee value chain, the level of women's benefit, and institutional challenges for women's participation in the coffee value chain in the study area
- One of the limitations of the study was that it has addressed only four of the six targeted districts in the YCFBR due to security related issues.
- The study has significance as a comprehensive understanding of level of women's participation, benefits and challenges have supreme importance as input for future research, development policy, and aid projects to work on gender and coffee related interventions.
- Furthermore, as the research team was comprised of talented and experienced experts from variety of disciplines, the quality of the study was of high-standard to be used as a source for future research on coffee, gender, and value chain.
- Literatures show that women are not benefiting from the large profits generated at the top of the value chain; and compared to men, female coffee farm operators often have less access to land (i.e. women own 25% less than men), inputs, finance and knowledge, and less control over revenues from coffee production as demonstrated by a study by FAO that women account for 75% of the coffee production labor in Ethiopia while only receiving 34% of the income generated. As result, this has adversely affected rural livelihood and household welfare.
- The study area, Yayu biosphere, located in Southwest Ethiopia, about 564 km from the capital city Addis Ababa, with a total estimated areas of 167,021 hectares of land, is one of the five biosphere reserves in Ethiopia registered by UNISCO.
- The study has applied a descriptive research design of cross-sectional data structure with both qualitative and quantitative approaches along with multi-stage sampling technique.
- How data was collected from both primary and secondary sources and analyzed using appropriate methodologies along with major findings of the study related to the specific objectives of the study.
- The conclusions made from the study were:

- Women have highly participated in coffee value chain management practices, harvesting, processing, and marketing and contributed about 72% of labor force.
- Women are highly involved in in the coffee value chain but have low participation in marketing.
- Women farmers were not benefited despite their high level of participation.
- Access to input, extension services, saving and credit services, market information, alternative energy source, and clean water were institutional challenges that hindered women from coffee value chain participation.
- Lack of alternative energy source, input access, and extension services have put profound challenge on the participation of women in the coffee value chain.
- The recommendations forwarded from study were:
 - To strengthen women's participation in every process of the coffee value chain, gender specific adult education should be provided and expanded.
 - Strong efforts are expected from concerned entities to alleviate the institutional challenges of women's participation.
 - Gender specific digital based market information and extension service delivery technologies should be established and expanded in the biosphere.
 - Alternative sources of energy such as electric power, solar and biogas should be promoted and expanded to increase women's participation in the value chain and enhance the sustainability of the biosphere.
 - Specific training and awareness creation should be provided to increase the number of women's membership and their participation in the leadership in coffee cooperatives.
 - Local micro-finance and gender-specific saving and credit services should be strengthened and expanded to alleviate women's financial constraints.
 - Women should participate in the preparation, monitoring and evaluation of gender mainstreaming to design gender-inclusive plans.
 - Concerned bodies, such as ECTA, should give attention and conduct a comprehensive assessment on the participation and benefits of women, and gender equality in the coffee value chain in all coffee growing regions of Ethiopia.

- The second assessment that would be conducted by ECTA would be on “gender equality and sustainability landscape management in the coffee value chain in YCFBR”.
- The assessment is expected to address five specific objectives

Following that, the moderator, Mr. Alemu Tesfaye, thanked Mr. Fitsum Mengesha for the presentation and invited the next presenter Mrs. Sara Yirga, President of Ethiopian Women in Coffee Sectoral Association (EWiC) to make presentation on the role EWiC in the project.

Accordingly, Mrs. Sara Yirga started her presentation by expressing her gratitude for the organizers for actualizing such a platform. Then, she proceeded to make her presentation highlighting the following points: -

- Brief description of EWiC’s organizational profile emphasizing that the organization has a mission to build the capacities of women in the coffee value chain through technical support schemes so that they would be able to improve the quality and yield of coffee production as well as understand the significance of each stage of coffee processing as that determines the price of coffee they produced.
- The organization considers everyone working on coffee value chain as its member, whether registered with them or not.
- EWiC was honored to be part of the DESIRA project and able to work with other partners as the organization existed to be a voice for the voiceless and contribute to closing critical gaps in the coffee value chain.
- One of the activities that would be conducted by EWiC would focus on assessment on the role of women and traditional values and aspects of coffee production and brewing ceremony along with a subsequent training based on the findings of the study.
- Previous study conducted on street coffee brewing establishments in Addis Ababa indicated that access to coffee was high in the city with huge positive economic impact and livelihood opportunity for many women.
- Even though, Addis Ababa is an African hub hosting huge number of expat community as well as receiving quiet large number of transitters everyday through Ethiopian airlines, it is difficult to say all those opportunities and advantages to promote coffee and culture, and the associated positive impact for women coffee brewers were exploited adequately.

