



CLIMATE FRIENDLY FARMING : A TOOL FOR THE ENTIRE COFFEE SUPPLY CHAIN

PROJECT SCORES AS A FINALIST FOR THE 2011 SCAA SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Climate friendly, the name of the pilot project initiated in 2009 in Guatemala by Efico, Anacafé, the Rainforest Alliance and the Efico Foundation to research, test and promote climate friendly farming practices. The project aims to develop a robust set of climate criteria that identify best climate practices in coffee production and processing activities.

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Five cooperatives on the Fraijanes Plateau and one medium-sized farm in San Marcos participated in the project by implementing good agricultural practices to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increase the level of carbon stored and enhance the capacity of their farms to adapt to climate change. A total group of 376 coffee farmers, families and communities benefited from this initiative. The pilot project evolved into a climate-friendly farming initiative that is now being disseminated as model to include new crops (cocoa and tea) and regions (West Africa, East Africa and Southeast Asia).

BEST PRACTICES

By researching, testing and promoting criteria and practices helping farmers to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts, this pilot initiative encourages best practices. In doing so, costs are reduced and/or the farmers' income increases. Climate friendly farming methods improve a farm's profitability by reducing energy and water consumption, generating new products from agricultural waste, enhancing use of fertilizers, and create resilience strategies by identifying climate change risks and vulnerabilities, train workers on climate-friendly practices and collaborate with neighbouring communities on emergency preparedness and capacity building.

Key project activities include researching the climate impact of coffee farming practices, measuring carbon storage on selected farms (soil carbon, carbon in shade trees and coffee plants), testing assumptions regarding best management practices to reduce GHG emissions, organizing stakeholder workshops and consultation events, propose new criteria which foster implementation

of best climate friendly practices, carrying out pilot audits of the climate module, develop training and verification tools and finally leverage market of climate friendly coffee. Capacity building among farmers, technicians and auditors on climate change adaptation, mitigation and the climate module will leverage the initiative.

These new criteria, that reinforce sustainable agriculture practices, are bundled as the 'Climate Module', launched in February 2011; a voluntary, add-on module to the existing SAN (Sustainable Agriculture Network) Standard – farmers are currently audited to obtain the Rainforest Alliance certification. The project partners who developed the tools and guidance for farmers to engage in climate friendly farming appreciate the benefits of the module.



Katrien Delaet, Head of Sustainable Projects at Efico, acknowledges: "The climate module is a practical and accessible tool for the entire coffee industry, it helps producers to implement climate-friendly

agricultural practices and encourages commercial and industrial players to commit to reducing carbon emissions and create sustainable supply chains."

REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS

According to Gianluca Gondolini (Projects Manager Sustainable Agriculture Team Latin America, Rainforest Alliance), farmers can play a fundamental role in mitigating the impact of climate change.

He states that this module enhances the impact of SAN standards and the value added by Rainforest Alliance certification while facilitating the transition to low-carbon agricultural production.

Nils Leporowski (Vice-President, Anacafé) adds: "We have supported the SAN's climate module from the start, so that coffee farmers are recognized for the valuable environmental services they provide."



Key activities : measuring carbon storage on farms (soil, in shade trees) - Platanillo farm, Guatemala.

