

PURPOSE

Farmers who grow coffee under a shaded production system (agro-forestry) are able to accumulate large carbon stocks in the vegetative components of the system, including soil, forest, coffee and organic matter. This carbon is generated by photosynthesis of the vegetative biomass and contributes to the overall resilience of the agro-ecosystem, thereby improving its adaptive capacity. Shaded coffee farms also function as a carbon sink, acting as a mitigating agro-ecosystem. Certified producers also conserve forestlands and other ecosystems; minimize the use of agrochemicals; conserve water; and reduce on-farm energy use and waste. These practices must lead to reduction in GHG emissions and increases in levels of carbon stored on-farm.

As these practices are embedded in the SAN standard, Rainforest Alliance Certified farms already help to reduce effects of climate change. Thanks to the contribution of the Efico Foundation, a two-year pilot project in Guatemala gave shape to a global climate-friendly initiative and a voluntary and additional Climate Module was published by the SAN in February 2011.

TARGET GROUP

- Guatemala: 5 cooperatives of Fraijanes, representing 3 041 ha and 467 coffee farmers
 - Costa Rica: focus on the Cooperativa de Cafeicultores de Dota R.L, with 769 members
 - El Salvador: focus on cooperatives in Apaneca Ilamatepec Biosphere Reserve and Quetzaltepec, representing 5 928 coffee ha and 885 coffee farmers
 - Honduras: 570 farmers who control 5 235 ha of certified coffee area
- The majority of these cooperatives are smallholders.



EXPECTED RESULTS

- 1) Producers will experience benefits of climate-friendly practices and add value to their product that will incorporate environmental services and create a market for climate-friendly coffee.
- 2) Businesses and consumers will be in a position to recognize and reward efforts of farmers to reduce emissions and ensure a sustainable supply promoting a win-win situation whereby livelihood is matching conservation goals.
- 3) The farmers will receive training, which will result in the production of climate-friendly coffee
- 4) In addition, Rainforest Alliance anticipates that at least one coffee buyer will agree to purchase climate-friendly coffee.

IMPLEMENTING CLIMATE-FRIENDLY COFFEE FARMING IN CENTRAL AMERICA

approved by the Efico Fund on 20/12/2011

Location

Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador

Description

After the successful joint development of the climate-friendly module within the Rainforest Alliance standards in 2010-2011, partners proposed to roll out and expand the climate-friendly initiative in major coffee producing countries in Central America by piloting implementation of adaptation and mitigation practices in model farms and groups that will serve as benchmarks for their neighbors. It is expected that 1 850 farmers and technicians will be trained, 14 424 hectares and 204 880 quintales of coffee will be climate-friendly produced, and benefits will spread across the value chain.

Project Budget

Budget Total: € 30 000

Efico Fund contribution: € 30 000

Project Duration

November 2011 to October 2013

PARTNERS

Rainforest Alliance

www.rainforest-alliance.org

- Project applicant and NGO
- Works to conserve biodiversity and ensures sustainable livelihoods by transforming land use practices, business practices and consumer behaviour.

ANACAFE

National Coffee Association Guatemala

www.anacafe.org

- A dynamic organization founded in 1960 to represent and facilitate technical support.
- Promotes Guatemalan coffees around the world.

EFICO

www.efico.com

- Funding partner

FIIT

Interamerican Foundation for Tropical Investigation

- certifier

SALVANATURA

- Inspection Body accredited by the SAN

ICADE

- accredited Honduran auditor organization and SAN member; performs audits for Rainforest Alliance Certificate

CLIMATE-FRIENDLY FARMING PRACTICES IN GUATEMALA, COSTA RICA, HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR

