4C dedicates this newsletter to women. In celebration of International Women’s Day, we congratulate the women connected to coffee sector, all the way from tree to the cup. Almost 100,000 female workers are employed in 4C certified units. Equal opportunities for women are an important criterion in the 4C standard. 4C is proud to support these women, enabling their empowerment with access to trainings and best sustainability practices, as well as improving their working conditions and preserving the environment, they work and live in.

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Produced by Women: Cocatrel Launches Special Coffee Editions

Brazilian cooperative Cocatrel produces the largest volume of 4C certified coffee in the world, having all its six thousand members 4C certified. This March, it celebrates one year of the Cocatrel Grupo Cafeína (Caffeine Group), formed exclusively by women with a goal to contribute to the empowerment of female producers. Cocatrel supports the group and enables the empowerment of its members through training and capacity building activities, as well as meetings for exchanging good practices and acquiring common insights. The producers of Grupo Cafeína already achieved national and international recognition. In 2019, Cocatrel exported the first coffees produced by this group and, thus, contributed to increasing interest of the foreign market for these women and for women issues in the coffee sector in general, and enhanced premiums for the coffee sold. This year Cocatrel launches two more coffees produced entirely by women and 4C certified, in addition to the last year’s Pearl and Violet coffees within the Montrês brand. The 4C logo on packaging highlights the seriousness and commitment of Grupo Cofeina, embracing sustainability in their coffee production. 4C also values and strengthens the presence of women in the field, reinforcing its criteria for gender equality and ensuring that no discrimination takes place. To read more about Cocatrel, Grupo Cafeína, and their engagement with 4C, please click on this link.

Women’s Empowerment in Ethiopian Coffee Sector: Interview

Today coffee sector experiences increasing visibility of women who, according to the estimates of International Women’s Coffee Alliance (IWCA), generally do 70% of work in the coffee supply chain. 4C talked to Meseret Desta, CEO of Green Bean Agro-Processing and the president of Ethiopian Women in Coffee (EWIC), tirelessly working to empower women in Ethiopian coffee sector. The main challenges an Ethiopian woman in coffee faces are connected to decision-making processes, land ownership issues and lack of market knowledge as well as opportunities for education. To support female coffee growers, it is important to become proactive within one’s own business: maintaining long-term relationships with female farmers, providing price premium to enable decent income and offering regular capacity-building activities. Beyond that, providing support to different organisations helping women in coffee sector, such as EWIC, is urgently required to facilitate women empowerment and thus contribute to the growth of the coffee sector and national economy. To read the full interview, please click on this link.
4C Addressing the Issue of Child Labour in Coffee Supply Chains

As the recent news of young children picking coffee beans on farms in Guatemala have shown, the risk of child labour on coffee plantations remains high. Within the 4C standard, child labour is considered an Unacceptable Practice, wherefore it is crucial for 4C that independent third-party audits ensure that this practice does not occur on 4C certified coffee farms.

4C is aware that the verification of child labour on coffee farms can pose a challenge to auditors and that certification schemes need to continuously work on improving the verification of child labour. Nevertheless, as national law enforcement is often weak in coffee producing countries, there are hardly any suitable alternatives to combat this issue. Project-based approaches do not have the same geographical scope as certification schemes do have, hence serving rather as supplement than as an alternative.

4C is continuously working on the improvement of its procedures and tools to facilitate the verification of child labour by enhancing its risk assessment procedure through systematically evaluating information from various sources and making it available to the auditors, operating an automatized checking procedure which compares 4C certified coffee producers with producers listed on the Brazilian Transparency List of Contemporary Slave Labour and expanding the 4C Integrity Program through increasing the amount of unannounced audits in regions with a high risk of child labour.

4C appreciates any kind of feedback related to cases of non-compliance with 4C requirements. Reports can be sent either directly via email or via the feedback form on the 4C website.

Save the Date: 4C Global Sustainability Conference in Warsaw

We cordially invite you to join the 4C Global Conference in Warsaw, Poland, on the 17th of June 2020. The conference will address pressing sustainability issues and focus on practical solutions for sustainable coffee supply chains. It will include a panel discussion with coffee experts from all over the world and various interactive presentations in three thematic areas: innovative tools and solutions, sustainability policies and strategies and impact of sustainability certification. We are pleased to be able to provide you this great opportunity for networking and gaining useful insights. The event is free of charge, but a registration is required.

Click here to register

Further Upcoming 4C Trainings and Regional Events (*tbc)

4C in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam
4C Regional Stakeholder Meeting
Date: 23 June 2020
4C Training
Date: 24-25 June 2020

4C in Kampala, Uganda*
4C Regional Stakeholder Meeting
Date: 18 August 2020
4C Training
Date: 19-20 August 2020

4C in Campinas, Brazil
4C Regional Stakeholder Meeting
Date: 6 October 2020
4C Training
Date: 7-8 October 2020

4C in Tegucigalpa, Honduras*
4C Regional Stakeholder Meeting
Date: 27 October 2020
4C Training
Date: 28-29 October 2020

Click here to register for 4C Trainings
Click here to register for 4C Events
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