

## **WORLD COFFEE RESEARCH Communications**

**16 April 2018**

### **EFICO Group to support World Coffee Research Global Coffee Monitoring Program**

The EFICO Group announces a US\$90,000 contribution to World Coffee Research. This commitment supports the industry-backed, nonprofit R&D organization to bring improved varieties and climate-smart agronomy approaches to farmers.

EFICO's contribution via its Foundation will support a global network of farmer field trials—called the Global Coffee Monitoring Program—to test which combinations of improved varieties and climate-smart farming practices deliver the most profit to the farmer. The approach is innovative on multiple fronts: testing improved technologies on a farmer's own land and not in a research station, prioritizing farmer profitability and return on investment, and working together with farmers, exporters, NGOs, and governments to implement the trials.

*In supporting WCR's program, EFICO proactively seeks for long term solutions towards farmers' resilience and profitability, climate change and sustainable and productive coffee landscapes ,” says EFICO Group CEO Michel Germanès. “Research-based field trials and knowledge transfer are essential to enhance the transition to a more sustainable coffee future. This will benefit all actors in the supply chain, with coffee farming communities at the forefront.”*

EFICO is supporting a minimum of 12 sites in Guatemala and Honduras which will return data for at least 5 years. In 2018, WCR expects 180 farm trials will be installed. By 2022 the full network will have nearly 1,200 trials ongoing.

The data from this network will allow the coffee industry to determine the combination of varieties and agricultural practices that are most profitable to farmers. From the data, statistically significant recommendations will be provided for maximizing performance according to farm size, farming systems, elevation, soil type, shade cover, climate zone, and other variables. Data from the trials will be shared with producers and the coffee sector.

Partnering with World Coffee Research fits with EFICO's longstanding commitment to responsible entrepreneurship. With their Foundation, EFICO has supported about 65 sustainable, multi-stakeholder projects – totaling US\$ 2.5 million – to improve the wellbeing of coffee producing families. Today, there is a specific focus on knowledge transfer, adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, and sustainable income increase for coffee farmers.

EFICO was the first green coffee trading company to commit to the 10 United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Principles in 2003 and works in support of 5 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, being: SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 4 Quality Education, SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy and SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals.

*“We believe the Global Coffee Monitoring Program is one of the most important research initiatives ever undertaken in coffee, and that the results will be transformative for the whole industry, but especially for farmers and local economies,” says World Coffee Research CEO Tim Schilling. “EFICO’s support is going to help us bring this program to more farmers more quickly.”*

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For more information about World Coffee Research and its programs, please visit [worldcoffeeresearch.org](http://worldcoffeeresearch.org)

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World Coffee Research is a 501 (c)(5) nonprofit collaborative research and development program of the global coffee industry to grow, protect, and enhance supplies of quality coffee while improving the livelihoods of the families who produce it. The program is funded and driven by the global coffee industry, guided by producers, and executed by coffee scientists around the world. It is based at the Norman Borlaug Institute at Texas A&M University. [worldcoffeeresearch.org](http://worldcoffeeresearch.org)

EFICO is a green coffee trading company established in 1926. With headquarters in Antwerp, Belgium, and offices in Germany, Switzerland, USA, Brazil, Ethiopia and Guatemala, EFICO provides tailor-made services to their worldwide clients with a personal touch. Their ambition towards a sustainable coffee supply chain is amongst others reflected in their EFICO Foundation and in SEABRIDGE, their state-of-the-art sustainable warehouse and distribution center for green coffee in the port of Zeebrugge.

[efico.com](http://efico.com)

[eficofoundation.org](http://eficofoundation.org)

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