Report of the VI International South-South Cooperation Exchange Visit and Closure Event

Dec 03 – 07, 2024

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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1. Introduction

The Women, Coffee, and Climate project is a collaborative initiative funded by the European Union's DeSIRA (Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture) program and Spanish Cooperation. It is designed to empower women within Ethiopia's coffee value chain to enhance socio-ecological resilience against the adverse effects of climate change. By addressing critical challenges faced by women in the sector, the project integrates sustainability, gender equity, and innovative practices into coffee production and marketing.

The project has several key objectives. Firstly, it aims to promote gender equality by addressing the specific vulnerabilities of women in the coffee sector. This includes enhancing their access to productive resources, fostering leadership roles, and encouraging equitable participation in decision-making processes. Secondly, the project emphasizes sustainability by integrating eco-efficient and climate-smart practices throughout the coffee value chain to ensure environmental and economic benefits in the long term. Additionally, it seeks to enhance South-South cooperation by establishing a Community of Practice (CoP) that connects stakeholders from Ethiopia, Colombia, and Honduras, enabling the exchange of knowledge and best practices. Finally, the project fosters social innovation by implementing strategies that improve the livelihoods of women coffee farmers and their communities.

A highlight of the project is its commitment to knowledge exchange, as demonstrated through the organization of six international exchange visits. These events, including the sixth exchange held in Ethiopia from Dec 03 – 07, 2024, have facilitated workshops, field visits, and collaborative planning sessions involving partners/stakeholders from Ethiopia, Honduras, and Colombia.

Gender integration has been at the heart of the project, reflected in the development of policies such as the "Gender and Climate Action Plan for Ethiopia" and comprehensive guidelines for integrating gender equality into coffee landscape management. The establishment of a Community of Practice has further strengthened collaboration among stakeholders, promoting sustainable practices, innovation, and shared learning in coffee production.

The outcomes of the project include strengthened institutional and community capacities for sustainable coffee production, enhanced gender equity across the coffee value chain, and the adoption of climate-resilient farming techniques. Additionally, the project has fostered a robust international network to support the continued development of the coffee sector. Overall, the Women, Coffee, and Climate project serves as a powerful example of how gender equality, sustainability, and innovation can be successfully integrated into agricultural value chains, offering a replicable model for similar initiatives worldwide.

Closure Event of the Women, Coffee, and Climate Project

The closure event of the Women, Coffee, and Climate project marked a significant milestone, celebrating the achievements and lessons learned throughout the project's duration. Held on December 3–7, 2024, in Addis Ababa and Jimma, Ethiopia, the event brought together project stakeholders, including representatives from Ethiopia, Honduras, and Colombia, as well as

international development partners. The event underscored the project's commitment to fostering gender equality, sustainability, and innovation within the coffee value chain while addressing climate change challenges.

The program featured a series of presentations, panel discussions, and interactive sessions to share project outcomes and best practices. Key stakeholders, such as ECTA, WICE, JARC, OSSREA, TECNiCAFÉ, AMUCAFE, and Spanish Cooperation, highlighted the transformative impact of the project on women's empowerment, sustainable farming practices, and community resilience. Field visits to coffee farms and research centers offered participants a firsthand view of climate-smart practices and women-led initiatives.

The event also provided a platform for stakeholders to collaboratively design the 2025 Action Plan for the EthioLatinCoffee Community of Practice, ensuring the continuity and sustainability of project achievements. It concluded with a celebratory networking session, reinforcing the strong bonds established among participants and reaffirming their shared commitment to the project's objectives.

2. Objectives of the Closure Event and VI Exchange Visit

The closure event and the VI Exchange Visit were strategically designed to achieve the following objectives:

1. **Celebrate Achievements and Share Lessons Learned:**
   Highlight the successes of the Women, Coffee, and Climate project, including its impact on gender equality, sustainability, and community resilience within the coffee value chain. Provide a platform for stakeholders to reflect on lessons learned and share best practices.
2. **Facilitate Knowledge Exchange and Collaboration:**
   Strengthen South-South cooperation by enabling stakeholders from Ethiopia, Honduras, and Colombia to share their experiences, innovations, and strategies for addressing challenges in the coffee sector.
3. **Empower Women in the Coffee Value Chain:**
   Showcase the role of women in driving sustainable coffee production and emphasize the importance of gender-responsive approaches in agriculture and climate resilience.
4. **Plan for Sustainability and Future Collaboration:**
   Collaboratively develop the EthioLatinCoffee Community of Practice 2025 Action Plan to ensure the continuation of project efforts, focusing on gender equality, sustainable farming, and climate resilience.
5. **Strengthen International Networks:**
   Build and reinforce relationships among stakeholders, fostering long-term collaboration and partnerships to advance gender equity and sustainability in the coffee sector.

Through these objectives, the closure event and exchange visit reinforced the project's legacy and set the stage for continued impact, ensuring the integration of its principles into future initiatives within the coffee value chain globally.

3. Event Overview

The closure event and VI International Exchange Visit under the Women, Coffee, and Climate project were held from December 3–7, 2024. The activities took place in two main locations in Ethiopia: Addis Ababa (Skylight Hotel and Daamat Hotel) and Jimma.

The primary purpose of the event was to celebrate the achievements and share the lessons learned throughout the project's lifecycle. It also aimed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge among stakeholders, strengthen South-South cooperation, and collaboratively develop the EthioLatinCoffee Community of Practice 2025 Action Plan. The event sought to emphasize the critical role of women in building a sustainable and climate-resilient coffee value chain while fostering international partnerships for continued progress in gender inclusion and eco-efficient practices.

The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders from Ethiopia, Colombia, Honduras, and international organizations. These participants represented various institutions across the coffee value chain, including government agencies, research institutions, women's networks, and development organizations. Key attendees included:

1. **Ethiopian Stakeholders:**
    - Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA)
    - Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD)
    - Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), Jimma Agricultural Research Center (JARC)
    - Women in Coffee Ethiopia (WiCE)
    - OSSREA (Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa)
2. **International Participants:**
    - TECNiCAFÉ (Colombia)
    - AMUCAFE (Colombia)
    - AMUCAFE (Honduras)
3. **Development Partners:**
    - Spanish Cooperation (AECID)
    - European Union representative
4. **Other Contributors:**
    - Coffee farmers, particularly women-led producers from the Yayu area
    - Experts in sustainable farming, climate resilience, and gender equality in agriculture

Through presentations, panel discussions, and field visits, participants shared their experiences, highlighted project milestones, and explored strategies to enhance women's empowerment and environmental sustainability in coffee production. The event exemplified a global collaboration model, focusing on leveraging collective knowledge and action to address shared challenges in the coffee sector

4. Opening Session

The opening session began with participants arriving at the Skylight Hotel in Addis Ababa on the morning of December 3, 2024. The check-in process allowed attendees to register, receive event materials, and familiarize themselves with the agenda. Following registration, participants were welcomed with a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony, symbolizing hospitality and unity. The aroma of freshly brewed coffee created a warm and inviting atmosphere, setting the tone for collaborative discussions and knowledge exchange throughout the day.

Welcome Remarks and Introductory Speeches

The formal opening of the event featured a series of welcome remarks and speeches delivered by distinguished dignitaries, emphasizing the importance of the Women, Coffee, and Climate project and its role in empowering women within the coffee value chain.

1. **Welcome Address by the Spanish Ambassador:** The Spanish Ambassador, Ambassador Guillermo López Mac-Lellan, expressed gratitude to all attendees and underscored Spain's commitment to gender equality and sustainable development in Ethiopia's coffee sector. Highlighting the role of Spanish Cooperation (AECID) in supporting the project, the Ambassador commended the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders in advancing socio-ecological resilience and fostering international partnerships.
2. **Remarks by the EU Desira Program Lead, Ato Mersha:** Ato Mersha Argaw, representing the EU Desira program, reflected on the significance of the project in aligning with global climate goals and gender equity initiatives. He highlighted how the program has supported innovative approaches to address climate challenges while empowering women coffee farmers. Ato Mersha encouraged participants to continue leveraging the lessons learned to ensure the project's sustainability and expand its impact across Ethiopia and beyond.
3. **Speech by the Director General of ECTA, Dr. Adugna:** Dr. Adugna Debela, Director General of the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA), provided an inspiring overview of Ethiopia's leadership in the global coffee industry. He emphasized the crucial role of women in the value chain and reaffirmed ECTA's commitment to advancing gender-sensitive policies and climate-smart practices. Dr. Adugna acknowledged the dedication of project partners and participants, urging them to remain united in driving change and enhancing the competitiveness of Ethiopian coffee on the international stage.

The opening session concluded with a collective acknowledgment of the achievements of the Women, Coffee, and Climate project, setting a collaborative and celebratory tone for the remainder of the event.

5. Presentation Session Highlights

The presentation session of the closure event showcased a series of insightful presentations delivered by the project's key partner institutions, including the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA), Women in Coffee Ethiopia (WiCE), Jimma Agricultural Research Center (JARC), Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD), the Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA), TECNiCAFÉ from Colombia, and AMUCAFE from Honduras. These presentations highlighted the lessons learned and achievements of the Women, Coffee, and Climate project, emphasizing the collective impact of innovative approaches, gender-sensitive policies, and climate-smart practices across the coffee value chain. Each partner institution brought a unique perspective, offering valuable insights into how collaboration and knowledge sharing have contributed to empowering women, fostering sustainability, and enhancing socio-ecological resilience within the coffee sector.

i. Presentation by the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA)

The Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA), represented by Mr. Fitsum Mengesha, delivered a comprehensive presentation highlighting the authority's contributions, achievements, and lessons learned within the framework of the Women, Coffee, and Climate project. The presentation showcased ECTA's commitment to enhancing gender equality, promoting sustainability, and fostering innovation across the coffee value chain in Ethiopia.

