

Objectives of the project

The general objective of the project is to enhance gender equality and sustainability of Ethiopian coffee value chain through eco-efficiency, social innovation, and south-south cooperation.

Background

Ethiopia has a long-standing tradition of coffee production and is the 10th exporter worldwide. Therefore, the economy is hugely reliant on coffee as a major source of revenue. Coffee cultivation areas are mostly located in the southern, south-western and eastern parts of Ethiopia, more specifically in Oromia and SNNP regions.

To attend to the global demand of coffee, crop expansion has been an important driver of land-use change and deforestation, prioritizing productive systems and management practices that increase short-term productivity but with negative impacts on environment (e.g. illegal logging, slash-and-burn agriculture, etc.). In recent years, forests have become fragmented and gradually replaced by exotic plantations.

The coffee industry directly employs 25 million people in Ethiopia, out of which approximately 70% are women. Nevertheless, reliable information about women's role, contributions, and revenues in the coffee landscape is still scarce. Despite their strategic significance in the coffee sector, women's ownership and control over coffee resources is very limited, and they are regularly excluded from decision-making processes related to land-use. Gender-smart policies need to overcome socio-cultural barriers such as systemic power relation and Gender based Violence, as women play a key role in the transition towards a green economy, and inclusive, equitable, and fair business models.

Overall, there is an unequal sharing of risks, profits and benefits from agricultural activities, increasing the vulnerability of women producers. Similarly, rural communities are highly exposed to climate variability, increasing their economic and social vulnerability. Therefore, the development of inclusive policies that include a climate and gender approach are essential.

The theory of change to achieve the objective

Gender equality could be used as a development multiplier for sustainable coffee supply chain and climate resilience landscapes in Ethiopia. In order to do so the action will be based on the development of a community of practitioners who, in a collaborative and participatory way, exchange knowledge and generate sustainable solutions to development problems. This approach will allow for the inclusion of Ethiopian, European and Latin American actors and experiences, with an emphasis on climate, gender and the coffee value chain. This project represents a unique opportunity for Triangular and South-South cooperation between Ethiopia and the Latin American countries with the European support.

The project will promote the Participatory Action Research methodology to promote a systemic transformation in the coffee sector. Women will be recognized as key agents that promote initiatives to build resilience in their economic activities. In this way, work will be done on the development of productive capacity, promotion of favourable regulatory frameworks, access to markets and promotion of research. Research actions will be supported by Ethiopian, European and Latin American





specialized entities, recovering ancestral knowledge about coffee and the climate, through dialogue with productive organizations. The knowledge generated will improve not only production and access to markets, but also the recognition of women as subjects of change.

Nevertheless, there is a series of risks which hinder the achievement of these outcomes, if they are not addressed by a satisfying mitigation strategy. Some of the main obstacles are: producers and policy makers are reluctant to incorporate gender equity in the coffee sector, national partners are not interested in updating IT know-how, climate oscillations place more pressure on targeted landscapes and damages ecosystem viability for NTFP alternatives, etc. Research initiatives and exchange in the Community of Practitioners will be key to proposing durable solutions to overcome these risks.

Main activities

The project objective will be achieved through Outcomes and components.

Outcome 1: Interdisciplinary research on the role and contributions of women, indigenous, and traditional knowledge for landscape management and governance in Yayu Forest

Activities:

- ✓ Knowledge and learning management by establishing a “Community of Practice”¹ among stakeholders from Ethiopia, Colombia, Honduras on co-creation of knowledge on women in landscape management, governance and climate action.
- ✓ Participatory Action Research on sustainable productive coffee practices and other Non-Timber Forest Products and landscape management in Yayu forest.
- ✓ Exchange of experiences and innovative solutions on gender equality, climate adaptation/mitigation, coffee policy instruments, agro-ecological practices, coffee sub-products, and agro-tourism.
- ✓ Training and Participation of trainers about how to empower women’s economic capacity within the coffee value chain requested by women

Outcome 2: Enhancing Gender and Climate Action in Coffee landscapes in Ethiopia

Activities:

- ✓ Capacity building on gender and climate smart policy instruments in Ethiopia, such as Gender and Climate Action Plan challenge for decision-makers to consider socio-ecological resilience of coffee sector with a gender perspective in the context of climate change.
- ✓ Training and participation on gender smart policies in coffee sector, and climate policies, plans, programs and projects and budgeting, with civil society organizations, political, religious, social and community leaders and coffee cooperatives.
- ✓ Exchange of experiences of the interconnection among climate and coffee policies.
- ✓ Transfer methodologies of Vulnerability and Adaptation in coffee implemented in the Latinoamerican contexts as the biological corridor in Popayan through agroforestry coffee plantations.

