



**Happy International Women's Day!  
We congratulate all mothers, sisters, and daughters who move the coffee sector forward every day.**

**Women play a significant role in the coffee industry**, and, depending on the region, do most of the labor – planting, picking, processing, and sorting of coffee beans. Despite this, they tend to have little say in farm decision-making processes and lack access to essential resources, such as land, finance, and education. This has implications not only for the income, health, food security and education of coffee growing families, but also for coffee yield and quality.

**Over 70,000 women cultivate and process 4C certified coffee** around the world. The 4C standard prohibits discrimination on a gender basis and ensures that the procedures to act against discrimination and harassment are in place.

Although the 4C Code of Conduct already has a **strong linkage to UN SDG 5 on Gender Equality** (ITC 2020), we see further potential to **deeper address the existing disparities and promote women empowerment on a global scope**.

Today is the right time to provide you a sneak peek into our next big step towards gender equality. In late 2020, 4C started working on the development of additional verifiable criteria on gender equality in coffee production, our **4C Gender Equality Tool**. This tool will be applied to conduct a diagnosis to identify the gender equality gaps and to define action strategies. Using this tool will also allow 4C System users to make claims with regards to sustainable 4C certified coffee products which promote gender equality and highlight their efforts in this area.

At this stage, 4C is looking for partners to expand the scope of the project and amplify its positive impact by implementing the Gender Equality Tool in different regions and cultural contexts. **This will allow to evaluate the status quo and improve the gender equality situation in coffee production in different regions and trigger changes on a global level.**

We are hopeful to share more insights with you in the future! If you are interested in participating, either conducting a diagnosis within your cooperative or supporting as a partner with in-kind or financial contribution, please get in touch!

[Contact us](#)



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