Key Highlights from the Presentation

1. **Overview of ECTA's Mandate and Role**
    - ECTA operates under Ethiopia's Agricultural and Rural Development Policy, focusing on the development, regulation, and promotion of coffee, tea, and spice value chains.
    - Its objectives include improving product quality and competitiveness, supporting cooperatives and smallholder farmers, and advancing sustainable farming practices.
2. **Planned Activities under the Project**
    - Establishing and strengthening Communities of Practice (CoP) in six woredas: Algieseche, Bilonopa, Chora, Doreni, Yayu, and Hurumu.
    - Conducting studies to assess women's participation and benefits within the coffee value chain.

- Developing and disseminating training materials, guidelines, and best practices.
- Supporting women farmers with inputs and capacity-building programs.
- Organizing workshops to address gender-based violence and promote gender-sensitive practices.

3. **Key Outputs and Achievements**
   - Formation of six woreda-level Communities of Practice with plans to facilitate monthly discussions on coffee production, forest preservation, and gender equality.
   - Distribution of six hand pulpers to selected women farmers, improving their coffee processing capabilities.
   - Publication and dissemination of over 10 communication materials in multiple languages to raise awareness about gender and climate action in the coffee sector.
   - Strengthening the ECTA Women's Forum through training sessions, workshops, and general assemblies.
4. **Lessons Learned**
   - Challenges remain in marketing regulations, transparency, and accessibility for women coffee farmers.
   - Significant gender gaps in marketing strategy, branding, and cooperative development were identified.
   - There is a need for stronger institutional linkage among public, private, and international actors to enhance women's roles in the coffee sector.
5. **Strategic Initiatives and Guidelines**
   - ECTA developed a "Marketing Strategy for Women" and a "Guideline for Gender Equality Strategy" to mainstream gender throughout its programs and projects.
   - A call center was initiated to enhance communication and provide tailored support for stakeholders in the coffee value chain.

Impact and Way Forward

ECTA's efforts have led to increased awareness and participation of women in Ethiopia's coffee sector. By addressing gender-specific challenges, improving access to resources, and promoting eco-friendly practices, ECTA is creating a more inclusive and resilient coffee value chain. Moving forward, ECTA plans to strengthen its collaborations, enhance the capacity of women's cooperatives, and integrate gender-focused approaches into broader agricultural policies.

The presentation concluded with a commitment to continue fostering innovation, equity, and sustainability within Ethiopia's coffee industry, ensuring long-term benefits for producers, communities, and the environment.

ii. Presentation by Women in Coffee Ethiopia (WiCE)

Ms. Beamlak Bekele, representing Women in Coffee Ethiopia (WiCE), presented the organization's achievements and contributions under the Women, Coffee, and Climate project. WiCE, a legally registered chapter of the International Women in Coffee Alliance (IWCA), is committed to empowering women across Ethiopia's coffee value chain. It aims to provide a platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and professional growth while fostering gender equity and sustainability in the coffee sector.

Key Highlights from the Presentation

1. **About WiCE**
   - WiCE is a member of the Specialty Coffee Association (SCA) and the African Fine Coffees Association (AFCA).
   - The organization represents over 92 individual companies and two cooperatives, offering a robust support network for women coffee professionals.
   - Its mission is to equip Ethiopian women with the skills needed to compete in the coffee sector locally and globally.
2. **Capacity-Building Initiatives**
   - **Training Programs:**
     - Over 30 women were trained in essential business skills, life skills, agronomy, post-harvest practices, and coffee cupping.
     - Advanced certifications were provided, with 16 women receiving intermediate and professional-level training under the Specialty Coffee Association.
   - **Focus on Professional Growth:**
     - Training enhanced women's confidence and expertise, opening opportunities for leadership roles and professional trainer certifications.
3. **Research and Policy Advocacy**
   - WiCE conducted pioneering research on the "Role of Women and Traditional Values in Coffee Production and Brewing Ceremony."
   - Findings were validated through workshops, contributing to a policy recommendation booklet and an executive summary aimed at preserving cultural heritage and promoting women's empowerment.
4. **Resource Center for Women**
   - The WiCE Resource Center has become a vital hub for coffee quality assessment, skill development, and networking.
   - It facilitated coffee sample preparation and hosted International Women in Coffee Alliance (IWCA) events, enhancing global connections.
5. **Engagement in International Events**

- WiCE actively participated in the International Women in Coffee Convention and other global forums.
- The organization shared its research findings with over 400 stakeholders, showcasing the economic and social impact of women in Ethiopia's coffee sector.

6. **Lessons Learned and Recommendations**
   - Identified gaps in training at the community (kebele) level and emphasized the need for demonstration sites to showcase best practices.
   - Highlighted the necessity of equipment support and marketing courses to help women add value to their coffee products.

Impact and Future Directions

WiCE has significantly contributed to advancing gender equity in Ethiopia's coffee sector by equipping women with technical and business skills, promoting sustainable practices, and fostering a culture of collaboration. The organization aims to expand its initiatives by providing more grassroots-level training, establishing demonstration sites, and enhancing women's access to markets and resources.

WiCE's efforts demonstrate the transformative potential of empowering women in agriculture, setting a strong foundation for sustainable growth and resilience in the coffee value chain.

iii. Presentation by Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD)

Dr. Tatek Dejene of the Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD) presented the organization's activities, achievements, and lessons learned under the Women, Coffee, and Climate project. As a federal institution established by Proclamation No. 1263/2021, EFD is dedicated to the sustainable management, conservation, and utilization of Ethiopia's forest resources. Through this project, EFD has demonstrated the potential of integrating gender equity and sustainable practices to enhance the Ethiopian coffee value chain.

Key Highlights from the Presentation

1. **Objective and Core Processes**
   - The project aimed to enhance gender equality and sustainability in the coffee value chain through eco-efficiency, social innovation, and South-South cooperation.
   - EFD's core processes include:

- Research on natural forests, climate change, and socio-economic aspects.
- Forest resources assessment and conservation.
- Green legacy initiatives and plantation forestry.
- Utilization of forest products and ensuring law compliance.

2. **Project Activities**
    - **Training on Landscape Management and Climate Action:**
        - Focused on equipping women with the knowledge and skills to manage landscapes sustainably and adapt to climate challenges.
    - **Mushroom Cultivation and Mycological Resource Management:**
        - Women were trained to cultivate mushrooms and utilize other non-timber forest products (NTFPs) to diversify their incomes and reduce dependency on limited resources.
3. **Products and Impact**
    - Developed ethnomycology notes documenting 51 wild mushroom species in the Yayo Coffee Forests, with 21 identified as edible.
    - Conducted studies on the effect of climate change on women coffee farmers in the Yayo Coffee Biosphere Reserve.
    - Highlighted the role of women's indigenous knowledge in sustainable coffee landscape restoration.
4. **Lessons Learned**
    - The Yayo forests offer untapped opportunities through NTFPs such as mushrooms, wild fruits, medicinal plants, honey, and spices. These products contribute significantly to household incomes and food security.
    - Women play a pivotal role in preserving indigenous knowledge, which is essential for sustainable landscape management.
    - Economic empowerment of women through NTFPs leads to broader community benefits, including investments in education, health, and development.
5. **Way Forward**
    - Promote the domestication and sustainable management of NTFPs to balance conservation with economic benefits for local communities.
    - Expand training programs for women on climate action, resource management, and NTFP utilization.
    - Foster the integration of indigenous knowledge into modern sustainable practices to improve community resilience and sustainability.

Impact and Future Directions

EFD has demonstrated the importance of leveraging forest resources and indigenous knowledge to address socio-economic challenges while promoting environmental conservation. The project's focus on women's empowerment and sustainable practices aligns with broader climate resilience and development goals. Moving forward, EFD plans to strengthen community engagement, expand training initiatives, and enhance the economic impact of NTFPs in the coffee-producing regions of Ethiopia.

Dr. Tatek Dejene concluded by emphasizing the vital role of collaboration and innovation in ensuring the long-term sustainability of Ethiopia's coffee value chain.

iv. Presentation by Jimma Agricultural Research Center (JARC)

Mr. Mathewos Mebrate from the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), Jimma Agricultural Research Center (JARC), presented the center's significant contributions to the Women, Coffee, and Climate project. As one of Ethiopia's premier research institutions, JARC focuses on advancing agricultural technologies and promoting sustainability within the coffee value chain.

Key Highlights from the Presentation

1. **About JARC**
   - JARC operates under EIAR and is one of Ethiopia's largest research centers, established before 1967.
   - It coordinates national coffee and soybean research, contributing to agricultural productivity, sustainable food security, and environmental conservation.
   - The center has released 49 coffee varieties (40 pure lines and 9 hybrids) and promotes improved technologies to farmers.
2. **Research and Assessments**
   - Conducted surveys across six districts (Alge Sachi, Bilo Nopa, Doreni, Hurumu, Yayo, and Chora), sampling 122 female-headed households (FHHs), 294 male-headed households (MHHs), and 294 wives.
   - Evaluated coffee-based diversification strategies in the Yayo Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve, focusing on household livelihoods, gender roles, and climate adaptation strategies.
   - Explored women's contributions and indigenous knowledge in sustainable coffee landscape management.
3. **Capacity Building**
   - Trained 236 individuals, including 197 farmers and 39 experts, on sustainable coffee landscape management.
   - Training topics included:
     - Coffee technology utilization (varieties, agronomic practices, and pest management).
     - Soil and water conservation techniques.
     - Livelihood and income diversification.
     - Gender mainstreaming in agricultural planning and implementation.
4. **Products and Impact**
   - Produced and distributed:
     - Manuals on agronomic practices, coffee protection, and soil conservation in Amharic and Afan Oromo.
     - Over 400 leaflets and 250 booklets for farmer education.
   - Developed comprehensive reports on coffee-based diversification and indigenous knowledge in the coffee sector.
5. **Lessons Learned**
   - Significant gender disparities exist in coffee production, with women shouldering reproductive labor and facing limited access to decision-making and resources.