Outcome 3: Enforcing transparency and inclusiveness to create a sustainable EU coffee market

¹ Community of Practice (CoP) is defined as an organized group of professional people who share the same interests in resolving an issue, improving skills and learning from each other’s experiences.

Activities:

- ✓ Academic Research and Rapid analysis on market instruments in place in the EU with New Green Deal on supporting production, gender equality and sustainable coffee value chain, including market and marketing incentives on specialty coffees, women's coffee, and biodynamic coffee.
- ✓ Exchange of experiences among Ethiopia/Africa, Latin America and Spain/EU on market instruments to enhance sustainability and gender equality along the coffee value chain.

Outcome 4: Coordination, communication, visibility, knowledge and learning management and monitoring and evaluation.

Activities:

- ✓ Project Management. This project will be implemented according to a result- based management plan that will be designed under a resilience thinking approach.
- ✓ Technical Committee will ensure the project strategy and stakeholders' coordination.
- ✓ Communication and Visibility: project best practices, lessons learned, and experiences and exchanges will be shared and disseminated in Ethiopia, Honduras, Colombia and Spain/EU.
- ✓ Monitoring and Reporting to ensure transparency and accountability of project implementation.

Organization:

The action will be implemented through four main components:

- ✓ RESEARCH and INNOVATION on socio-economic gender gaps and barriers for women in coffee landscape governance, landscape management, sustainability of ecosystem services, business diversification with enhanced potential
- ✓ KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING: a "Community of Practice" for close interaction among coffee stakeholders from Ethiopia, Honduras, Colombia and Spain/EU will be established
- ✓ CAPACITY BUILDING IN GENDER EQUALITY AND CLIMATE ACTION for institutions, cooperatives and organizations with the leadership of women and support to the government of Ethiopia to foster gender equity in climate policy and other sectoral instruments
- ✓ UNLOCKING MARKETS FOR WOMEN'S COFFEE to enhance sustainability and resilience of coffee value chain with gender equality markets.

This project will be managed by AECID, who will assume the overall coordination and leadership, as well as operational and financial responsibility. AECID will ensure that outputs and outcomes are delivered in a timely manner and will take charge of monitoring and reporting activities.

In addition, the project will be supervised and coordinated by a Steering Committee, which ensures that it achieves the planned results; a Technical Committee, led by the AECID's OTC in Ethiopia, which will harmonize overall project implementing activities in close contact with the project manager and partners; a Project Coordination Unit, responsible for the daily management and the periodic monitoring of results and risks; and a Knowledge and Learning Unit, responsible for the operation of the CoP and the organization of the exchange of experiences, as well as providing input on gender, coffee and climate.

The project will interact and set recommendations to the other DeSIRA project to support landscape management in Yayu forest and managed by the Neumann foundation.

Implementing organizations

AECID's Office of Technical Cooperation (OTC) in Ethiopia

Partners of the project

- ✓ Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute (EEFRI): autonomous federal research institute, accountable to the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission.
- ✓ Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and Jimma Agricultural Research Center JARC: EIAR is one of the oldest and largest agricultural research institutes in Africa and JARC is its centre in Jimma.
- ✓ Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (CTA): organization under the Ministry of Agriculture with the responsibility of maximizing production, establishing a quality-based marketing system and promoting Ethiopian coffee, tea and spice products worldwide.
- ✓ Ethiopian Women's in Coffee Alliance (EWiCA): forum to bring women together across the coffee value chain to better understand coffee quality and value through information exchange and networking.
- ✓ TECNICAFFE-Colombia: Colombian "Technology Park" for social innovation and technologies for a sustainable coffee industry. It is also a Colombian knowledge management open-source platform.
- ✓ CONACAFÉ-Honduras: coffee institution that formulates the country's coffee policies and advises on the coffee value chain.
- ✓ Spanish Cooperation Offices in Honduras y Colombia.



Other main stakeholders

- ✓ Asociación de Mujeres Cafeteras del Cauca (AMUCC)
- ✓ European Research institutes and Universities.
- ✓ Neumann Foundation

Location

Locally, this project's intervention is located in the Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve in Ethiopia.

Funding and co-funding

EU	€ 1,000,000
Partners	€ 118,000
Total budget	€ 1,118,000

- EU: 1.000.000 EUR
- AECID: 118.000 EUR

Duration

30 months (November 2021; March 2024)

