



COOKSTOVES FOR COFFEE FARMERS

ETHIOPIA



Climate change has a major impact on the cultivation of coffee, not only our beloved cup is threatened, but also the existence of many small-scale coffee farmers in developing countries. The coffee forests in Ethiopia contain wild coffees that are critical to coffee survival. In this project, we collaborate with Fairtrade coffee farmers and other partners in the coffee chain to protect these forests, reduce CO₂ and improve the resilience and well-being of coffee farmers and their families.

Background

More than two billion cups of coffee are drunk worldwide every day. Much of this coffee is grown by small-scale farmers in developing countries. Of every 10 to 20 euros that we pay in the store for a kilo of coffee, less than one euro often ends up at the coffee farmer. That is not enough for a living wage. In addition, these farmers have another challenge, namely climate change. Rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns put the quality and production of coffee under pressure. If the current trend continues, the area suitable for coffee production is expected to be halved by 2050.

Ethiopia is the country where coffee was first discovered and where Arabica coffee originally comes from. Coffee is the largest export product and plays an important role in Ethiopian culture. Arabica originally grows here in the forest where the foliage of the shade trees protects the coffee bushes against temperature fluctuations. However, due to the increasing population pressure in the country, we are seeing increasing deforestation. This not only removes the shade trees, but also the unique wild types of coffee that grow in the coffee forests of Oromia. These varieties vary in tolerance to disease and drought and can be used for the development of new coffee varieties. These forests are therefore crucial for the survival of coffee in a changing climate.

The Fairtrade Carbon Partnership

Since 2015, FairClimateFund has been working with Fairtrade Nederland, Horn of Africa Regional Environment Center and Network (HoAREC & N) and Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union (OCFCU) in the Fairtrade Carbon Partnership.

OCFCU is the largest coffee federation in Ethiopia and represents 400,000 farming families in 400 cooperatives. The partnership aims to support these farmers in their fight against climate change.

In the areas where the coffee farmers live, cooking is often done indoors on an open wood fire. This is very harmful to the health of mainly women and children. In addition, the use of wood is a major cause of deforestation in the region. Via the cookstove program, farmer families are provided with a Mirt and a Tikikil, efficient cookstoves that reduce wood consumption and significantly reduce indoor smoke development.

In addition, the so-called Climate Academy was established where farmers receive training in sustainable agricultural practices, such as efficient land use, planting shade trees and income diversification.

Impact

Eight local Mirt and Tikikil workshops have now been set up and more than 6,000 households are equipped with efficient cookstoves. Users indicate that they suffer less from smoking-related complaints, such as coughing, burning eyes and headaches. Women who gather wood save on average about ten working hours a week or 2 to 3 euros a week if the wood has to be bought.

More information: <https://fairclimatefund.nl/en/projects/ethiopia--improved-cookstoves>



12,386

Efficient cookstoves are used



37,652

Thousand kilos wood saved
= 75,303 trees



60,572

Tonnes of CO₂ reduced



Fairtrade Carbon

The CO₂ reduction achieved by the cookstoves is Gold Standard and Fairtrade carbon certified. These Fairtrade Carbon Credits are bought by, for example, coffee importers, coffee roasters or supermarkets who in this way stimulate CO₂ reduction at the start of the coffee chain and at the same time also commit to CO₂ reduction within their own organization. Consumers or organizations outside the coffee chain can also support this project by purchasing Fairtrade Carbon Credits. The Fairtrade premium is used to continue activities of the Climate Academy.

Ambition

A sector-specific climate adaptation program has been set up with the cookstove program and the Climate Academy. Various coffee roasters sell Fairtrade climate-neutral coffee, coffee whose CO₂ emissions have been compensated through this project. The Fairtrade Carbon Partnership's ambition is to work with partners within and outside the coffee chain to scale up this project and to support more coffee farmers in their fight against climate change.



Benefits of the project

Health

- Cleaner and safer cooking prevents inhalation of harmful smoke and burns
- Less physical strain because less wood needs to be collected for cooking



Climate and environment

- Reduced wood use and CO₂ emissions and protection of coffee forests
- Coffee farmers are trained in climate-resilient farming practices



Social

- Women experience the convenience of cookstoves and can spend more time on family and education
- Social awareness of unfair distribution in the coffee chain



Economic

- Time savings and savings on fuel costs due to reduced wood use
- Local employment through the production of cookstoves



This project is Gold Standard and Fairtrade certified

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Gold Standard

Do you want more information?

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