- Gaps in income diversification and access to credit reduce the resilience of coffee-farming households.
- Gender-responsive strategies and inclusive agricultural extension services are crucial for enhancing women's roles and livelihoods in the coffee value chain.

6. **Way Forward**
   - **Policy Development:** Collaborate with local governments and NGOs to promote gender equality in agriculture and improve resource access for women.
   - **Capacity Building:** Expand training programs to enhance women's participation in decision-making and their knowledge of improved farming techniques.
   - **Infrastructure Investments:** Advocate for rural infrastructure improvements to facilitate market access and boost coffee farm productivity.

Impact and Future Directions

JARC's work under the Women, Coffee, and Climate project underscores the transformative potential of research-driven, gender-inclusive approaches to agricultural development. By integrating indigenous knowledge and promoting sustainable practices, JARC is setting the foundation for a resilient and equitable coffee sector in Ethiopia. Moving forward, the center aims to deepen its impact by scaling up gender-responsive interventions, advancing coffee technologies, and fostering community resilience against climate challenges.

Mr. Mathewos concluded by reaffirming JARC's commitment to empowering women and promoting sustainability in Ethiopia's coffee landscapes.

v. Presentation by TECNiCAFÉ

Ms. Viviana Narváez, representing TECNiCAFÉ from Colombia, delivered an insightful presentation on the organization's contributions to the Women, Coffee, and Climate project. As a leading coffee innovation hub located in Cauca, Colombia, TECNiCAFÉ focuses on integrating social, economic, and environmental sustainability into the coffee sector through research, education, and technology-driven practices.

Key Highlights from the Presentation

1. **About TECNiCAFÉ**
   - TECNiCAFÉ operates as a knowledge and innovation nucleus located in La Venta, Cajibío, Cauca.
   - Established as a mixed nonprofit corporation in 2015, it is dedicated to improving coffee production and quality through a productive innovation ecosystem.
   - Its mission encompasses advancing research and development, promoting entrepreneurship, and ensuring social and environmental sustainability in coffee value chains.
2. **Project Activities**
   - **Training Programs:**

        - Conducted training sessions on landscape management and climate action to equip coffee producers with strategies to enhance environmental sustainability.
    - **Knowledge Sharing:**
        - Participated in the Ethiolatin Coffee Community of Practice (CoP) to facilitate knowledge exchange and build international collaboration.
        - Presented at webinars and international exchange events, sharing best practices and lessons learned.
    - **Sustainable Practices:**
        - Focused on the systematization of sustainable practices for utilizing coffee by-products to enhance resource efficiency and reduce waste.
3. **Empowerment Initiatives**
    - Strengthened the **"Red de Mujeres en Café del Cauca"** (Network of Women in Coffee in Cauca), fostering leadership and entrepreneurship among women coffee producers.
    - Organized competitions, such as the **First Filter Coffee Competition for Women**, to celebrate and promote the contributions of women in the coffee sector.
    - Supported over 300 women leaders in sharing experiences and building capacity through participatory workshops and fairs.
4. **Strategic Focus Areas**
    - Promoted social innovation aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to address gender equity, climate resilience, and sustainable production in the coffee sector.
    - Transferred knowledge on climate adaptation, value chain optimization, and gender inclusion to ensure the long-term resilience of coffee-growing communities.
5. **Recognition and Networking**
    - Participated in regional and international fairs to showcase Colombian coffee and connect producers with global markets.
    - Facilitated the **"Premio El Mejor Café de una Mujer Caficultora en Cauca"** (Award for the Best Coffee by a Woman Coffee Grower in Cauca), enhancing visibility and market access for women coffee producers.

Lessons Learned and Future Directions

- The integration of women into the coffee value chain has proven transformative, highlighting their critical roles in driving sustainability and innovation.
- Strengthening networks like "Red de Mujeres en Café del Cauca" is vital for empowering women and promoting collaborative approaches.
- Going forward, TECNiCAFÉ aims to expand training programs, deepen engagement in South-South cooperation, and continue advocating for the sustainable development of the coffee sector through innovative practices and gender-responsive strategies.

TECNiCAFÉ's presentation emphasized the importance of fostering social innovation and inclusivity while leveraging sustainable practices to enhance the global competitiveness of coffee

producers, particularly women. The organization remains committed to advancing its mission of empowerment, sustainability, and quality in the coffee value chain.

vi. Presentation by AMUCAFE - Honduras

Ms. Glendy Aguilar, representing AMUCAFE (Alianza de Mujeres en Café - IWCA Honduras), presented the organization's achievements and initiatives under the Women, Coffee, and Climate project. AMUCAFE is dedicated to empowering women in Honduras's coffee value chain by providing tools, training, and market access to improve their livelihoods and promote sustainability.

Key Highlights from the Presentation

1. **About AMUCAFE**
    - AMUCAFE is a chapter of the International Women in Coffee Alliance (IWCA), uniting over 400 women across six regional subchapters in Honduras.
    - Its mission is to empower Honduran women participating in the coffee value chain by enhancing their skills, creating business opportunities, and improving their quality of life.
    - AMUCAFE advocates for gender equity and the active involvement of women in all aspects of coffee production, processing, and marketing.
2. **Strategic Focus Areas**
    - **Empowerment and Recognition:** Promoting women's roles in coffee farming and elevating their visibility in the industry.
    - **Capacity Building:** Supporting women through technical training, leadership development, and entrepreneurship initiatives.
    - **Sustainable Practices:** Encouraging environmentally friendly farming practices and promoting high-quality specialty coffee production.
3. **Key Initiatives and Campaigns**
    - **"Mujeres al Grano" Campaign:** A digital initiative aimed at increasing women's active participation in the coffee industry, emphasizing equity and sustainability.
    - **Strategic Plan Update:** Focused on enhancing women's market access, leadership, and technical capacity.
    - **Specialty Coffee Production:** Conducted mapping and evaluation of farms led by women to improve their agronomic practices and product quality.
4. **Participation in International Forums**
    - Represented at events such as the "Feria Cafés de Colombia Expo" and the International Women in Coffee Convention.
    - Shared insights and best practices during the II and III International Exchange Events in Ethiopia, Colombia, and Honduras.
    - Hosted discussions on climate adaptation, gender equity, and innovative practices in the coffee sector.
5. **Training and Market Integration**
    - Organized workshops for 23 members on sustainable coffee practices, quality control, and traceability.

- Facilitated market access for women's coffee to premium markets in Asia and the Americas, increasing their economic opportunities.

6. **Results and Impact**

- Increased women's participation in specialty coffee production and global markets.
- Enhanced visibility and recognition of women's contributions to the coffee industry.
- Strengthened collaboration with key stakeholders, including IHCAFE, CONACAFE, and international buyers.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

- Empowering women with technical training and market integration leads to improved livelihoods and sustainability in coffee farming.
- Continued investment in education, infrastructure, and technology for women farmers is essential for maintaining quality and competitiveness.
- Expanding partnerships and promoting women-led initiatives can amplify the impact of gender-equity efforts in the coffee value chain.

AMUCAFE's presentation highlighted the transformative power of women's participation in the coffee sector, showcasing their resilience, innovation, and commitment to sustainability. Moving forward, AMUCAFE aims to deepen its impact by scaling up training programs, strengthening regional collaborations, and ensuring broader access to high-value markets for women coffee producers.

vii. Presentation by OSSREA

Mr. Alemu Tesfaye, representing the Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA), presented the institution's contributions to the Women, Coffee, and Climate project. OSSREA's mission centers on promoting social science research to inform policy and practice across Eastern and Southern Africa, with a focus on sustainable development, gender equity, and climate resilience.

Key Highlights from the Presentation

1. **About OSSREA**
   - OSSREA is a regional organization dedicated to advancing social science research to address pressing societal challenges.
   - It operates as a knowledge hub, facilitating evidence-based policymaking and fostering collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners.
2. **Project Activities**

- **Gender Mainstreaming Training:**
  - Delivered training sessions aimed at enhancing the capacity of stakeholders in mainstreaming gender in projects and programs.
- **Research and Policy Development:**
  - Disseminated research studies to assess the socio-economic dimensions of gender and climate resilience in the coffee value chain.
  - Supported young scholars to do research and build their capacity in gender and climate issues in the coffee sector.
  - Developed actionable policy recommendations, strategies, guidelines to address gaps in gender equity and climate adaptation strategies.

3. **Products and Outcomes**
   - Published guidelines and tools to support gender integration in the coffee sector.
   - Facilitated the creation of knowledge-sharing platforms within the EthioLatinCoffee Community of Practice (CoP).
   - Contributed to the dissemination of best practices in gender-responsive climate action.
4. **Lessons Learned**
   - Social science research plays a critical role in understanding and addressing the structural challenges faced by women in the coffee value chain.
   - Collaborative approaches that involve local communities, researchers, and policymakers yield the most sustainable outcomes.
   - Capacity building is essential for empowering stakeholders to implement gender-sensitive and climate-resilient practices effectively.
5. **Way Forward**
   - **Policy Engagement:** Strengthen engagement with national and regional policymakers to advocate for the integration of research findings into actionable policies.
   - **Capacity Building:** Expand training programs to reach more stakeholders, emphasizing gender-responsive climate adaptation and sustainable farming practices.
   - **Knowledge Sharing:** Enhance collaboration through the EthioLatin Coffee Community of Practice to foster South-South cooperation and global partnerships.

Impact and Future Directions

OSSREA's efforts under the Women, Coffee, and Climate project have contributed significantly to building knowledge and capacity for gender equity and sustainability in the coffee sector. The organization plans to deepen its impact by scaling up research activities, fostering policy implementation, and ensuring continuous learning through regional and international collaborations.

Mr. Alemu Tesfaye concluded by reaffirming OSSREA's commitment to advancing inclusive and sustainable development in the coffee value chain through research-driven initiatives and collaborative action.

