

The NAMA Café de Costa Rica

The overarching goal of the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) Café de Costa Rica is to produce and process coffee in Costa Rica in a low-emission, sustainable fashion. With a total funding of US\$ 10 million, the NAMA Café aims to reduce GHG emissions and improve resource use efficiency at the level of both coffee plantations and coffee mills. These actions will create the first low-emission coffee worldwide and give Costa Rican coffee producers access to new markets.

The NAMA Support Project (NSP)

The NAMA Café receives technical and financial assistance from the NAMA Support Project “Low-Carbon Coffee Costa Rica” (NSP). A total funding commitment of €7 million enables technical and feasibility studies, financial assistance, capacity-building measures, and other awareness-raising activities. The financial component will offer a credit line with special conditions to facilitate the adoption of innovative technologies in coffee mills. In its 4 years of implementation until 2019, the NSP aims to reach at least 6,000 coffee producers on 25,000 ha, who apply at least 2 promoted practices, and at least 50 mills, which apply at least 2 GHG emission-reducing technologies.



The coffee sector contributes significantly to Costa Rica's greenhouse gas emissions.

Implementing partners



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Results from 2016

Throughout the past year, more than 600 coffee producers were trained in the concepts of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and improved resource management on coffee farms. 250 extension workers and technicians from MAG, ICAFE and several coffee mills, who provide advisory services to coffee producers and mills, were trained on topics such as knowledge transfer, innovative teaching methods, gender equity in the agro sector, climate change adaptation and emission reduction measures. In addition, 34 coffee mills from all over the country learned how to measure the greenhouse gas emissions generated during coffee processing and calculate their respective carbon footprints.



Representatives of Costa Rican coffee mills traveled to Germany to present their coffee to German coffee roasters.

A group of selected coffee mills participated in a tour to Germany in September 2016 to meet with manufacturers and suppliers of the German coffee industry, as well as local coffee roasters to negotiate future collaborations. The larger mills focused on acquiring new technology, such as a compost turner from BACKHUS acquired by Coopetarrazú coffee mill. Small and micro-mills took the opportunity to present and sell their low-carbon coffee to German toasters such as the Darboven GmbH & Co. KG, elbgold Kaffee and the Speicherstadt Rösterei in Hamburg.

Outlook on 2017



50 coffee mills are currently participating in the NAMA Café.

Capacity development in footprint measurement

Farmers receive training and advisory services on proper farm management, pests and diseases, as well as how shade trees and different soils improve productivity and minimize the impacts of climate change. The 34 advanced coffee mills are currently tackling their mills' water footprints. 16 new coffee mills are initiating the process of learning how to perform greenhouse gas emissions inventories.



Mills are trained in performing carbon and water footprint measurements.

Access to credit lines for low-carbon technologies

To help coffee producers invest in sustainable small-scale technologies and adopt climate-friendly practices in their farms and mills, a credit support fund will be launched. It will be administered by the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) and disbursed in collaboration with national financial institutions.

Successful promotion of Costa Rican coffee abroad

25 coffee mills are being supported in the development of ideas for the best way to present a sustainable low-carbon coffee on the international market. This includes defining future key consumer groups and adapting marketing and sales strategies to reach these consumers successfully, as well as designing a new coffee package with an eco-label representing the sustainability of the Costa Rican coffee. Also, new and recyclable materials instead of the traditional jute sacks are being considered to reduce the impact coffee exportation has on the environment.



Coffee mills are adapting to a new generation of key consumers, including the development of a new design for the package of a carbon neutral coffee.

A second coffee promotion tour to Germany will be offered to 5 selected coffee mills in September 2017. Beforehand, interested mills can participate in a small competition, of which the best 15 will receive trainings designated to develop or improve their marketing and sales skills.

Furthermore, a market study will be conducted to find a second country apart from Germany interested in low-emission coffee from Costa Rica. Due to a growing interest of the international market in an exclusive coffee with unique selling points, the NSP will increase efforts in its work with micro-mills, for example to develop a means to facilitate the export of coffee in small quantities.