

PEOPLE & ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE COFFEE

Green Commodities Program



Source: <https://pnudperu.exposure.co/towards-a-sustainable-coffee>



After water, coffee is the most consumed drink worldwide. It is an important commodity that involves more than 25 million producers at global level. Peruvian coffee has managed to position itself worldwide for its quality, particularly in the area of specialty coffees. Currently, Peru is the second largest exporter of organic grains, after Mexico, and reaches a market of over 50 countries, mainly the United States, Germany and Belgium.

However, the field faces a number of problems that limit its competitiveness and affect the social, economic and environmental development of the coffee-growing areas where thousands of families continue to live in poverty and extreme poverty.

The coffee production

Coffee is produced in the eastern slope of the Andes Mountains, between 800 and 2000 masl, under conditions that are demanding for the producer. Its cultivation is concentrated in the Arabica coffee (*Coffea arabica*), in the varieties Typica, Bourbon, Pache, Caturra and Catimor.

Although it is produced in 14 regions of the country, 95% of the area and coffee production is concentrated in only seven regions: Cajamarca, San Martín, Junín, Amazonas, Cusco, Huánuco and Pasco.

A family business

Coffee farming in Peru is essentially family friendly. Small plots production is the most common (85% of producers handle plots of less than 5 ha), which are characterised by the intensive use of labor. The producers invest long hours together with their families, in activities that go from the selection of the seeds for the seedlings, the handling of the crop, the harvest and post harvest, the storage, until the commercialisation of the product. All this process, which involves work and dedication by families, makes the country recognised as a producer of special and high quality coffee.

Meeting challenges

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP), with the support of the Swiss Cooperation – SECO, implements the Green Commodities Program in Peru, with the objective of promoting the sustainable production and competitiveness of Peruvian coffee.

The Green Commodities Program seeks to improve the economic and environmental performance of the agricultural commodity sectors, with emphasis on coffee and cocoa, to improve rural livelihoods, as well as to mitigate climate change and protect forests and biodiversity. The aim is to achieve compatibility between productive activities and the conservation of ecosystems.



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The active participation of women

Women play a crucial role in the coffee process. She is present in all stages: production, harvest, post harvest and marketing. Women are producers, association leaders, union representatives, scavengers and baristas who actively participate along the coffee value chain.

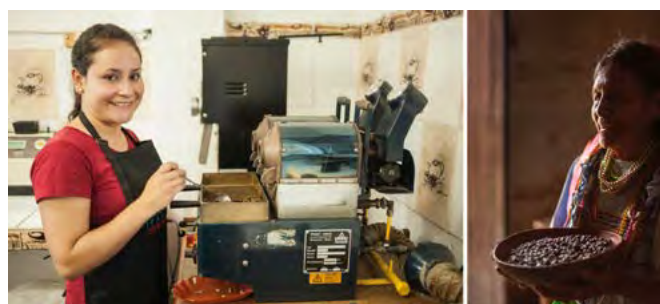
The increasing participation of women in coffee cultivation has resulted in greater well-being for their families and communities.

The challenges faced by the sector

Coffee continues to face a number of challenges that limit its development and competitiveness. A high percentage of producers are not organised in any way (77%) and conduct their farms in a traditional way (85%), without technical or business management and without access to credit, which results in low levels of production and productivity. In turn, pests and diseases, such as coffee rust, have severely affected coffee production and decapitalised coffee-producing families.

The low competitiveness of the coffee production chain has put its sustainability at risk by affecting the farmers who depend on it. Meanwhile the extractive and expansive pressure on the Amazonian forests keeps on increasing. Promoting changes in farmers' production practices is essential to fighting rural poverty, deforestation, biodiversity loss and climate change.

Faced with this situation, the joint work between the national and sub-national Government, the private sector and the support of international cooperation is necessary.



A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH

The expansion of coffee cultivation is a potential cause of deforestation; this is why it is important to achieve sustainable production. Conserving forests will contribute to making coffee crops more productive, by enhancing pollination, the regulation of the water and climate cycle, soil fertility, and other services that a healthy ecosystem has to offer.

To this end, the government's capacity to articulate and mobilize the public and private sectors and their respective stakeholders will be strengthened in the design of a National Coffee Action Plan, integrating Peruvian coffee production through sustainable production systems and a landscape approach.



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