6. Gender and Climate Action Plan for Ethiopia's Coffee Sector

The **Gender and Climate Action Plan** for Ethiopia's coffee sector, presented by Ms. Lemlem Abebe, provides a comprehensive framework to address climate vulnerability and gender inequality while promoting resilience and sustainability in the coffee value chain. The plan outlines actionable strategies to empower women, integrate climate-smart practices, and achieve long-term environmental and socio-economic sustainability.

Key Highlights of the Plan

1. **Background and Context**
   - Women contribute 65-75% of labor in the coffee sector but control less than 20% of land and 10-34% of income.
   - Structural barriers include land insecurity, limited financial access, and entrenched socio-cultural norms.
2. **Goals and Objectives**
   - **Gender Equity:**
     - Improve women's access to resources and leadership roles.
     - Reduce income disparities within the coffee value chain.
   - **Climate Adaptation:**
     - Promote sustainable landscape management to mitigate land degradation.
     - Scale climate-smart farming practices and provide gender-sensitive climate information systems.
3. **Specific Objectives**
   - Build the capacity of women farmers in sustainable coffee production, financial management, entrepreneurship, leadership, and climate adaptation.
   - Strengthen the capacity of research institutions, cooperatives, extension services, and policymakers in gender-responsive and climate-resilient approaches.

Key Components of the Action Plan

1. **Gender-Responsive Value Chain Development**
   - Facilitate certifications and create special branding for "Women-Grown Coffee" to enhance market access.
   - Develop women-friendly post-harvest infrastructure, including processing, washing, drying, and grading facilities.
   - Strengthen women's roles in coffee marketing through cooperative bylaws and partnerships with international buyers.
2. **Livelihood Improvement**

   - Establish community-based financial safety nets, such as savings and credit associations.
   - Promote labor-saving technologies to reduce women's workload.
   - Enhance food security by integrating climate-resilient subsistence crops into coffee farming systems.
3. **Institutional Strengthening and Policy Advocacy**
   - Mainstream gender considerations into climate policies.
   - Develop gender-disaggregated data systems for informed decision-making.
   - Advocate for secure land tenure and enforce gender integration in climate adaptation strategies.
4. **Research and Knowledge Generation**
   - Conduct studies on the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change in the coffee sector.
   - Improve the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data to support evidence-based policymaking.
5. **Enhanced Access to Resources and Services**
   - Expand access to microfinance schemes tailored to women farmers.
   - Strengthen agricultural extension systems to address women's needs, including childcare and community-based training sessions.
   - Promote digital financing technologies and credit schemes.
6. **Climate-Resilient Practices**
   - Introduce climate-resilient coffee varieties.
   - Promote sustainable landscape management practices.
7. **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Framework**
   - Establish a robust framework to track progress, measure outcomes, and ensure continuous improvement.

Expected Outcomes

- Improved gender equity in resource access, decision-making, and leadership.
- Increased adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices across the coffee sector.
- Enhanced market access and income generation for women coffee producers.
- Strengthened resilience of coffee-growing communities to climate change.

Implementation and Resource Mobilization

- Mobilize resources through diverse funding mechanisms, including public-private partnerships, international grants, and community-based financing models.
- Leverage partnerships with international organizations such as the Green Climate Fund, UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality, and coffee-specific sustainability certification programs.

The **Gender and Climate Action Plan** serves as a transformative roadmap for fostering equity, sustainability, and resilience in Ethiopia's coffee sector. By addressing structural barriers and promoting inclusive strategies, the plan aims to empower women and enhance the overall productivity and sustainability of the coffee value chain.

7. Panel Discussion: Women in the Coffee Sector and the Challenges of Climate Change

The panel discussion, moderated by Ms. Hana Lemma of Spanish Cooperation, featured an inspiring lineup of panelists from across the Women, Coffee, and Climate project regions. The session focused on the pivotal role of women in the coffee sector, the barriers they face, and the impact of climate change on their livelihoods.

Panelists

1. **Ms. Sara Yirga (WICE, Ethiopia):** Representing Women in Coffee Ethiopia, a key advocate for gender equity in the coffee value chain.
2. **Ms. Fabiola Tombe (AMUCAFE, Colombia):** A leader in women's coffee networks in Colombia, promoting sustainable practices and market access for women farmers.
3. **Two Women Coffee Producers (Yayu, Ethiopia):** Local women farmers who shared their experiences and challenges with climate change and coffee farming in the Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve.

4. **Representative from AMUCAFE (Honduras):** Highlighted the success and ongoing efforts of women in Honduras to address climate resilience and strengthen their roles in the coffee industry.

Discussion Highlights

1. **Women's Leadership in the Coffee Sector**
   - **Ms. Sara Yirga** emphasized the contributions of women in Ethiopia's coffee industry, highlighting their role in every stage of the value chain, from cultivation to export. She called for increased recognition and support to bridge the gender gaps in resource access and decision-making.
   - **Ms. Fabiola Tombe** shared insights on how AMUCAFE Colombia empowers women by providing leadership training and facilitating access to premium markets. She stressed the importance of branding "women-grown coffee" to enhance visibility and profitability.
2. **Challenges of Climate Change**
   - The women coffee producers from Yayu shared firsthand accounts of how climate variability has disrupted traditional farming cycles, reduced yields, and exacerbated socio-economic vulnerabilities. They highlighted the urgent need for climate-resilient practices and access to adaptive technologies.
   - The representative from AMUCAFE Honduras discussed the organization's focus on diversifying income sources for women farmers and adopting sustainable practices to mitigate the effects of climate change.
3. **Barriers to Gender Equity**
   - Structural barriers, such as limited access to land, credit, and training, were a recurring theme. Panelists noted that these issues are compounded by socio-cultural norms that restrict women's participation in leadership and decision-making roles.
   - **Ms. Sara Yirga** highlighted the need for policy reforms to secure women's land rights and improve their access to agricultural extension services.
4. **Opportunities for Collaboration and Innovation**
   - The panelists identified opportunities for collective action through initiatives like the EthioLatin Coffee Community of Practice. They emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation to share best practices and build resilience.
   - Innovative solutions such as climate-resilient coffee varieties, digital financing platforms, and gender-inclusive policies were proposed as pathways to empower women and address climate challenges.

Key Takeaways

- Women are essential to the sustainability and resilience of the coffee sector, yet they continue to face significant barriers.
- Climate change disproportionately impacts women coffee farmers, necessitating targeted interventions to support adaptation and diversification.
- Collaborative platforms, such as the EthioLatin Coffee Community of Practice, are vital for knowledge sharing and fostering global partnerships.

- Empowering women through training, market access, and policy advocacy can unlock their potential as leaders in the coffee industry.

The discussion concluded with a strong call to action for stakeholders to prioritize investments in gender equity and climate resilience. Ms. Hana Lemma summarized the session by emphasizing that empowering women is not only a matter of equity but also a critical strategy for ensuring the sustainability of the global coffee sector in the face of climate change.

8. ECTA Call Centre

Ms. Hawi Atomsa Daba from the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA) unveiled the establishment of a state-of-the-art call center aimed at transforming communication and coordination within Ethiopia's coffee value chain. The initiative focuses on supporting all stakeholders, particularly women, by providing solutions to challenges, delivering market insights, and enhancing quality standards.

The call center is envisioned as a centralized platform to address the diverse needs of coffee farmers, processors, suppliers, and exporters. Utilizing advanced technologies, the platform will ensure seamless communication, real-time guidance, and secure operations.

Key Features and Purpose

The call center is designed to:

- **Provide farmer support:** Offer guidance on best practices in coffee cultivation, pest control, and harvesting.
- **Streamline supply chain operations:** Facilitate coordination among various actors in the coffee value chain to ensure efficient processes.
- **Enhance quality control:** Share critical insights on meeting international market standards and certifications.
- **Deliver market information:** Provide updates on trends, prices, and demand forecasts to empower stakeholders with data-driven decisions.

Benefits of the Call Center

The initiative is expected to:

- **Improve communication:** Foster connectivity across the coffee value chain to ensure a smooth flow of information.
- **Increase efficiency:** Reduce delays and bottlenecks by enabling quick problem resolution.
- **Enhance quality:** Assist farmers and processors in maintaining high standards essential for market competitiveness.
- **Provide market insights:** Support stakeholders in optimizing strategies based on reliable data.

Team Structure

- **Call Center Agents:** Equipped with customer service expertise and a strong understanding of the coffee sector, agents will serve as the first point of contact for stakeholders.
- **Supervisor:** Responsible for managing the team, addressing escalated issues, and analyzing system reports to enhance overall performance.

Implementation and Budget

The call center has a total budget of **€20,000**, allocated as follows:

- **System implementation:** €7,000
- **Procurement of equipment, furniture, and other assets:** €13,000

Items Procured:

- Four workstations for agents.
- One supervisor station.
- Five high-performance laptops and headsets.

Progress So Far:

- Terms of Reference (ToR) prepared and shared with project coordinators.
- Collaboration established with Ethio-Telecom for service provisioning.
- Procurement process completed, and technical evaluation underway.
- Dedicated office space for the call center has been selected and is being prepared.

Expected Outcomes

The fully operational call center, scheduled for completion by January 30, 2025, is anticipated to:

- Provide real-time assistance to farmers and stakeholders across the coffee value chain.
- Enhance the quality and competitiveness of Ethiopian coffee in international markets.
- Foster inclusivity by addressing the unique challenges faced by women in the coffee sector.

This innovative initiative by ECTA aims to transform Ethiopia's coffee value chain by ensuring better communication, greater efficiency, and improved quality standards. Ms. Hawi Atomsa Daba emphasized the call center's potential to empower stakeholders, particularly women, and strengthen Ethiopia's position in the global coffee market.

