

1. Project: Women, coffee and climate: women's empowerment for socio-ecological resilience of coffee value chain against climate change in Ethiopia

- Budget: 1.118.000 euros
- Overall objective: enhance gender equality and sustainability of Ethiopian coffee value chain through eco-efficiency, social innovation and S-S cooperation
- Project implementing partners: Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA), Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD), Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural Research (EIAR/JARC), Ethiopian Women in Coffee (EWiC), Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA)
- Other partners: TECNICAFE (Colombia) and CONACAFE (Honduras)
- Country: Ethiopia
- Status of implementation: start date 01/12/2022, end date 31/05/2024

2. Description of the MIF and its purposes

- Context

Information about coffee sector in Ethiopia is very scattered, with little information and analysis on impact at social level;

Previous experience from the Spanish Cooperation working in this area in other countries, from which Ethiopia could benefit;

Bringing together information around the coffee sector in Ethiopia in one single platform, considering different aspects and impacts, could be useful for all kinds of users, creating a space for exchanges and mutual learning.

- Decisions taken:

Creation of a Community of Practice around coffee in Ethiopia (ethiolatincoffee.com) bringing to the table the experience of other relevant actors from Latin America (Colombia and Honduras) and interconnecting partners with the objectives of co-creating knowledge, exchange of experiences and access to knowledge resources. TORs of the CoP elaborated and discussed with all partners.

2. Description of the MIF and its purposes

Lessons learnt from previous experiences

- bringing different partners and stakeholders into the project can generate coordination, innovation and exchanges per se;
- bringing together decisions and policy makers, private sector, social and research institutions, producers and female organizations increase efficiency of the system and might result on the creation of strategic alliances;
- most of the coffee and other agricultural products producers are facing similar challenges in different countries in a globally interconnected economy and could benefit from S-S cooperation approaches and exchanges;
- reinforcing the link between agricultural research and innovation. and climate change mitigation and adaptation policies is an important element to take informed decisions in a context where most ecosystems are into great pressure because of climate change and land degradation;
- working with women led household has proved very efficient in terms of social impact and economic results; working with women producers and associations is a good practice in the sector that benefits the whole household;
- reinforcing and supporting national and regional policies on gender mainstreaming and its implementation is very important in the sector;
- technology plays a key role in agricultural production and the creation of this CoP can contribute to technological transfer and exchange of good practices;
- it is capital to invest in training and capacitation; access to training, finances and to information in general are normally limited for most of the producers;
- many producers, specially in rural areas, have no access to markets and to quality measuring mechanisms; for this reason it is challenging for them to negotiate the prices, which results in low prices; coffee producers associations, cooperatives and trade unions should be reinforced to reinforce this area.
- traceability and environmental certifications are key elements in the coffee sector for compliance with international rules and quality standards.

2. Description of the MIF and its purposes

Impact to date:

- we have recently started project implementation, much to be done;
- only by sitting together the different institutions working in the coffee sector in Ethiopia has proven extremely beneficial in terms of coordination and information exchange between different partners, even inside the Ministry of Agriculture;
- two international exchanges successfully carried out in Colombia and Ethiopia where different lessons learnt and experiences have been shared (bamboo example, coffee co-products), third one in Honduras coming on May;
- different partnerships involving public and private sector are on the process of creation;
- monthly webinars on selected topics with the members of the CoP;
- events to come on stakeholders involvement, first at national level, then international level;

3. Managerial implications: main challenges

- lot of counterparts with different characteristics (gov, civil society, regional institutions, knowledge management institutions, S-S cooperation events involving different actors), this is also an opportunity
- Language and timeframe
- limited implementation period and resources
- Internal bureaucratic and admin procedures (Spain, EU, Ethiopia, etc.)
- Difficult banking system in Ethiopia (no currency) and difficulty to open bank accounts; difficulties about working in 4 different currencies.
- Difficult access to the target area of the project due to conflict and poor infrastructures;
- Some of these risks were identified previously but some were unexpected: flexibility and adaptation.

4. Beyond project: sustainability

- the coordination and exchanges space will remain active far beyond project termination;
- implication of knowledge management regional institutions can lead to sustainability and replication of the experience.
- we are actively supporting the creation of partnerships between different partners and stakeholders, including private sector, that can lead to further actions.

5. Main lessons

- crossing different sectors' partners and stakeholders for project implementation can lead to coordination and joint innovation;
- S-S cooperation and exchanges of experiences between producing countries has proven to be very beneficial both at policy and implementation level;
- a good identification aligned with national priorities is key to find the opportunities and niches and generate added value, which will result in partners active implication;
- gender mainstreaming and climate change adaptation and mitigation policies should be integrated through the whole intervention for agricultural innovation;
- it is key to coordinate with other partners and projects in the sector to maximize the impact of the intervention.



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ETHIOPIAN
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Ethiopian Forestry
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TECNICAFÉ