- The assessment would help to understand the economic, social and cultural benefits and opportunities.
- Another activity that would be implemented by EWiC would be to develop a woman in coffee and climate action plan, in collaboration with ECTA. In addition, EWiC would also review its gender strategic plan document which has not been updated due to the adverse effect of the COVID-19 pandemic other emerging challenges.
- Under the activity of communication plan implementation, EWiC would provide coffee skill trainings to improve quality and productivity in women coffee. In addition, with the support of ECTA, EWiC would develop a national woman in coffee branding that would help to make women's contribution, which has been overlooked so far, is recognized.
- Displayed the resource center of EWiC that was reestablished under the support of Spanish cooperation.
- One of the major accomplishments of EWiC at the early stage of the project was that it was able to provide a foundation level training (basics on coffee from the beginning to the end of the value chain) for about half (i.e., 25) of its member organizations and get them certified in foundation level specialty coffee certification in green coffee and sensory.
- In collaboration with Mr. Alemu Tesfaye from OSSREA, Dr. Wubalem Tadesse from EFD, and other colleagues in the project, a TOR has been developed. Accordingly, based on the findings that were captured in the assessment conducted by ECTA on the level of engagement of women at production and process end of the value chain, the TOR would contribute to enhance the outcome through mapping all the relevant data regarding information on women engaged at every level in coffee sector from production to export management to capacity building and consulting services.
- For the first time in Africa, EWiC would be hosting "International Women in Coffee Alliance" convention in Addis Ababa in October 2023 with a theme "Back to Origin".

Finally, she ended her presentation by inviting all the participants of the webinar to attend the convention as the results of all the studies conducted under the DESIRA project would be presented at a high level panel discussion that would involve all stakeholders, as well as many partners including the Spanish Cooperation who is a platinum level partner for the convention

would be there to present women trained from the coffee producing area of Yayu forest so that they would have international exposure. She added that more than 250 participants representing big coffee buyers, roasters, international organizational organizations, and other entities would participate on the event. She also expressed her special thanks to Ms. Aurora Martin, coordinator of the DESIRA project for her positive energy, innovative ideas, unreserved support; for Mario for being available always to provide support; and Dr. Wubalem and Mr. Alemu for providing valuable feedbacks and directions; and board members of EWiC.

After that, the moderator thanked Mrs. Sara Yirga for the presentation and invited the next presenter, Ms. Melisa Lopez, Gender Specialist at Solidaridad on the “Gender Policy of Honduras”.

Following that, she thanked the organizers for arranging such an important space for reflection and proceeded to her presentation emphasizing on the following points: -

- Solidaridad, in collaboration with a main partner organization ConaCafé and its technical branch IHCAFE in Honduras made impact process to develop a gender policy in the coffee sector in Honduras.
- The gender policy in Honduras is wide in scope and for agricultural sector and included different other sectors from food chain sector.
- The reason that we have developed the policy with such wider scope was due to its importance in the value chain to make changes to women in the coffee sector as well as to create an opportunity to be utilized by all other public and private institutions as a guidance mechanism to develop some actions and distribute benefits in more equal way to women in the coffee sector.
- Historical development process of the document indicated that the process was made to be highly participatory. The process started with a documental analysis of international agreements adopted by the country and existing legislations related to gender and social services for women; followed by interviews with key actors at a national level especially those in the coffee culture and private sector who are strong with greater sphere of impact, associations, cooperatives, and producers/organizations of producers in the region.