9. EthiolatinCoffee Community of Practice and Way Forward

Mr. Alemu Tesfaye from the Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA) presented the achievements and vision for the EthioLatin Coffee Community

of Practice (CoP). This initiative fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders in the coffee sector across Ethiopia, Colombia, and Honduras, with a focus on addressing challenges in gender equity, climate resilience, and sustainable coffee production.

The EthioLatin Coffee Community of Practice serves as a dynamic platform for exchanging ideas, experiences, and best practices among coffee producers, researchers, policymakers, and development practitioners. It aims to build institutional and local capacities through South-South cooperation, leveraging collective expertise to address the unique challenges faced by women in the coffee value chain.

Community Structure and Activities

The community operates under an organizing committee that oversees its strategic direction and activities. Regular webinars form the backbone of its engagement strategy, covering topics such as sustainable farming practices, gender inclusion, climate adaptation, and market integration. These webinars provide a space for stakeholders to share their experiences, discuss innovative solutions, and build networks across regions.

The EthioLatin Coffee Community's website, **www.ethiolatincoffee.com**, acts as a comprehensive resource hub, offering access to news articles, research papers, knowledge products, webinar recordings, and information on upcoming events. This platform ensures the dissemination of valuable insights and maintains ongoing dialogue among community members.

Key Achievements

1. **Enhanced Knowledge Sharing:**
    - Conducted multiple webinars with experts from Ethiopia, Colombia, and Honduras, focusing on critical issues in the coffee sector.
    - Facilitated the exchange of best practices in gender-responsive strategies and climate-smart agriculture.
2. **Strengthened Networks:**
    - Built strong linkages among producers, researchers, and policymakers, fostering collaboration across borders.
    - Established a supportive environment for women coffee farmers to voice their challenges and access innovative solutions.
3. **Resource Development:**
    - Published knowledge products, research papers, and event recordings to provide stakeholders with actionable insights and tools.

Way Forward

To ensure the continued success of the EthioLatin Coffee CoP, the following actions are planned:

- **Expanding Membership:** Encourage broader participation from stakeholders in additional coffee-producing countries to enrich the diversity of experiences and perspectives.
- **Enhancing Digital Resources:** Strengthen the website's offerings by integrating more user-friendly tools and real-time updates.
- **Deepening Engagement:** Increase the frequency and variety of webinars to address emerging challenges and opportunities in the coffee sector.
- **Promoting Gender Equity:** Focus on empowering women through targeted initiatives that address structural barriers and promote leadership roles.
- **Scaling South-South Collaboration:** Build stronger partnerships among coffee-producing nations to tackle common challenges and leverage shared opportunities.

The EthioLatin Coffee Community of Practice exemplifies the power of collaboration and shared learning in advancing sustainable coffee production and gender equity. As it moves forward, the community aims to build on its successes, creating a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future for the global coffee sector.

10. Closing Remarks

Aurora Martin from Spanish Cooperation delivered heartfelt closing remarks, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and solidarity in addressing the challenges faced by women in the coffee sector. She expressed gratitude to all participants for their active engagement throughout the event, noting that their contributions have laid a strong foundation for future initiatives.

Aurora highlighted the critical role of South-South cooperation in sharing knowledge and fostering innovation to enhance gender equity and climate resilience. She commended the Women, Coffee, and Climate project for its transformative impact on empowering women, promoting sustainable practices, and strengthening international partnerships. As she concluded, Aurora reaffirmed Spanish Cooperation's commitment to supporting initiatives that prioritize women's leadership and sustainability in the coffee sector.

Sara Yirga, representing Women in Coffee Ethiopia, reflected on the inspiring discussions and achievements shared during the event. She praised the dedication and resilience of women coffee producers, whose stories underscored the immense potential of women in driving sustainable development in the coffee value chain.

Sara urged all stakeholders to continue their efforts in breaking down barriers and creating opportunities for women in the coffee sector. She emphasized the importance of implementing the action plans and strategies discussed, particularly those aimed at addressing gender inequality and climate adaptation. Sara concluded her remarks with a call for unity, reminding participants that collective action and shared commitment are key to achieving meaningful and lasting change.

Together, their closing remarks encapsulated the spirit of the event—a celebration of progress, a commitment to equity and sustainability, and a shared vision for a resilient and inclusive coffee future.

11. Breakout Sessions (December 4):

Welcome Remarks and Program Introduction

The second day of the Women, Coffee, and Climate workshop, held on December 4, 2024, at the Daamat Hotel, commenced with welcoming remarks by Mr. Alemu Tesfaye, representing the Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA). His address set a collaborative and reflective tone for the day, highlighting the transformative potential of the Women, Coffee, and Climate project. Mr. Alemu emphasized the importance of translating the insights and strategies developed throughout the project into actionable frameworks that promote equity, sustainability, and resilience across the coffee value chain.

Following the welcome remarks, the program introduction was delivered by Ms. Beatriz Polo García of Spanish Cooperation. Ms. García outlined the objectives and structure of the day's agenda, focusing on thematic breakout sessions designed to foster in-depth discussions on key topics. She highlighted the importance of leveraging South-South cooperation to share knowledge and innovations that empower women in the coffee sector and address climate resilience challenges.

Together, the welcoming remarks and program introduction underscored the collective commitment of stakeholders to advancing gender equity and sustainability in the coffee industry. They also served as a call to action, urging participants to engage actively in the sessions and contribute to the shared vision of a more inclusive and resilient coffee value chain.

12. Breakout Room 1: ECTA Gender Marketing Strategy and WICE Recommendations

The breakout session focused on addressing strategic interventions to enhance women's participation in the Ethiopian coffee sector and boost their roles in marketing and export. The session highlighted the **Gender Marketing Strategy** developed by the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA) and the practical recommendations from Women in Coffee Ethiopia (WICE). Both frameworks emphasized the need to empower women in the value chain, address systemic barriers, and position women-produced coffee in competitive international markets.

Key Insights from the ECTA Gender Marketing Strategy

1. **Objective:**
    - To increase women's market share in the coffee sector by improving export quality, participation in prestigious competitions, and value addition.
    - Promote certified and branded women-grown coffee to high-end markets and increase domestic consumption of roasted coffee.
2. **Strategic Issues Identified:**
    - Weak enforcement of marketing regulations and lack of incentives for women.
    - Insufficient transparency and high administrative costs in the marketing process.

- Limited market services tailored to women and inadequate marketing infrastructure.
- Low capacity of women in marketing roles and limited access to international markets.
- Lack of a branding and promotion strategy specifically for women's coffee.
- Limited access to financial resources and absence of women's cooperatives and associations.

3. **Strategic Interventions:**
   - Strengthen enforcement of quality-control and marketing policies.
   - Develop a branding strategy and segmented campaigns for women's coffee.
   - Improve access to marketing centers and services tailored to women.
   - Establish a National Coffee Fund for women to support long-term investments.
   - Promote women's cooperatives and unions to enhance collective bargaining and accountability.

WICE Recommendations to Boost Women's Coffee Marketing and Export

1. **Storytelling and Heritage:**
   - Leverage the deep cultural connection between Ethiopian women and coffee, emphasizing their roles as custodians of Ethiopia's coffee heritage.
   - Use storytelling to create authentic narratives that resonate with global consumers, highlighting the cultural significance of Ethiopian women's contributions to the coffee industry.
2. **Marketing Strategies:**
   - Build a strong digital presence through websites and social media campaigns to connect with global buyers.
   - Collaborate with established brands to co-brand products featuring women's stories and heritage.
   - Enhance packaging and product branding to reflect sustainability, quality, and women's leadership in coffee production.
3. **Global Certification and Networking:**
   - Promote certifications such as Fair Trade and Organic to attract ethical consumer bases.
   - Strengthen women's access to global coffee networks and platforms for direct market connections.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased visibility and market share for women coffee producers.
- Enhanced access to financial resources and capacity-building programs.
- Improved branding and recognition of Ethiopian women-grown coffee globally.
- Development of a National Women's Coffee Platform to foster collaboration and accountability among stakeholders.

The session concluded with a commitment to operationalize these strategies through multi-stakeholder partnerships and targeted investments. Participants emphasized the importance of

enabling women to take ownership of their narratives and drive change within the coffee sector. These efforts aim to create a more inclusive, equitable, and resilient coffee industry, empowering Ethiopian women as key players on the global stage.

13. Breakout Room 2: EFD Recommendations and Best Practices for Enhancing Women's Roles in Non-Timber Forest Product Management

The session in Breakout Room 2, led by Alemtsehaye Eyassu from the Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD), focused on the opportunities and strategies to enhance women's participation and leadership in Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) management. The presentation highlighted the economic, ecological, and social significance of NTFPs within Ethiopia's forest ecosystems, especially in areas like the Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve. Emphasis was placed on the challenges faced by women in accessing and benefiting from NTFPs and on actionable recommendations to empower women and ensure sustainable forest management.

Challenges Highlighted

1. **Structural Barriers:**
    - Limited access to resources such as credit, information, and technology.
    - Time poverty due to household responsibilities and the physical safety concerns of women traveling long distances to forests.
2. **Economic Limitations:**
    - Poor market access and lack of strong linkages to national and international buyers.
    - Insufficient financial services and gender disparities in labor compensation.
3. **Social and Cultural Constraints:**
    - Women's limited decision-making power in forest management.
    - Inadequate participation in cooperatives and absence of gender-inclusive policies.

Key Recommendations

1. **Awareness Creation and Training:**
    - Organize training on sustainable harvesting, grading, and storage of NTFPs to enhance quality and profitability.
    - Conduct awareness campaigns on the economic and ecological benefits of NTFPs to encourage community involvement.
2. **Empowering Women:**
    - Promote gender equality in resource access, fair payment, and leadership roles.
    - Provide technical skills training to increase women's productivity and improve their decision-making capacities.
3. **Encourage Value Addition:**
    - Support processing, branding, and packaging of NTFPs to improve quality and market competitiveness.

