

The Coffee Climate Care project addresses climate change in the Vietnamese coffee sector

UTZ Certified and the DE Foundation join forces to increase the resilience of coffee production systems

Hanoi/Amsterdam, October 15, 2013. UTZ Certified and the DE (Douwe Egberts) Foundation have launched the Coffee Climate Care project (C³), a three-year multi-stakeholder initiative aimed at establishing adaptation strategies that will make coffee producers more resilient against the impacts of climate change. The project will start with one pilot group of about 500 producers in Vietnam's Lam Dong province. The initiative is financed by UTZ Certified and the DE Foundation and further sponsored by the Deutsche Investitions und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG) with public funds of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



Vietnam is the world's largest producer of Robusta coffee, and the second largest supplier of UTZ certified coffee after Brazil. The negative occurrences caused by climate change in the country have the potential to threaten the livelihoods of thousands of smallholders, whose livelihoods depend on coffee farming.

"Climate change is a global challenge. Therefore, eventually we want to apply the lessons learnt from the C³ project in Vietnam across our worldwide network of coffee producers," said Britta Wyss Bisang, Standards Director at UTZ Certified. "By strengthening our certification program in adaptation measures related to climate variability, we can build new capacities at the farmer level that will benefit all actors along the supply chain."

The C³ project will be a collaborative approach supported by the know-how of several institutions such as the Vietnamese Coffee Research Institute and the Initiative for coffee and climate, among many others.

The C³ project and the [Initiative for coffee & climate](#) will work on a collaborative-based approach in order to systematically share the findings of both projects. This collaboration aims at making the access to information more efficient and available for national and international networks, which are interested in adaptation and mitigation measures in the coffee sector.

"During our presence in Vietnam, since 2001, we have seen rainfall patterns become more erratic, with longer and more pronounced drought periods and heavier rainfall in the wet season. In the Central Highlands, this is creating problems for farmers in drying their coffee. In combination with the expected temperature increase, we may also see drastic effects on coffee production," said Don Jansen, Program Manager at the DE Foundation. "Therefore, innovative adaptation strategies are fundamental for assuring the future of coffee producers in Vietnam and other regions. The C³ project is expected to contribute to the development of such strategies."

The C³ project will have three stages: i) assessing the climate vulnerability of the pilot group, and collecting relevant data on farms' greenhouse gas emissions and carbon stocks, ii) training and implementation of farmers on adaptation measures, and iii) the consolidation of results into a refined version of the UTZ Certified code of conduct. At the end of 2016, UTZ Certified and the DE Foundation are expecting to present the results, which will serve as the basis for future development of adaptation techniques and greenhouse gas emission measurement tools in coffee's supply chains.

UTZ Certified started operations in Vietnam in 2002 and has been promoting its program in all coffee regions. Today more than 27.000 farmers and 44.000 hectares of coffee-producing land in the country are UTZ certified.

Note to the editors

About UTZ Certified

UTZ Certified is a program and label for sustainable farming of coffee, cocoa and tea. Its mission is to create a world where sustainable farming is the norm. The UTZ program enables farmers to learn better farming methods, improve working conditions and take better care of people and the environment. UTZ Certified works with a strict code of conduct for growing coffee, cocoa and tea, verified by independent third parties. More information at: www.utzcertified.org

About the DE Foundation

The DE Foundation was established in November 2002 as a not-for-profit organization. Its goal is to further the sustainability of mainstream coffee and tea, working in particular with small-scale producers. D.E Master Blenders 1753, the 3rd biggest coffee roaster in the world, is the foundation's primary donor. More information at: www.defoundation.org

For arranging interviews regarding this project please contact:

UTZ Certified
Mira-Bai Simon
E: mira-bai.simon@utzcertified.org
T: + 31 6 46 899 016
De Ruyterkade 6
1013AA Amsterdam, The Netherlands