4C Response to COVID-19

The outbreak of COVID-19 is currently challenging global health systems and the economy. 4C recognizes its responsibility to act and seek solutions related to the health and safety of all the actors involved in its mission. Our headquarters in Cologne continues with its activities, working under increased health precautions and all the necessary measures were taken for employees to work remotely.

We also developed temporary solutions for 4C certification audits. For initial certification applications, there is a possibility to postpone audits to the second semester, if harvesting takes place before 30 June 2020. This decision is based on the forecast that the current COVID-19 restrictions will no longer be required from 1 July 2020. Should it then be decided by the local authorities that such restrictions remain in place, 4C will provide the necessary guidance. In addition to that, 4C re-certification audits may occur on a desk basis, if the certification body in question can evaluate compliance with 4C sustainability requirements remotely and commits to conducting an on-site audit once the situation normalizes. This exception is valid until further notice from 4C.

4C will further monitor the development of the COVID-19 outbreak. For the time being, we wish you all good health.

Growing Impact and Continuous Improvement: 11% Increase of 4C Purchased Volumes in 2019

It is time to take a retrospective view and look back at the accomplishments of 4C and its system users in 2019. At the end of 2019, 224 Units were 4C certified, encompassing more than 400,000 coffee producers (82% being smallholders) in 24 countries around the world. This covered a total green bean coffee production of 26.8 million bags (60 kg per bag) on 970 thousand hectares of farm area. Almost 10 million bags of 4C certified coffee were purchased in 2019, which indicates an 11% increase, compared to 2018.

Furthermore, 4C cooperating Certification Bodies conducted on-site audits for nearly 100 producer groups to certify their compliance with 4C sustainability requirements. During the audits, areas for improvement were identified and recorded into Improvement Plans. Among the most frequently identified areas for improvement were the handling of pesticides and occupational health and

GRAS Risk Assessment Tool now available for China and India

Food Security Standard to Complement Sustainability Standards

New Date: 4C Global Sustainability Conference in Warsaw

Further Upcoming 4C Trainings and Regional Events

Career: 4C Integrity Auditor
Recognizing the importance of regular supply of information and support to system users, 4C welcomed more than 100 participants in 7 different trainings around the world in 2019. 4C is continuously working on the robustness and quality of the system. We can already see the first fruits, and there is so much more to come. We celebrate the growth in demand for 4C sustainable coffee, hoping that this trend will continue in 2020.

**GRAS Risk Assessment Tool now available for China and India**

4C’s remote-sensing based risk assessment tool powered by GRAS is now also available for China and India. The tool is used by 4C auditors during the risk assessment of companies that want to become or remain 4C certified.

This innovative web tool offers information on ecological and social sustainability, as well as land use change and social datasets. It provides high-end solutions to prove compliance with sustainability requirements, to implement no-deforestation strategies in a transparent and verifiable way, to manage sustainability risks, to support mapping of supply chains, and to facilitate the certification process.

The tool can be used by agricultural producers, plantation companies, processors, traders, brand owners, investors, and authorities who are committed to sustainability and no-deforestation. It is available today for the following coffee producing countries: Brazil, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Thailand, Vietnam, and now also India and China. But do keep an eye out for other countries to be added soon!

**Food Security Standard to Complement Sustainability Standards**

Increasing international demand for agricultural commodities fosters competition between food security and production for export in many countries. Food Security Standard (FSS) newly developed by WWF, Welthungerhilfe and ZEF (Centre for Development Research), with support of the German Ministry for Food and Agriculture, focuses on the Human Right to Adequate Food and aims at enhancing food security. It provides a set of practical and measurable criteria and audit tools that can be integrated into the 4C certification audit upon request as an add-on checklist. By adopting the FSS, companies along the value chain can demonstrate that they are committed to the Human Right to Adequate Food and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The FSS was tested in several pilot projects in Latin America, Asia, and Africa in 2018 and 2019, and is now ready to be implemented on the ground. To learn more about it, please follow the link.

If you are interested in integrating the FSS into your 4C certification, please contact us.

**New Date: 4C Global Sustainability Conference in Warsaw**

In response to the global COVID-19 outbreak, we had to postpone the 4C Global Conference in Warsaw, Poland, as we want to ensure safety and the best possible experience for all speakers and attendees. We cordially invite you to join us on the 14th of October 2020. The conference will address pressing sustainability issues and focus on practical solutions for sustainable coffee supply chains. The event is free of charge, but a registration is required.

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

The 4C Training and Stakeholder Meeting in Vietnam, planned for 23-25 June 2020, will be held online in order to avoid possible health risks. Any further changes will be communicated accordingly.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4C Online Training</td>
<td>24-25 June 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>4C Regional Stakeholder Meeting</td>
<td>6 October 2020</td>
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<td>4C Training</td>
<td>7-8 October 2020</td>
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<td>4C Regional Stakeholder Meeting</td>
<td>27 October 2020</td>
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<td>4C Training</td>
<td>28-29 October 2020</td>
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### Career: 4C Integrity Auditor

4C is looking for a highly motivated freelance auditor to conduct integrity assessments in the framework of the **4C Integrity Program**. The key activities include planning, organization, and coordination of 4C integrity assessments with focus on traceability, social, and environmental issues, compilation of integrity reports, and contribution to the continuous development of the 4C System and the 4C Integrity Program. Interested? You will find further details on the opening and information on the candidate’s profile [here](#).

### Contact 4C

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**About our mailings:**  
4C sends out mailings, event, and training invitations to its system users, partners, cooperating certification bodies, and subscribers to the 4C newsletter. If you are not the correct recipient, or if you do not wish to receive these updates from 4C in the future, please [click here to unsubscribe](#).

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