   - Develop value chains to create employment opportunities and enhance women's incomes.
4. **Improving Market Access:**
   - Establish cooperatives and market linkages for better pricing and reduced dependency on intermediaries.
   - Create direct connections to national and international markets to ensure sustainable income for women.
5. **Access to Microfinance:**
   - Design financial services tailored to women's needs, such as microcredit and savings associations.
   - Facilitate financial literacy programs to empower women economically and improve access to investment opportunities.
6. **Promoting Domestication of NTFPs:**
   - Encourage the cultivation of valuable NTFPs closer to homes to reduce the time and energy required for collection.
   - Domestication efforts also alleviate pressure on natural forests and improve overall productivity.
7. **Adoption of Technology:**
   - Promote the use of digital payment systems to enhance women's control over finances.
   - Introduce mobile technology to improve market transparency, facilitate access to market information, and empower women.
8. **Scaling Labor-Saving Technologies:**
   - Provide access to biogas and improved cookstoves to reduce women's time spent on domestic chores.
   - Invest in modern beekeeping technologies to increase honey production and diversify incomes.

Best Practices from Global Examples

- **Uganda:** Women-led cooperatives in Budongo sustainably produce honey while conserving forest resources.
- **Nepal and Vietnam:** Legal recognition of women as primary forest users and the introduction of labor-saving technologies have increased women's participation in forest management.
- **Indonesia:** A honey network links women producers to premium markets, supporting both economic and ecological goals.

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced representation of women in NTFP management and decision-making roles.
- Increased financial independence and improved livelihoods for women through better market access and value addition.
- Strengthened sustainable forest management practices, reducing overexploitation and ensuring biodiversity conservation.

This session emphasized the transformative potential of empowering women in NTFP management. By addressing barriers and adopting the recommended strategies, stakeholders can foster gender equity, improve economic opportunities, and promote sustainable forest ecosystems.

14. Breakout Room: OSSREA – Guidelines for Integrating Gender Equality into Coffee Landscape Management

The breakout session led by Abdi Etefa, a consultant for OSSREA, focused on advancing gender equality within coffee landscape management. This initiative, developed under the DeSIRA project and supported by the European Union and Spanish Cooperation, aims to address gender disparities and promote inclusive, sustainable practices across Ethiopia's coffee sector.

Key Challenges in Gender Equality

1. **Systemic Barriers:**
    - Women perform 70% of labor in the coffee sector but face limited access to land, credit, training, and decision-making roles.
    - Socio-cultural norms restrict women's participation in leadership and economic activities.
    - Inequities in financial and market access limit women's contributions to higher-value areas of the coffee value chain.
2. **Climate Change Impact:**
    - Women are disproportionately affected by climate change due to their roles in agriculture and resource management.
    - Limited access to adaptive technologies and resources exacerbates vulnerabilities.

Guidelines for Gender Equality in Coffee Landscape Management

1. **Key Principles:**
    - Equal access to resources and opportunities (land, credit, training).
    - Empowerment through capacity building and leadership development.
    - Equity in participation, decision-making, and fair treatment.
    - Elimination of discrimination and bias while promoting safety and well-being.
    - Sustainability through inclusive and participatory practices.
2. **Frameworks for Implementation:**
    - **Gender Analysis:** Use tools like the Harvard Analytical Framework and Gender Analysis Matrix (GAM) to identify roles, responsibilities, and resource access by gender.
    - **Participatory Approaches:** Involve community members, including women, in planning and management through techniques like mapping, focus groups, and rural appraisals.
3. **Value Chain Integration:**
    - Promote women's entrepreneurship and inclusion across all stages of the coffee value chain, from production to processing and marketing.

- Enhance women's access to resources, training, and innovative technologies.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track progress.

Success Stories and Case Studies

1. **Ethiopia:** Nespresso's AAA Sustainable Quality™ Program increased women's participation in training from 1% to 30%, demonstrating the potential of capacity building and leadership development.
2. **Uganda:** Gender Action Learning System (GALS) used storytelling and peer learning to foster inclusivity, resulting in improved income and gender equality.
3. **Colombia:** Women coffee producers in Huila partnered with the Colombia El Desarrollo Coffee Growers Association, enhancing sustainability, cooperative formation, and market access.

Recommendations

1. **Policy Development:**
   - Advocate for gender-sensitive policies on land rights, finance, and representation in decision-making bodies.
   - Conduct gender audits to identify gaps and address systemic inequities.
2. **Capacity Building:**
   - Provide training in sustainable farming, leadership, and business literacy.
   - Establish community-based education programs to bridge knowledge gaps.
3. **Market Access and Financial Inclusion:**
   - Facilitate women's participation in cooperatives and strengthen their market linkages.
   - Promote the use of digital financial services to enhance transparency and accessibility.
4. **Collaboration and Accountability:**
   - Foster partnerships among governments, private sectors, and NGOs to create inclusive policies and amplify women's voices.
   - Implement gender equity scorecards and gender-disaggregated data systems to monitor progress.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased participation of women in leadership and decision-making within the coffee sector.
- Improved productivity, quality, and sustainability through gender-responsive practices.
- Enhanced economic growth and environmental stewardship driven by inclusive policies and practices.

This session emphasized the transformative potential of integrating gender equality into coffee landscape management. Stakeholders were encouraged to collaborate and scale successful programs, recognizing that a thriving coffee sector depends on the active and equitable participation of women. The session concluded with a vision for a sustainable coffee industry

where women's empowerment drives economic growth, environmental preservation, and social equity.

15. Breakout Room 2: AMUCAFE - Honduras: Coffee Organic Farming

This session, led by AMUCAFE (Alianza de Mujeres en Café - IWCA Honduras), focused on the organization's commitment to sustainable coffee production, empowerment of women, and fostering innovation within the coffee value chain. AMUCAFE's strategic plan for 2024–2029 highlights the central role of women in advancing organic farming practices while promoting economic independence and environmental sustainability.

AMUCAFE's Mission and Vision

- **Mission:** AMUCAFE empowers its women members to actively participate in decision-making processes within the coffee value chain. It fosters sustainability and enhances the quality of life for women, their families, and communities through education, training, and continuous support.
- **Vision:** To be a leading women-driven organization in the Honduran coffee value chain, driving empowerment and building a sustainable future.

AMUCAFE's approach emphasizes the dual impact of economic and environmental sustainability, ensuring benefits for current and future generations while preserving natural resources.

Strategic Objectives (2024–2029)

1. **Empowerment and Sustainability:**
    - Transition to a new legal framework that enhances operational efficiency and strategic decision-making.
    - Strengthen the empowerment of women members and promote sustainable practices across operations.
2. **Sustainable Practices:**
    - Develop and implement practices that prioritize resource efficiency, reduce environmental impacts, and improve the overall well-being of members and their families.
    - Facilitate the adoption of organic farming techniques to improve soil health and biodiversity.
3. **Innovation and Knowledge Transfer:**
    - Foster innovation in coffee production and along the value chain.
    - Encourage the effective transfer of technology and knowledge among members and stakeholders to enhance quality, sustainability, and competitiveness.
4. **Market Access and Value Addition:**
    - Increase members' capacity to generate higher incomes through value-added coffee products.

   - Leverage innovative and sustainable marketing opportunities to expand access to national and international markets.
5. **Strategic Alliances and Climate Action:**
   - Strengthen AMUCAFE's project management capabilities and build partnerships focused on empowerment, gender equity, entrepreneurship, and climate resilience.

Key Recommendations for Organic Coffee Farming

1. **Training and Capacity Building:**
   - Equip members with knowledge and skills in organic farming techniques, including composting, integrated pest management, and soil conservation.
   - Promote peer-to-peer learning and mentorship programs among women coffee farmers.
2. **Resource Optimization:**
   - Enhance resource management through efficient water use, sustainable agroforestry systems, and renewable energy solutions.
3. **Market Differentiation:**
   - Highlight the unique attributes of organic coffee produced by women through certifications and branding initiatives.
   - Develop marketing campaigns that emphasize sustainability, ethical sourcing, and women's empowerment.
4. **Climate Resilience:**
   - Incorporate climate-smart agricultural practices to mitigate risks associated with climate change.
   - Strengthen the adoption of diversified crops to improve food security and income stability.
5. **Community Engagement:**
   - Promote the active involvement of local communities in organic farming initiatives.
   - Foster intergenerational knowledge transfer to preserve sustainable practices.

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced economic independence and leadership opportunities for women members.
- Increased adoption of sustainable and organic farming practices across AMUCAFE's network.
- Strengthened market presence for Honduran women-grown coffee in high-value international markets.
- Improved environmental outcomes through reduced ecological footprints and sustainable resource management.

The session concluded with an emphasis on AMUCAFE's role as a catalyst for change in the coffee sector. By empowering women and championing organic farming, AMUCAFE is driving a more equitable and sustainable future for the coffee industry in Honduras. Participants were encouraged to explore collaborative opportunities to support and scale these initiatives.

16. Breakout Room 1: EIAR/JARC – Gender and Climate-Smart Coffee Packages

The session led by Beza Erko from the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and Jimma Agricultural Research Center (JARC) focused on integrating gender-responsive approaches into climate-smart coffee production practices. The discussion highlighted the impact of climate change on coffee farming and emphasized the need for innovative solutions to increase resilience, productivity, and sustainability in Ethiopia's coffee sector.

Context and Challenges

- Coffee production is a cornerstone of Ethiopia's economy, with approximately 25% of the population directly or indirectly engaged in the sector. Despite its economic significance, climate change poses severe risks, particularly for smallholder farmers who depend on stable weather patterns.
- Women play a crucial role in coffee production, contributing to seedling raising, planting, harvesting, compost preparation, and processing. However, their access to technology, training, and decision-making opportunities remains limited, which hampers their ability to adopt climate-smart practices.