- Furthermore, consultation sessions were organized in different regions of the country that have diverse characteristics so that relevant data was obtained from the representations of each of the regions.
- After the consultation process that took few months and big investment on time and resources, a national workshop was conducted to validate the inputs and be able to prioritize actions for the short-term and long-term processes along with the main responsible actor for each action.
- After official presentation of the document was made in collaboration with CONACAFE, it was sent to the national council and then got published at a national journal ensuring us the legal basis to lead an endorsement and enforcement of the policy.
- The policy identified four main pillars or strategic lines that we needed to work on.
- The first one focus on social and gender inclusivity – how we transcend institutions in the coffee sector who have the will to include the issue of gender in their interventions but didn't know how to commence. So, the first pillar was designed to solve the needs and requirements of generating knowledge, adapting to the operations of the institutions, having appropriate experts, and defining actions.
- The second strategic line was to increase and improve access to resources (finance, technology, human and other kinds of resources) for women and young people. For example, the issue of land ownership was a limitation and obstacle for women especially, to access credit, and to get registered and participate in some organizations. We started to work on this to impact land ownership and established different groups of women in different specific thematic areas. Furthermore, we wanted to deal with those issues taking in to account different sectors in the coffee value chain especially those in post-harvesting and also by giving opportunities to women in other sectors like women in administration, roasting work, etc. Overall, the purpose of the second pillar of the policy document was to enhance the productive system for women.
- The third strategic line was developing and strengthen leadership capacity for women and young people so that women can be visible, equally represented, meaningfully participated, brought to decision making table at various levels through filling the existing gaps.

- The fourth strategic line of the gender policy was to engage key stakeholders through coordinating and avoiding duplication of efforts that have been implemented in a fragmented manner so that it would be possible to have resources to promote small producers strategically.
- The gender policy was wide in scope and included private sectors, which were the backbone in the coffee sector along with social organizations.
- The policy implementation plan, during its enrollment in the 2022 and 2023, was supported by different organizations like IHCAFE and TECHNICAFAE. Socialization with different stakeholders was carried out by taking in to account the particular characteristics of each autonomous coffee regions. Discussions with coffee producers/companies, associations/cooperatives so that they can integrate and implement the gender policy in their operations. In addition, partnership was established with Honduras Institute in Coffee to work together on the women's land ownership.
- Another successful achievement was the experience sharing opportunity with TECHICAFAE. Working with different institutions was important to experience lots of ideas that they have been implementing such as creating coffee branding for women. We had also created a participatory activity to create content, products, and share experiences among partners.
- We have also created revolving fund for the different groups. As a result, women started lending money among themselves on a credit-based scheme.
- Even though, we have experienced different stereotypes in the process of implementation, we were able to manage it as we were working through coffee institutions.
- Regarding leadership, advocacy with women associations of coffee in Honduras which were the main representatives at the national level, was conducted on the development of leadership processes through these institutions so that women can assume leadership in different discussion spaces. To support that, we have conducted institutional diagnosis, and identified the strengths and weaknesses, and made discussions on how this legal representativeness would make everyone beneficial.

- On the communication front, a podcast was created which was an opportunity to create awareness on the issues of productivity, technical, social, leadership in women and young people, and how to engage the different coffee regions.
- Different capacity building interventions were created that led to different activities, ideas and proposals that have upscaled the profile of the women organization.
- Partnership with different actors was established to define strategic actions and multiplied efforts.
- Disseminating the policy document to women was one of the focal points we needed to deal with. Therefore, we have created a document with easy language so that everybody could understand it.
- Capacity building for coffee producer organizations which has mainly focused on production at the beginning but later expanded its scope to consider including it to the decision-making stage.

Then, she thanked for having the opportunity to share the experience from Honduras and she would be happy to respond to any questions from the participants.

After that, Mr. Alemu Tesfaye, expressed his appreciation to Ms. Melisa Lopez for the wonderful presentation and proceeded to make a presentation on the Knowledge and Learning unit of the project focusing on the following points:

- The activities under the knowledge and learning unit are instrumental in promoting gender mainstreaming, enhancing capacity, and fostering knowledge exchange within the coffee sector.
- The first activity “ensuring gender mainstreaming in the participatory action research” emphasizes the integration of gender perspectives throughout the researches under the project ensuring that the experiences and needs of women are prioritized. Under this activity, a training on engendering projects and programs has been conducted and the webinar link can be accessed at youtube channel of OSSREA.
- The second activity would be organizing various workshops on gender and climate change that facilitate discussion, knowledge sharing, and capacity building on the intersection of gender and climate change. The workshops, which would be announced

soon on the community of practice platform, called Ethio-Latin Coffee, are expected to bring together stakeholders from various backgrounds and would enable meaningful engagement.

