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C&CI

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**Fine Robusta project
to create viable future
for producers**

**Price pressure won't
make roaster
compromise on quality**

**High prices unlikely
to lead to big jump
in output**

**Overseas assistance
empowers Vietnamese
producers**

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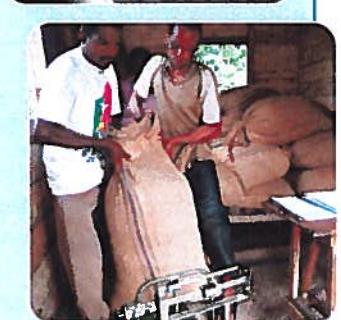
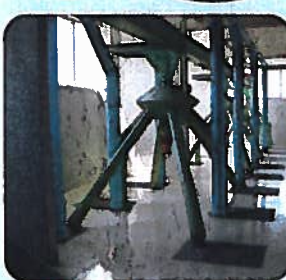
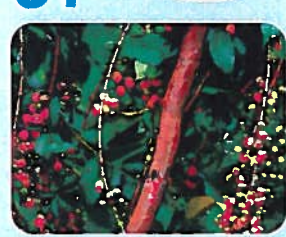
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COVER

In its 'Eco-Cocoa' project, Helvetas, the Swiss association for international co-operation, is providing cocoa farmers in Vietnam with the expertise they need to farm in a sustainable manner, and grow organic cocoa for the Fair Trade market (photo: Helvetas)



Joint project focuses on climate-friendly coffee farming

'Climate-friendly farming,' a pilot project initiated in 2009 and completed earlier this year has provided farmers with tools to help them grow coffee in the most environmentally-friendly manner possible. The project, which was led by Efico, Anacafé, the Rainforest Alliance and the Efico Foundation, has helped farmers in Guatemala develop climate-friendly farming practices, and is now being rolled-out in other countries and with other crops.

Five co-operatives on the Frajanes plateau and a medium-sized farm in San Marcos participated in the project, implementing good agricultural practices to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increase the level of carbon stored on their farms and enhance their capacity to adapt to climate change. A total group of 376 coffee farmers, families and communities benefited from the initiative.

The project evolved into a climate-friendly farming initiative, the results of which are now being disseminated as a model for use with new crops, including cocoa and tea, and in new regions, including West Africa, East Africa and Southeast Asia.

By encouraging the use of best practices, the cost of production was reduced and farmers' incomes increased. Climate-friendly farming methods improve a farm's profitability by reducing energy and water consumption, generating new products from agricultural waste and enhancing the use of fertilizers.



The companies behind the project believe the climate module will benefit farmers and other players in the value chain

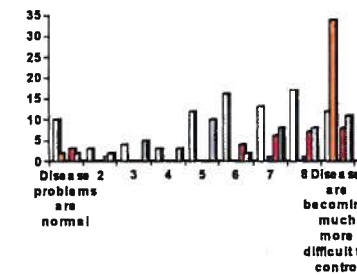
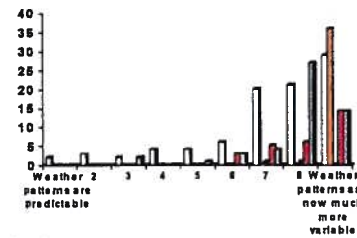
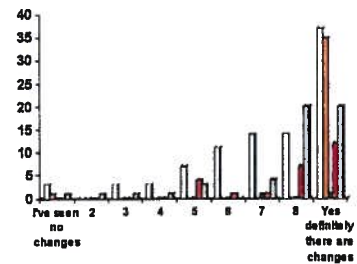
The project has also helped farmers identify risks caused by climate change, adapt and respond, train workers in climate-friendly practices and collaborate with neighbouring communities on issues such as emergency preparedness and capacity-building.

During the project a number of activities were undertaken, including measuring carbon storage on selected farms (soil carbon, carbon in shade trees and coffee plants); testing best management practices to reduce GHG emissions; organising stakeholder workshops and consultation events; developing ways to foster implementation of climate-friendly practices; developing a climate module; developing training and verification tools; and developing ways to leverage the market for climate-friendly coffee.

The climate module was officially launched in February 2011 as a voluntary, add-on module to the Rainforest Alliance's Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) standard.

Gianluca Gondolini, a project manager in the Rainforest Alliance's sustainable agriculture team in Latin America, said farmers can play a fundamental role in mitigating the impact of climate change. The module, he explained, will enhance the impact of SAN standards and add value to Rainforest Alliance certification whilst facilitating the transition to low-carbon production.

Apart from improving their ability to adapt to climate change the project is expected to have many benefits for farmers, including: an increase in the 'carbon balance' on their farms; access to sustainable markets; market recognition for climate-friendly business practices; and eligibility for programmes such as payment for environmental services. The benefits for coffee roasters will include: products that comply with corporate social and environmental responsibility strategies; coffees sourced from farms with low environmental impact and positive climate benefits; secure production through close collaboration with coffee growers implementing climate friendly practices; and a connection with consumers interested in mitigating the effects of climate change.



Legend: Brazil (white), Tanzania (orange), Uganda/CI (grey), Kenya (red), Guatemala (blue)

Classification of the farmers' views on aspects of climate change

indeed occur during long intense dry seasons. Finally for Brazil, most large coffee farmers will reject shade for an entirely non-climatic reason: because it would impede mechanical harvesting and as things stand at the moment in Brazil farmers are more concerned about labour costs than climate change.

This example illustrates some basic pit-falls of toolkit building:

- What might work for one farmer, may well not work for another even in the same zone
- What might work for one climate problem, may well not work for another
- What might work for climate change might be counterproductive for entirely unrelated reasons.

The upshot is that it's relatively easy to come up with ideas for tools – there are dozens or even hundreds that are possible – but it is much more difficult to put them together into a toolkit that a farmer might want to use.

Ideally we would like to study the utility of tools through field research and extensive testing. But it is beginning to look like we are running out of time, farmers need help now and we don't know with any certainty what the