Key Components of Climate-Smart Coffee Packages

1. **Improved Coffee Varieties:**
   - Development of disease-resistant coffee varieties adapted to Ethiopia's highland, midland, and lowland agro-ecologies.
   - These varieties enhance resilience to pests and diseases, improving overall productivity.
2. **Shade Trees:**
   - Shade trees mitigate extreme sunlight and temperature variations, conserving soil moisture and maintaining humidity, which are critical for drought resilience.
3. **Mulching:**
   - Covering soil with materials such as grass or crop residues to conserve moisture, reduce water loss, and suppress weeds, particularly during prolonged dry seasons.
4. **Irrigation:**
   - Introducing irrigation systems in drought-prone areas to enhance resilience and ensure consistent coffee yields.
5. **Organic Fertilizers:**
   - Promoting the use of compost from coffee husks, green manure, and animal dung to enrich soil fertility while reducing chemical dependency.
6. **Intercropping:**
   - Integrating coffee with other crops to maximize land utilization, maintain soil fertility, and reduce risks associated with monocropping.
7. **Soil and Water Conservation:**
   - Implementing methods such as bund construction and planting vetiver grass to prevent soil erosion and manage heavy rainfall in highland areas.

8. **Pruning and Stumping:**
    - Rejuvenating old or damaged coffee trees through pruning and stumping to promote healthy, productive growth.

Gender-Responsive Approaches

- Climate-smart coffee packages were designed to increase women's participation by addressing systemic barriers:
    - Enhancing access to technology and training.
    - Ensuring women are represented in decision-making processes within coffee cooperatives and farming communities.
    - Promoting knowledge sharing on sustainable farming practices.

Expected Outcomes

1. **Increased Resilience:**
    - Adoption of climate-smart practices to mitigate the effects of droughts, floods, and other climate-related challenges.
2. **Enhanced Productivity:**
    - Improved coffee yields through sustainable farming techniques and better resource management.
3. **Empowered Women:**
    - Providing women with the skills and tools to lead sustainable coffee production efforts, thereby strengthening their economic independence.
4. **Environmental Sustainability:**
    - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting biodiversity through eco-friendly farming practices.

The session concluded by emphasizing that climate-smart coffee packages are critical for the sustainability of Ethiopia's coffee sector. These solutions not only enhance productivity and resilience but also create opportunities for women to play a leading role in addressing climate challenges. Participants stressed the importance of providing adequate training, resources, and support to ensure the successful implementation of these strategies, paving the way for a more inclusive and climate-resilient coffee industry.

17. Dec 07, 2024 - Summary of the Internal Closure Event and Way Forward

Closure Event Overview

The internal closure event for the Women, Coffee, and Climate project was held on December 7, 2024, at the Daamat Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The session brought together key stakeholders, including representatives from WiCE, EIAR, JARC, EFD, OSSREA, AMUCAFE, TECNiCAFÉ, and Spanish Cooperation. Over the course of four hours, participants reflected on

the achievements of the project, discussed challenges, and collaboratively developed strategies and ideas for future actions.

Key Achievements Highlighted

1. **Knowledge Sharing and South-South Cooperation (OSSREA):**
    - Facilitated international knowledge-sharing through the EthioLatin Coffee Community of Practice (CoP), with webinars hosted on YouTube and the project website.
    - Developed key instruments, including:
        - Gender and Climate Action Plan.
        - Guidelines for integrating gender equality into coffee landscape management.
        - Strategies for managing non-timber forest products (NTFPs).
        - Circular economy approaches for coffee by-products.
2. **Empowerment and Capacity Building (WiCE):**
    - Strengthened resource centers and provided technical and financial training.
    - Trained members in specialty coffee certifications and supported two women to become certified trainers.
    - Conducted life skills, financial management, and cupping workshops for women producers.
3. **Sustainable Practices and Research (EFD and EIAR/JARC):**
    - EFD focused on integrating local community knowledge into sustainable forest and NTFP management.
    - JARC conducted research on coffee diversification and climate-smart agricultural practices while training over 200 farmers (50% women).
4. **Collaboration and Innovation (TECNiCAFÉ and AMUCAFE):**
    - TECNiCAFÉ led monthly expert-led webinars and facilitated coffee technology transfer initiatives between Honduras, Colombia, and Ethiopia.
    - AMUCAFE focused on strengthening women's roles in the coffee value chain through sustainable farming practices and collaborative market initiatives.
5. **Strategic Alliances and Policy Advocacy (Spanish Cooperation):**
    - Piloted collaborations on research-to-action initiatives, including specialty coffee traceability, blockchain, and EU Green Deal alignment.

Challenges Identified

- Limited market access and financial resources for women coffee producers.
- Insufficient infrastructure and inadequate training opportunities.
- Weak institutional linkages and lack of representation for women in cooperatives and unions.

Recommendations and Way Forward

1. Sustaining Women's Empowerment (Roundtable Discussions):

- Develop platforms for connecting coffee producers with buyers.
- Enhance training in financial management and soft skills.
- Conduct visibility campaigns to highlight women's contributions to coffee production.

2. Strategies for Climate Resilience:

- Promote payments for environmental services and pilot ecotourism projects.
- Implement climate-smart technologies like irrigation and shade-grown coffee systems.
- Develop gender-based research and targeted capacity-building programs.

3. Knowledge Sharing and Networking:

- Expand the EthioLatin Coffee CoP by hosting quarterly webinars and building digital resources.
- Facilitate exchange programs and virtual diploma initiatives for knowledge transfer.

4. Policy Advocacy:

- Advocate for gender-sensitive policies that enhance land rights, financial access, and representation in decision-making.

Key Outcomes

- The event solidified commitments to advancing gender equity, climate-smart practices, and sustainability in the coffee value chain.
- Actionable plans were set for empowering women, improving market access, and scaling successful strategies in Ethiopia, Honduras, and Colombia.

This closure event marked the culmination of a transformative project that has empowered women, promoted sustainability, and built resilient coffee communities. The discussions and outcomes serve as a roadmap for continued progress in the global coffee sector.

18. Summary of Field Visit

The field visits conducted during the Sixth International Exchange under the **Women, Coffee, and Climate** project provided participants with firsthand insights into the practical applications of sustainable coffee farming and gender-responsive approaches in Ethiopia. These visits were an integral part of the knowledge-sharing and learning process, reinforcing the project's commitment to promoting equity, sustainability, and climate resilience.

Visit to Jimma Agricultural Research Center (JARC)

- **Date:** December 5, 2024
- **Activities:**
  - Participants toured JARC's research facilities and experimental plots, focusing on coffee genetics and conservation.
  - Presentations highlighted JARC's initiatives on gender-responsive coffee landscape management and the development of climate-resilient coffee varieties.
  - Participants explored strategies for collaboration in genetics research and post-harvest practices, with an emphasis on scaling these efforts to benefit women farmers.
- **Outcomes:**
  - Recognition of JARC's pioneering role in advancing coffee research and sustainable practices in Ethiopia.

Visit to Women-Led Coffee Farms in Agaro

- **Date:** December 6, 2024
- **Focus:**
  - Participants visited women-led coffee farms supported by JARC, showcasing innovative practices in climate-smart agriculture.
  - Farmers demonstrated the cultivation of new coffee varieties such as Lemu 01, developed for higher yield and pest resistance.
- **Key Challenges Identified:**
  - Women farmers emphasized the need for better commercialization strategies to ensure steady income and improved food security throughout the year.
  - Limited access to resources and market linkages was noted as a barrier to scaling their operations.

Visit to Coffee Exporters and Galani Coffee

- **Date:** December 3, 2024 (Afternoon)
- **Activities:**
  - Participants explored professional coffee processing and marketing facilities in Addis Ababa.
  - Visits to Galani Coffee and coffee exporters provided insights into Ethiopia's efforts to elevate the quality and visibility of its coffee on the global market.
- **Observations:**
  - The role of women in the processing and marketing stages was highlighted, with an emphasis on creating more opportunities for their participation in high-value market segments.

Key Reflections from Field Visits

1. **Sustainability and Innovation:**
   - The integration of climate-smart practices, such as intercropping and shade-grown coffee, demonstrated the potential for improving productivity and environmental resilience.
2. **Gender Empowerment:**
   - Women farmers' active roles in coffee production highlighted the need for targeted interventions to address barriers in resource access, training, and market linkages.

3. **Collaboration Opportunities:**
    - Participants identified synergies between Ethiopian institutions and international partners such as TECNiCAFÉ and AMUCAFE to enhance knowledge exchange and implement scalable solutions.

The field visits provided a tangible context to the theoretical discussions during the workshop, offering actionable insights into improving coffee productivity and gender equity in Ethiopia. Participants emphasized the importance of continued collaboration and resource investment to ensure the sustainability and inclusivity of the coffee value chain. These experiences reaffirmed the collective commitment to empowering women and fostering innovation in the global coffee sector.

19. Key Takeaways from the Women, Coffee, and Climate Project and Exchange Visit

The Women, Coffee, and Climate project showcased the transformative potential of empowering women in the coffee sector while promoting sustainable practices and climate resilience. The project's activities, discussions, and field visits provided a wealth of insights into advancing gender equity, fostering innovation, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of coffee production.

Gender Empowerment and Inclusivity

A recurring theme throughout the project was the critical role of women in the coffee value chain. Women contribute significantly to cultivation, processing, and quality assurance but often face systemic barriers such as limited access to resources, decision-making roles, and market opportunities. Targeted interventions, including training in sustainable practices, financial management, and leadership development, were highlighted as essential for empowering women and unlocking their potential as leaders in the coffee sector.

Climate-Smart Agriculture

The integration of climate-smart practices emerged as a cornerstone for building resilience against the challenges posed by climate change. Strategies such as using shade trees, intercropping, organic fertilizers, and improved coffee varieties were shown to enhance productivity and sustainability. The adoption of these practices is particularly important in regions like Ethiopia, where climate variability threatens coffee yields and livelihoods.