- The third activity, community of practice, entitled Ethio-Latin Coffee, has already been established to serve as a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange and networking among stakeholders in the coffee sector to promote learning and innovation. Today's "stakeholder engagement episode one" webinar, which is an extension to two prior webinars on "mainstreaming gender in projects and programs" and "the impact of climate change in the coffee sector" was part of the community engagement practice.
- The fourth activity, lessons learned and innovative solutions from LATAM, focuses on leveraging the experiences, valuable lessons, innovative solutions, successful approaches, and documents from Latin American countries such as Honduras and Colombia.
- The fifth activity that would be implemented under the knowledge and learning unit would focus on developing comprehensive guidelines and methodological approach that aim to enhance the capacity of women coffee farmers so that women in coffee sectors are empowered to overcome challenges, adapt to climate change, improve their livelihoods.
- The sixth activity, was on South-South Exchange Experience among Ethiopia, Honduras and Colombia, to facilitate exchange of knowledge, experiences and expertise between coffee producing countries, especially Ethiopia, Colombia and Honduras; encouraging cross-learning and collaboration, and align stakeholders to share insights and solutions. Under this activity, two exchange visits in Colombia and Ethiopia has already been cascaded and the third one in Honduras would take place soon.
- The seventh activity, would be on developing a gender and climate action plan tailored specifically to the coffee sector to guide future initiatives and interventions ensuring that gender considerations are embedded in all actions related to climate change resilience.
- The eighth activity would focus on organizing specialized trainings to equip stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and skills to utilize gender smart climate and coffee instruments. The trainings would also help stakeholders to be able to address gender disparities and promote climate resilience effectively.
- The ninth activity is targeted at providing support and guidance to the implementation of the gender strategic plan that was developed by ECTA under the project ensuring that

gender considerations are mainstreamed across all activities and initiatives within the coffee sector to drive sustainable and equitable practices.

- The tenth activity focuses on providing research grants to junior researchers to foster their engagement and contribution to the knowledge base on gender, coffee, and climate change, promote diversity in research, and strengthen overall research capacity.
- The eleventh activity, knowledge, and learning plan implementation, encompasses the execution of a comprehensive knowledge and learning plan. It includes the strategies for continuous learning, monitoring and evaluation of the project ensuring the generation and dissemination of valuable knowledge.
- Through engaging the activities, we aim to foster gender equity, enhance resilience and promote sustainable practices within the coffee sector.
- Each of the initiatives would place a crucial role in driving positive change and advancing our shared goals.

After that, Mr. Alemu Tesfaye, invited Dr. Truphena Mukuna, Executive Director at OSSREA, to facilitate the discussion (Question and Answer) session.

Following that, Dr. Truphena Mukuna expressed her gratitude to all the presenters for the insightful presentations. She added a reflection by acknowledging that the implementation of the project has been progressing as planned. She added that, as the project was a comparative study, the knowledge that the project team has gained from the experience exchange visits on what coffee growing women in Ethiopia, Honduras and Colombia has been doing differently should have been included in the presentations and the researches. She has forwarded a comment for Mr. Fitsum Mengesha to use up-to-dated and recently published literatures as reference; as well as to show in the findings what the new research has found out that was different from what was happening.

She reflected her observation that even though, the linkage between women, climate change, economic empowerment, and coffee has been presented well in the presentations, the issue of gender equity and the role of men was not explicit in the presentations. She stressed that there would be no women empowerment unless men come into support. She also made a note that the issue of cultural value that was raised by Vivian and Sara was important and needed to be

considered by other presenters as well. She further made a remark to recall on women empowerment and gender streaming components of the project to avoid the risk of departing from the core of the project.

She has expressed her appreciation towards the issue raised by Sara on women participation in the coffee value chain along with the cultural aspect and the contribution that they would like to make to engendering the coffee sector using the gender policy. She added that, as the essence of this particular meeting was to facilitate learning among partners, it would be a good opportunity to learn from what Melisa has presented on Honduras's experience on the process to develop the gender policy and implementation plan by using excellent approach of developing pillars, analysis, and commencing the implementation and the impact that they have brought.

After that, she opened the floor for discussion by inviting participants to forward any questions they have.

During the discussion, a participant raised questions about whether the issue of overlapping of trainings with other organizations that are working on the area such as with that of EU-DeSIRA has been considered. Additionally, another participant inquired about plans to overcome possible delay that might occur in project implementation future.

