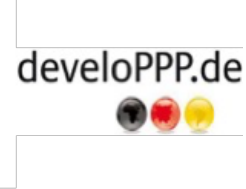


Multistakeholder Workshop: Improving Working and Living Conditions for Coffee Smallholders in Colombia

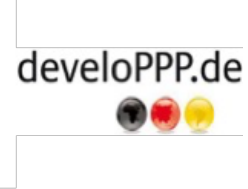
25 November 2020, 15:00 – 19:15 CET

Participants: 38 participants, including coffee producers, traders, scientific/research organizations, NGOs, etc.

1. Presentation of the importance of sustainability and sustainability certification in Colombia by Alejandra Rueda, NES Naturaleza
 - See PPT for further information
2. Presentation of the 4C certification and its impact on the Colombian coffee production by Gustavo Bacchi, 4C Services, and Diego Robles, FNC
 - See PPT for further information
3. Presentation of the develoPPP project and the objective of the workshop by Indira Palpa, 4C Services
 - See PPT for further information
4. Presentation of the desk research results on challenges Colombian coffee producers and young adults from coffee communities are facing, and possible improvement measures by Andrés Charry, CIAT
 - See PPT for further information
 - Having had a look at the following indicators - economic opportunities for rural youth, gender balance, productivity, market access, impact of climate change and risk of deforestation -, the baseline study identified Meta and Magdalena as the regions with the greatest needs of improvement across the set of indicators
 - Given the diverse states of the coffee production in the seven departments analyzed and the various priorities considered in the project, the selected departments should also respond to the need and strategic vision of the sector decision makers, according to growth potential, market demand and local interest
 - Main topics identified to be addressed within the project
 - Adoption of technologies for the preservation of water resources
 - Renovation of coffee plantations with resistant varieties
 - Planting densities at the right times and determination of shade needs
 - Weed management, nutrition and soil protection
 - Phytosanitary control of plant material
 - Promotion of good agricultural practices, fertilization and soil acidity
 - Improvement of coffee bean quality and coffee cup quality
 - Training in marketing and business skills
 - Technologies to reduce the cost of harvesting



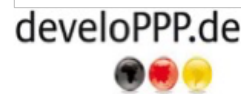
- Production systems that reduce the impact of climate variability
 - Implementation of strategies for the conservation of ecosystems
5. Group work 1: Identification and clustering of most important challenges to be approached within the project and recommendations to address them
- Three groups (A, B, C) were formed, focusing on the following questions:
 - Group A:** Social and economic challenges of the Colombian coffee sector – Identifying the five major challenges which coffee producers in Colombia are facing
 - **Low income of smallholders:**
Important to identify income from coffee production and other farm and non-farm activities to support smallholders to improve in all these income generating activities. Furthermore, support for income diversification is needed, e.g. through tourism activities
 - **Low coffee prices:**
In order to reduce uncertainty about future coffee prices which impacts smallholders in economic and social terms, a strategy is required to face volatility of coffee prices through increase in productivity and efficiency
 - **High production costs:**
To tackle this challenge, new technologies for coffee production and harvest are needed. As fertilization and transport are cost drivers, it is important to take advantage of organic material for fertilization
 - **Social well-being of farmers:**
The need for a pension, social security, access to education and health and basic infrastructure was mentioned
 - **Integration of women and young people:**
This should be achieved through associativity and innovation
 - Group B:** Environmental challenges of the Colombian coffee sector – Identifying the five major challenges which coffee producers in Colombia are facing
 - **Impact of climate change:**
Risk of coffee production to move into protected areas due to impact on water resources, biodiversity and coffee quality. Pest resistant varieties are needed
 - **High demand and impact on water resources:**
High water demand for coffee processing and insufficient treatment of wastewater from coffee processing and farmer's housing. Solutions for natural based methods for coffee washing processes in rural areas are needed
 - **Inadequate handling of agrochemicals and agricultural practices:**
Such externalities must be included in coffee prices to generate economic incentives
 - **Loss of biodiversity and soil fertility:**
Monoculture systems are an issue, and the need for agroforestry systems should be assessed in order for coffee production to be in balance with biodiversity



- **Deforestation and loss of ecosystems:**
Lack of shade for coffee plantations and the need for recovery of water bodies was identified. Reforestation activities of water body areas are needed to focus on climate change mitigation as well as conservation of ecosystems within agricultural activities

Group C: Inclusion of young adults in the coffee sector – Identifying the main factors that influence whether or not young adults stay involved in the coffee sector