Collaborative Knowledge Sharing

The EthioLatin Coffee Community of Practice (CoP) proved to be a vital platform for fostering South-South cooperation and sharing best practices among Ethiopia, Colombia, and Honduras. Webinars, field visits, and discussions facilitated the exchange of innovative approaches to gender equity and sustainability, strengthening global networks in the coffee industry.

Market Access and Value Addition

Promoting women's access to high-value markets and creating branding strategies for "women-grown coffee" were identified as key drivers of economic empowerment. Value addition, through sustainable practices such as coffee by-product utilization and certifications, offers significant potential to improve livelihoods and elevate the global competitiveness of coffee producers.

Field Visits and Practical Insights

Field visits to the Jimma Agricultural Research Center, women-led coffee farms in Agaro, and processing facilities in Addis Ababa reinforced the importance of bridging research with real-world applications. These experiences highlighted opportunities for collaboration, particularly in scaling innovations such as climate-smart coffee packages and post-harvest practices.

Strategic Partnerships and Policy Advocacy

Collaborative efforts involving governments, NGOs, private sectors, and development partners were emphasized as essential for addressing systemic challenges. Policy advocacy focused on securing land rights for women, enhancing financial access, and integrating gender-sensitive approaches into agricultural strategies is critical for driving systemic change.

Challenges and Recommendations

Key challenges such as limited financial resources, inadequate infrastructure, and cultural norms restricting women's participation were addressed with actionable recommendations. These included creating women-led cooperatives, expanding microfinance options, and leveraging technology to improve market access and operational efficiency.

Sustainability and Resilience

The project underscored the importance of aligning coffee production with environmental stewardship. By adopting eco-friendly practices and diversifying income sources, coffee producers can ensure long-term resilience for communities and ecosystems alike.

Way Forward

As the project transitions to its next phase, stakeholders committed to scaling successful models, enhancing collaboration, and implementing strategies discussed during the sessions. The collective efforts aim to create a more inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient coffee industry, where women play a central role in shaping the future.

These key takeaways encapsulate the progress and vision of the Women, Coffee, and Climate project, providing a roadmap for continued impact in the global coffee sector.

20. Achievements and Lessons Learned

Achievements

The **Women, Coffee, and Climate Project** has made significant strides in addressing gender disparities, promoting sustainability, and fostering resilience within the coffee sector. Key achievements include:

1. **Empowering Women in the Coffee Value Chain:**
   - Women across Ethiopia, Colombia, and Honduras received training in specialty coffee production, financial management, and leadership.
   - Organizations like WiCE and AMUCAFE enhanced women's visibility and participation through certification programs, networking opportunities, and market integration.
2. **Development of Strategic Frameworks and Guidelines:**
   - Key outputs included the Gender and Climate Action Plan, guidelines for integrating gender equality into coffee landscape management, and strategies for managing non-timber forest products (NTFPs).
   - These tools provide actionable frameworks for stakeholders to advance gender equity and sustainability.
3. **Establishment of the EthioLatin Coffee Community of Practice (CoP):**
   - The CoP facilitated South-South cooperation and knowledge-sharing through webinars, field visits, and expert-led sessions.
   - Participants from Ethiopia, Colombia, and Honduras collaborated to share innovative approaches and best practices.
4. **Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture:**
   - Climate-smart coffee packages were introduced, featuring improved coffee varieties, organic fertilizers, irrigation systems, and soil conservation techniques.
   - Field visits showcased the successful implementation of these practices in Ethiopia's coffee-growing regions.
5. **Fostering Market Access and Value Addition:**
   - Women-grown coffee branding initiatives and value addition strategies, such as utilizing coffee by-products, helped producers tap into high-value markets.
   - Collaborative efforts with global partners supported certifications, branding, and premium market access.
6. **Strengthening Research and Knowledge Transfer:**
   - Research conducted by institutions like JARC and TECNiCAFÉ explored coffee diversification, climate-smart technologies, and indigenous knowledge.
   - Findings informed policy recommendations and practical interventions.
7. **Building Collaborative Networks:**
   - Partnerships with key stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and private sector actors, were strengthened to support gender equity and sustainable practices.
   - Events such as international exchanges and field visits fostered global collaboration.

Lessons Learned

The project revealed critical insights that can guide future initiatives in the coffee sector:

1. **Importance of Gender-Responsive Approaches:**
   - Addressing gender disparities in resource access, training, and decision-making is essential for achieving equity and improving productivity.
   - Women's active participation in leadership roles strengthens the resilience and inclusivity of coffee value chains.
2. **Value of Knowledge Sharing:**
   - Platforms like the EthioLatin Coffee CoP demonstrated the power of collective learning and collaboration to address shared challenges across regions.
   - Regular webinars and exchange visits provided opportunities for stakeholders to exchange insights and innovations.
3. **Necessity of Climate-Smart Practices:**
   - Integrating climate-smart solutions, such as intercropping, shade trees, and organic fertilizers, is critical for adapting to climate change and enhancing productivity.
   - Targeted interventions that consider local conditions and gender dynamics are more effective.
4. **Challenges in Market Access:**
   - Limited infrastructure and financial resources constrain women's ability to compete in global markets.
   - Branding initiatives and certifications tailored to women can significantly improve visibility and market penetration.
5. **Significance of Policy Support:**
   - Policy frameworks must integrate gender considerations to address systemic barriers, such as land ownership and financial inclusion.
   - Advocacy for inclusive policies is crucial for long-term impact.
6. **Sustainability Through Partnerships:**
   - Collaboration among governments, NGOs, private sectors, and international organizations is essential for scaling successful models.
   - Strategic alliances can enhance resource mobilization and implementation capacity.
7. **Need for Continuous Capacity Building:**
   - Sustained training in technical, financial, and entrepreneurial skills ensures women are well-equipped to navigate the challenges of the coffee industry.
   - Empowering women with knowledge and tools fosters innovation and long-term resilience.

The achievements and lessons learned from the **Women, Coffee, and Climate Project** highlight its transformative impact on the global coffee sector. These insights will serve as a foundation for future initiatives aimed at promoting gender equity, sustainability, and climate resilience.

21. Future Directions

Building on the successes of the Women, Coffee, and Climate Project, the next phase will focus on scaling sustainable and gender-responsive practices, strengthening global collaboration, and fostering resilience within the coffee value chain. A key priority is to enhance women's roles across all stages of coffee production, processing, and marketing by addressing systemic barriers such as limited access to land, credit, and training. This will require targeted interventions, including the establishment of women-led cooperatives, tailored financial services, and capacity-building programs that empower women to take on leadership roles.

Expanding the EthioLatin Coffee Community of Practice (CoP) will be central to ensuring continued knowledge sharing and collaboration. Quarterly webinars, virtual training programs, and exchange visits will provide platforms for stakeholders from Ethiopia, Colombia, and Honduras to share innovations and best practices. Integrating advanced technologies, such as digital platforms for coffee commerce and farm management, will enhance transparency, market access, and operational efficiency for women coffee producers.

Climate resilience remains a critical focus area. Promoting climate-smart agriculture, such as shade-grown coffee systems, intercropping, and the adoption of improved coffee varieties, will mitigate the adverse effects of climate change while increasing productivity. Collaborative research and the integration of indigenous knowledge will further strengthen local adaptation strategies. Efforts to align with international standards, such as the EU Green Deal, will also support the inclusion of women's coffee in premium markets through certifications and branding.

Future initiatives will also emphasize the diversification of livelihoods. By encouraging the integration of coffee with non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and promoting value addition, such as the utilization of coffee by-products, producers can achieve greater economic stability and environmental sustainability. Investments in rural infrastructure, such as modern beekeeping facilities and agroforestry systems, will complement these efforts.

Finally, policy advocacy will play a pivotal role in creating an enabling environment for sustainable growth. Stakeholders will work together to promote gender-sensitive policies, secure land rights for women, and ensure equitable representation in decision-making. Collaboration between governments, NGOs, private sector actors, and international organizations will be essential to mobilize resources and drive systemic change.

These future directions aim to build a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient coffee sector, where women are empowered as key contributors to economic growth, environmental stewardship, and community development. By fostering partnerships and innovation, the project will continue to serve as a model for addressing global challenges in the agricultural sector.

22. Conclusion

The closure event and the VI International Exchange Visit marked a significant milestone in the Women, Coffee, and Climate Project. This initiative brought together stakeholders from Ethiopia, Honduras, and Colombia to reflect on achievements, share lessons learned, and collaboratively plan future actions. Through workshops, panel discussions, and field visits, participants gained valuable insights into the critical intersection of gender equity, climate resilience, and sustainable coffee practices.

The event highlighted the transformative impact of empowering women in the coffee value chain. Participants emphasized the importance of integrating gender-sensitive strategies and climate-smart agricultural practices to enhance productivity, sustainability, and resilience. Key achievements included the development of strategic frameworks such as the Gender and Climate Action Plan, the establishment of the EthioLatin Coffee Community of Practice, and the promotion of innovative market access strategies for women producers.

The field visits to the Jimma Agricultural Research Center, women-led coffee farms in Agaro, and processing facilities in Addis Ababa reinforced the importance of bridging research and practical applications. These experiences demonstrated the potential of collaborative efforts to address systemic challenges and scale impactful solutions.

As the project concludes, the outcomes of the event have set the stage for continued collaboration and innovation. Stakeholders committed to advancing the shared vision of an inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient coffee sector. Key priorities include scaling successful practices, fostering global partnerships, and strengthening the role of women as leaders and innovators in the coffee industry.

The closure event and exchange visit concluded with a strong sense of solidarity and a renewed commitment to addressing the challenges facing the coffee sector. Participants left with actionable strategies, strengthened networks, and a collective determination to drive meaningful change. This milestone serves as both a celebration of progress and a launchpad for future initiatives that will empower women, sustain livelihoods, and build resilience in coffee-producing communities worldwide.

23. Annexes

- Reports from Participating Partners