In response, Dr. Wubalem Tadesse reminded that the process of organizing the trainings would consider the existence of many CSOs working in Yayu Forest to work with together in collaboration.

Ms. Aurora Martin addressed the second question raised from a participant by highlighting that the partners in the project were adequately equipped with enough human power at kebele, and wereda levels. She added that, there would be close followup of the implementation to support each other to make sure that the project is implemented according to the plan.

Another participant has also forwarded a question requesting for example and clarification on an issue raised on the presentation that stated that there was lack of gender mainstreaming regarding technology provision. She further inquired about what the major gaps were regarding women participation in coffee value chain.

Accordingly, Mr. Fitsum Mengesha responded by indicating that technologies that would facilitate and enhance coffee harvesting process and make the production system easier for women like should be more accessible for women. Regarding the major gaps related to women participation in coffee value chain, he elaborated that women were not participating meaningfully in overall decision-making process, and on household decisions on the income generated from coffee production.

Another participant forwarded a request for clarification whether the project team would conduct gender analysis among coffee value chain or would alternatively use available data from existing literatures to embark on women empowerment interventions. Accordingly, Ms. Aurora Martin responded to the question by affirming that gender analysis assessment would be conducted under the project even though relevant information available from existing documents would also be used as well. She further highlighted that a call for consultancy service announcement would be made in the following week to recruit a consultant to carry out the assessment.

Towards a question raised by a participant on the ways how CSOs who haven't already established partnership with the project could establish one, Mr. Alemu Tesfaye had briefly indicated that all stakeholders who may have interest could participate by getting themselves registered on the community practice website platform which would be using online approaches as well as face to face meetings to disseminate research findings and other valuable and relevant documents and best practices. He added that, 65 partners had already registered to the platform so far.

The webinar proceeded with engaging discussions and the exploration of the topics presented, allowing participants to share their ideas and insights. Following this, another participant had also forwarded a question on whether the assessments conducted by the project had attempted to explore existing studies related to gender in climate change in Ethiopia as well as the current gender analysis in agriculture sector in Ethiopia. In response, Mr. Fitsum Mengesha made a remark that the research team would include the issue of gender analysis in the studies by acknowledging the importance of the issue. He also stressed that if the Spanish Cooperation or other partner could allocate a budget to make an assessment on the issue, ECTA would effectively conduct it within a short period of time since the organization is equipped with all the

necessary human power capacity at all levels of administrative units. Finally, he also acknowledged to take the comments raised by Dr. Truphena Mukuna on the importance addressing the issues of integrating the role of men in the studies as well as to use up-to-dated and more recent studies in the literature review sections of the assessments.

After that, Ms. Aurora Martin made a note to share her experience from TECNOSERVE that a similar approach like that of community practice that has been there had worked best in Honduras to know what other NGOs and institutions were doing in the area of coffee, women and climate. She added that TECNOSERVE currently has another project like DeSIRA that has already established a platform similar to the community of practice that is used to interconnect with their partners. She, then expressed her suggestion to look for ways to integrate the two community of practice platforms as they were working for the same aim. She has also expressed that **TECNOSERVE** would be willing to work for the integration. In addition, she stressed on the importance of incorporating findings from studies conducted in Ethiopia on gender and climate change in the coffee sector into the assessments that would be carried out under the DeSIRA project as one of the main objectives of the project was on generating evidence on how climate change was affecting women in the coffee sector.

Finally, Mr. Alemu Tesfaye invited Ms. Aurora Martin to deliver a closing remark. Accordingly, she proceeded by expressing her gratitude to everyone for taking part in the webinar.

Furthermore, she added how grateful she was to having them inboard and hoped that they would continue working together and engaging in the coming webinars and events.

In conclusion, she expressed her hope that she would see a family out of this that has common interest to support a more sustainable women value chain coffee production system. She expressed her gratitude to participants once again and that she was hopeful to see them soon. She further reminded them that they would be kept posted and would be welcomed to communicate Mr. Alemu Tesfaye and Dr. Truphena Mukuna at OSSREA for any inquiries.

The webinar adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Note:

- [HERE](#) you will find the English version of the webinar recording:
- [HERE](#) you will find the Spanish version of the webinar recording: