

SUSTAINABLE COFFEE FOR ALL



A competitive sector, creating equitable conditions for all

The challenges along our way

Before we can speak of a truly sustainable coffee sector, which builds the resilience of those who grow coffee for a living, several challenges must be overcome.

- The **coffee sector is disconnected**: it is difficult to scale successful initiatives because there is still a lack of integration of the public and private sectors, as well as of competent institutions to lead and frame actions at the country level.
- The **market environment is competitive**, with a **high degree of price volatility** and limited opportunities for cross-sector communication and cooperation.
- Coffee **farmer organisations** are not always professionally organised and have **limited access to services and finance**.
- **Young people have limited opportunities** to acquire new knowledge and skills and to access land and finance.
- **Women's plots** often **have even lower yields** than their male counterparts' plots, due to inequitable access to and control over inputs, technical assistance and finance.
- Coffee farmers fight **low yields** due to poor farm management, pests and diseases, poor use of key inputs and the effects of climate change. At the same time, **production costs** are **increasing**.



rikolto

Rikolto aims for an economically profitable, socially responsible and environmentally sound coffee sector; one in which all coffee farmers - young and old, women and men - earn a living income and have access to nutritious and affordable food. Our approach is centred around 3 domains of change:



Sustainable production

- We adopt a sustainable food systems approach: we strengthen coffee farmers' and their organisations' **production and post-harvest practices**, with a specific focus on quality improvement, **resilience to risks** and **climate smart agriculture**. We combine this with promoting crop **diversification** and **agroforestry** systems on coffee farms, and creating markets for food crops such as rice/yam in local urban markets. We do this to ensure that those who produce the beans we love so much are earning a living income.
- We create **opportunities for young women and men** to empower them to revitalise the coffee sector through innovation.
- We put in place the conditions for **the full participation of women** in the coffee sector.



"A commitment to those who grow coffee for a living is needed if we are to ensure that the relationship we have with this bean and those who grow it is one that is reciprocal, just, healthy, and sustainable."

*Mariela Wismann,
Latin America Coffee programme coordinator*





Inclusive markets

- We contribute to the **professionalisation** of farmer organisations, so they become trustworthy, competitive and profitable business partners, in line with the Professional Farmer Organization – Guidelines of AMEA, of whom Rikolto is a founding member.
- We broker **inclusive commercial partnerships** between coffee farmers' cooperatives and coffee buyers as well as lenders.



Enabling environment

- We **convene, strengthen and facilitate multi-stakeholder platforms in the coffee sector**, aimed at improving sector policies, knowledge management, coordination and joint action at the national, regional or international level, on the topics of quality coffee, equality in the coffee sector, climate action and inclusive business, amongst others.
- We **generate evidence** in our projects that can be shared in those multi-stakeholder platforms, to scale up successful initiatives.

"Sustainably grown coffee provides competitive business opportunities for coffee farmers and adds value for consumers."

Léopold Mumbere, Coffee cluster coordinator



Rikolto runs coffee programmes in Latin America, South-East Asia and Africa, in which we address challenges such as quality, sustainability and youth inclusion.

Annually, we reach over 19,000 coffee farmers of 16 coffee cooperatives, of which 5,111 are women and 3,872 are younger than 35. Through partnerships with a wide variety of stakeholders in the coffee sector, we reach thousands more.

Our partners include

- **Coffee-processing companies and wholesalers**, including ECOM, Jacobs Douwe Egberts, Olam, Lavazza, Saveur du Kivu, ...
- **Research institutes**, including World Coffee Research
- **Government agencies**, such as the Honduran Institute of Coffee and the National Coffee Council, the Ecuadorian Association of Coffee Export, PROMPERU, Sierra y Selva Exportadora, PROMECAFE.
- **Funders**, such as the Belgian Development Cooperation, IFAD, ...
- **Other sector actors**, like Rainforest Alliance, Solidaridad Network, Fairtrade Latin America (CLAC), Cospe Cooperazione Per Lo Sviluppodei Paesi Emergenti, Africa Fine Coffee Association, Specialty Coffee Association, UNDP - Pro Amazonia in Ecuador...

Facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues and platforms at the national, regional and international level is our “cup of coffee”.

- We are a **proud co-founder and active facilitator of national and regional multi-stakeholder platforms** in producing countries, such as the Nicaraguan Coffee Platform NICAFFES and the Honduran Sustainable Coffee Platform.
- Rikolto also actively **contributes to multi-stakeholder platforms**, such as the Global Coffee Platform, the Sustainable Coffee Platform of Indonesia (SCOPI), the Specialty Coffee Associations Indonesia (SCAI) and the International Women’s Coffee Alliance (IWCA).



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