- **Technological access:**
Increased use of technology is needed to make coffee farming more attractive for young adults. Furthermore, technical knowledge is required to improve production and productivity
 - **Hard and heavy work vs. digital efficiencies:**
Hard work of coffee farming is not attractive for young adults in comparison what they can receive in other regions or from other sources of income. Young adults are more interested in topics such as barista, tasting, national and international market activities, branding, processing than coffee cultivation
 - **Social risks vs. Recognition:**
Reduced access to basic services and remoteness from production areas as well as violence is a factor that makes it impossible for young adults to stay in the countryside. In addition to that, being a farm worker does not have a positive social reputation/recognition, as young adults are rather active on social media and they rather want to be a youtuber than a coffee farmer. A need to change the image of coffee production is needed to make it more attractive to young adults
 - **Access to knowledge and education:**
Access to quality education is limited in rural areas. With regard to coffee production, there is currently knowledge lacking on the benefits of sustainability, market and sale of coffee. Further, there are limitations on empirical knowledge transfer from experienced producers to younger generations
 - **Income and participation:**
Young adults are often involved in family farming without a tangible income, with only benefits in kind. This doesn't allow them to grow and fulfill their own expectations. Furthermore, there is no passing on to the young generation as the older generation does not have any additional income and working possibilities. No access to land and capital as well as no decent living wage leads to lacking economic opportunities for young adults. Associations or cooperatives should better promote youth participation and work to understand the needs of young adults
6. Group work 2: Definition of criteria to select implementing region and identification of training needs and methodologies to address these needs
- Three groups (A, B, C) were formed, focusing on the following questions:
Group A: Which are the main criteria that should be taken into account to select the project implementation region? Why are these criteria important?



- Regions with clusters of 4C Units and producer groups certified to easily follow up on progress
- Regions with little commercial opportunities
- Regions with lowest social and economic conditions
- Regions with opportunities to work with local authorities and other actors to achieve synergetic effects
- Regions where a potential to comply with European market requirements exists to enhance this potential
- Regions with a high risk of deforestation and loss of ecosystems to protect natural resources
- Regions where the access to land is not difficult and costs for land is lower
- A mix of regions to balance the intervention group: E.g. region where farmers are vulnerable due to low living and working conditions and region where farmers have a higher potential to comply with European market requirements and get better prices. Or a region whose characteristics are in between these two groups

Group B: What methodologies, training techniques and extension practices are proposed for coffee farmers in general?

- Field trainings: Visits, technology tours, field schools
- Virtual trainings via apps for example, as physical presence would also need to be reduced due to COVID 19. Using new technologies to better reach young adults
- Important to have smallholder coffee producers and young adults participating in the development of the training concept and set-up, so that they take ownership of the intervention and are an actor participating in the project and not just being the receiver
- Institutional coordination among authorities and other entities active in certain regions to align activities and find a common understanding
- Rural extension services are needed for more coffee farmers. Here the problem of coverage does exist

Group C: Taking into account the interests of young adults: What topics should be addressed during trainings with young adults and what methodologies should be used?

- The age of the young people approached within the project needs to be defined, to define the right methodologies, messages and other factors to make the project a success
- Effective youth participation is needed in the training development regarding content and approach. Directly address the youth and facilitators which have experience in working with young adults to find out what are their barriers to identify the starting points of the project



- Legal issues with regard to land tenure, legalization of land, accompanied with technical advice on quality and productivity (disease management, soil quality, water use etc.) should be covered
 - Use of digital and new technologies in coffee production and post-harvest activities. Offline applications for crop monitoring would be useful
 - Management principles: Understanding the responsibilities towards clients, producers, communities, shareholders, consumers, NGOs, and other actors
 - Sustainability certifications and environmental and economic management plans
 - Demonstration plots with new generation are needed, to allow learning by doing. It is important to pick up a good leader who is able to improve the farming image as being attractive (e.g. similar to a “youtuber of the agribusiness” as a way to engage with young adults to ensure multiplication of knowledge)
 - Producer networks should be encouraged, to learn from neighbors and share lessons learned
 - Partner with schools and educational institutions in order for kids to learn about the coffee sector and its benefits at an early stage - e.g. “school and coffee” – Interaction of secondary school youth with coffee growers
 - Have pedagogical experts who can work with young people. Budget for continued implementation needs to be ensured
7. Presentation of FNC’s recommendations towards the project by Diego Robles, FNC
- See PPT for further information