Regenerative Agriculture

Lessons learned from 6 years of project’s implementation in Asia and Africa

May 2023
LDC’s Coffee 2023 – 2027 Sustainability Strategy

**Responsible Sourcing**
- Non-deforestation
- Responsible Sourcing Program - **Core**
- **RSP Advanced** Certification

**Farmer Support**
- Stronger Coffee Initiative
- Farmer Prosperity (incl. productivity, and labor conditions)
- Low Carbon (incl. agroforestry)
- RegenAg (incl. biodiversity and soil)

**Sustainable Operations**
- Scope 1&2 emissions
- Reduce GHG in 17 key coffee assets
- Energy
- Increase share of renewable energy used

**Sectoral Partnership**
Stronger Coffee Initiative Theory of Change

Scale sustainability and resilience across the coffee value chain

**Target 2027**
Support the production of 180,000 MT of third party-verified, low-carbon coffee, achieve X%** carbon emission intensity reduction in targeted supply chains

**Low Carbon**
Reduce "Bad Carbon" or Emissions

**Regen Agri**
Increase "Good Carbon" or Insetting

**Farmer Prosperity**
* Higher margins thanks to positive carbon balance

**Target 2027**
Support 30k farmers globally to improve income and increase their resilience

* What do we mean by Farmer Prosperity? 4 key building blocks: Living (& diversified) income, gender/youth, human rights and access to finance

** Exact targets to be defined in 2023 once baseline is available

**Target 2027**
Establish regenerative agriculture and soil restoration across 100k ha of coffee farmland and plant 1.2 million shade trees in agroforestry systems
What is Regenerative Agriculture?

- Protecting and **enhancing biodiversity** at and around farms

- **Improving or preserving carbon and water retention in the soil**, leveraging the power of plants, livestock and agricultural practices

- Supporting the **livelihoods** of farm communities

- Enhancing the resilience of crops and nature, while **decreasing pesticide and fertilizer usage** (by optimizing nitrogen use efficiency)

There is much debate about how to pinpoint and define regenerative farming. We believe it should not be defined too narrowly and that energy will be better spent in agreeing common outcome metrics rather than chasing a concrete definition. For the purpose of our work, we have adopted OP2B and SAI’s principles.
Lessons learned from project’s implementation in Asia and Africa
Vietnam
Developing models of sustainable landscape in coffee plantations aiming to reduce soil degradation, conserve water and improve resilience to climate change
Since 2016
Central Highlands
+7,000 farmer beneficiaries

Indonesia
Regenerating Coffee Ecosystem in Sumatra
Since 2016
Aceh, North Sumatra, Lampung
+16,000 farmer beneficiaries
+500,000 shade trees planted

Ethiopia
Empowering communities to sustainably manage coffee ecosystems
Since 2019
Sidama, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples’ Region
+3,500
+40,000 shade trees planted
Focus on Regenerative Agriculture Practices promoted in Vietnam.

- Livestock on farm
- Pepper intercropping
- Intercropping
- Shade trees
Focus on Regenerative Agriculture Practices promoted

- Compost pit
- Banana for temporary shade trees
- Intercropping
- Compost
- Intercropping
- Mechanical weeding
Focus on Regenerative Agriculture Practices promoted

- Biological control for pest
- Mulching
- Cover cropping
- Terracing
- Compost application
- Temporary shade tree
- Animal on farm
- Mulching

Ethiopia
4 Main Benefits of Regenerative Agriculture

- Ensuring soil health
- Preserving and enhancing Biodiversity
- Improving carbon footprint
- Improving farm’s productivity
Wrap up
Business Case: Regenerative Agriculture in Coffee

Proposing an alternative model of agricultural development for smallholder farmers

From the past and current initiatives implemented, we observed **good preliminary results** from the implementation of Regenerative Coffee practices in Vietnam, Indonesia and Ethiopia:

- ☑ Healthier soil
- ☑ Comparable or higher yield
- ☑ Lower cost of inputs
- ☑ Diversified income
- ☑ Reduced carbon footprint

If sustained, these good results will contribute to:

**Increase farm profitability, Ensure food security, Improve farmer’s resilience and Make coffee farming a more attractive profession**
Business Case: Regenerative Agriculture in Coffee

A farming model that is not exempt from risk(s)

- increased labor needs
- time is required to see impacts; short term needs to be addressed to ensure long term commitment
- mortality of trees represent a big risk of investment
- no one-size-fits-all approach, context specific
- perceptions/beliefs need to be deconstructed

Only a holistic support to coffee smallholders will enable the change to Regenerative farming
Thank you