Women, Coffee and Climate: Women's Empowerment for Socio-Ecological Resilience of Coffee Value Chain Against Climate Change in Ethiopia

Fifth International Exchange Visit Report
August 2024, Denmark, Copenhagen

Image by A.Martin / AECID
Designed by H. Lemma / AECID

Background

The **"Women, Coffee and Climate"** project tackles gender inequality and sustainability challenges in Ethiopia's coffee industry through eco-efficiency, social innovation and South-South cooperation. This collaboration is exemplified by the **EthioLatin Coffee Community of Practice**, which connects Ethiopia, Colombia, and Honduras to share knowledge on coffee sustainability, gender equality, and access to fair markets for women coffee producers. This flyer summarises experiences and learnings from the Fifth **International Exchange Visit**, which took place in Copenhagen in August 2024, coinciding with the World of Coffee 2024. The event was a significant gathering for coffee professionals and enthusiasts worldwide. Organised by the Specialty Coffee Association (SCA), the event provided EthioLatin Coffee with a valuable platform to engage with the global coffee community, promote sustainability and gender equality, and explore opportunities for future collaborations. The event highlighted the interconnectedness of global coffee markets and the shared commitment to advancing sustainability and social responsibility within the industry.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Stakeholders from the EthioLatin Coffee CoP from Ethiopia, Colombia and Honduras actively participated in the Fifth International Exchange Visit, sharing knowledge and experiences to enhance the socio-ecological resilience of the coffee sector. Some of the key highlights from the event are:

- **Successful Booth Presence**: EthioLatinCoffee rented a booth to showcase the Women, Coffee, and Climate project, highlighting coffee from women producers and traditional coffee-making heritage.
- **Networking Opportunities**: The event facilitated valuable networking with international coffee professionals, exploring potential collaborations and gaining insights into cutting-edge practices.
- **Knowledge Exchange**: EthioLatinCoffee members learned about the latest trends and innovations in the EU and global coffee markets, sharing their own knowledge and experiences to promote sustainability and gender equality.
- **Community Promotion**: The event provided an opportunity to showcase the EthioLatinCoffee Community of Practice platform to a broader audience, highlighting its objectives and achievements.
- **Collaborative Efforts**: The event emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts and knowledge sharing in addressing the challenges faced by the coffee industry.

Spanish Cooperation Office in Ethiopia: oce.etiopia@aecid.es
(+251) 116185365/82 Addis Abeba. Ethiopia

LESSONS LEARNT

The event highlighted the critical importance of community engagement and targeted support for women coffee producers. Discussions with international participants underscored the need for more focused training programs, particularly in coffee processing and marketing, to help women scale their operations and compete effectively in international markets. The expo illustrated that building a supportive community and investing in skill development are key strategies for achieving success in the global coffee industry.

The World of Coffee Expo provided an invaluable platform for EthioLatinCoffee participants to observe the market advantages of sustainable farming practices and certifications like Fair Trade and Organic. Through interactions with global leaders and experts, it became evident that these certifications not only open doors to better market access but also ensure higher prices for producers. The event emphasised the importance of expanding certification programs and educating farmers on the long-term benefits of sustainability, crucial for achieving both economic and environmental goals. Participants learned that embracing sustainability and certification can significantly enhance their competitiveness and market presence.

Partners

A diverse range of partners, including government agencies, NGOs, coffee cooperatives, academic institutions, and international organisations have taken part in the Fifth International Visit. The World of Coffee 2024 (Copenhagen) marked the largest event in the history of the World of Coffee, with over 400 exhibitors and 12,000 attendees from more than 130 countries. In addition to Ethiopian, Honduras and Colombian government agencies, Ethiopian Ambassador to Denmark and the Honduran Vice Minister for Coffee were present during the event.

Spanish Cooperation Office in Ethiopia. oce.etiopia@aecid.es
(+251) 116185365/82 Addis Abeba. Ethiopia

EthioLatin Coffee Community of Practice is funded by the European Union and the Spanish Cooperation through the DeSIRA program

FOLLOW OUR SOCIALS

@ EthioLatin Coffee | Ethiolatincoffee.com

This Project is co-funded by the European Union and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)