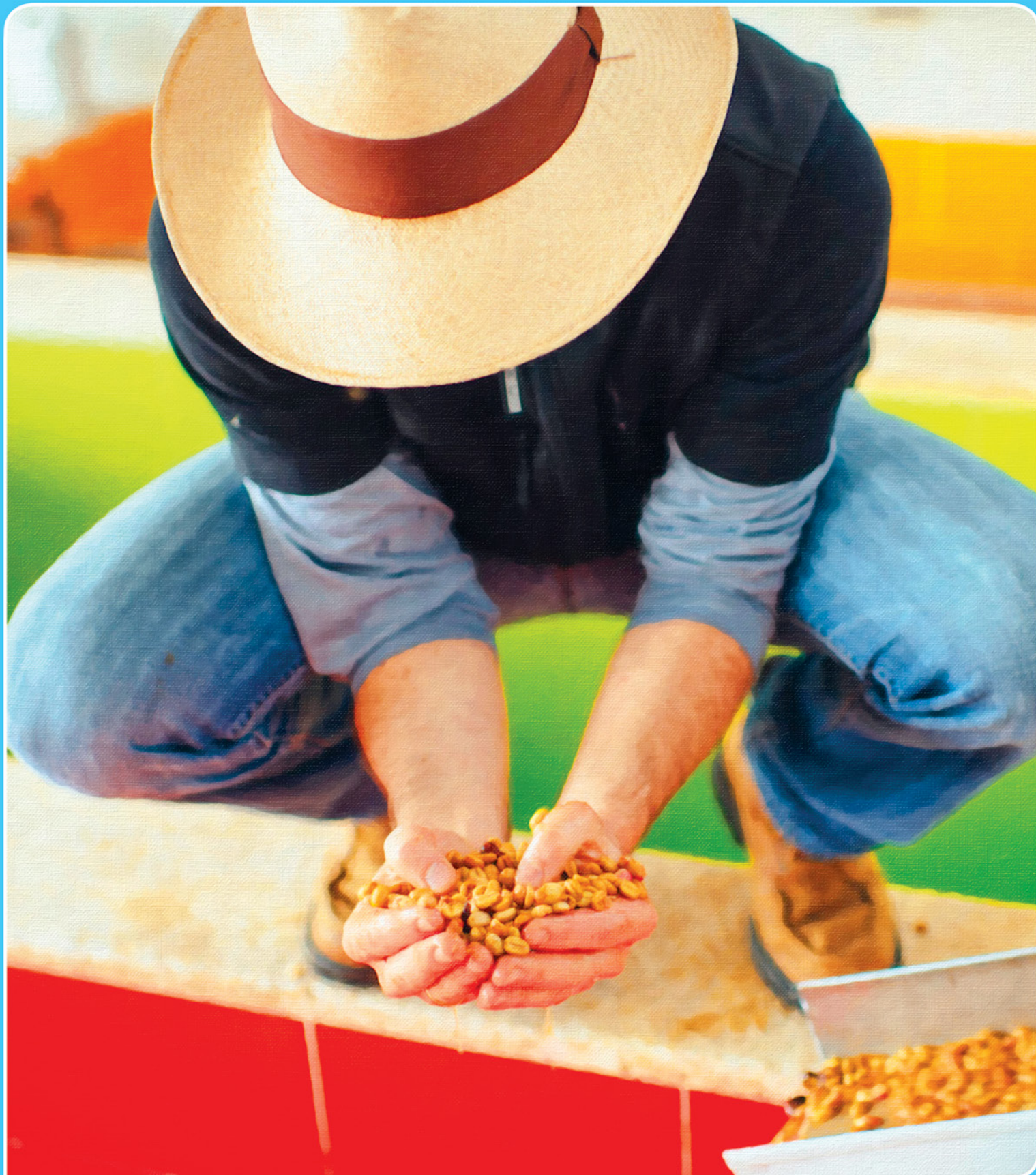


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Enjoy Life! Enjoy Your Coffee Break!

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Project Editor

Silvia Constantin

Project Editor Assistant

Sânziana Filip

DTP & Graphics

A.O.N.

Associated Editors

Dana Toma

dulcebydana@gmail.com

Mirela Păduraru

contact@mirelapaduraru.ro

Bogdan Danielescu

bogdan.danielescu@yahoo.com

Alexandru Niculae

carcov_rocks@yahoo.com

Victor Arsene

Vic.arsene@gmail.com

Avasilcăi Adrian-Gabriel

adiii1103@gmail.com

Jose Ureña – COSTA RICA

editor@revistaelcafetalero.com

ALF KRAMER – NORWAY

alfkramer@remarc.no

Ronita Dragomir

ronita.dragomir@yahoo.com



La mulți ani tuturor

Vă doresc un an frumos, cu experiențe interesante, care să vă umple sufletul cu bucurie!

Începutul de an ne găsește pe aproape toți făcând planuri pentru anul care a început și o retrospectivă a anului care a trecut.

Un an este o călătorie de 365 de zile din viața noastră și ar trebuie să avem grijă cum călătorim, să prețuim clipele, minutele, zilele, să zâmbim mai mult, să îmbrățișăm mai mult, să ne dorim lucruri frumoase, să ne înconjurăm de oameni frumoși, care să ne însoțească în călătoria noastră.

În acest număr, vă provocăm la o călătorie în jurul lumii cafelei, în care întâlniți oameni interesanți cu istorii minunate, locuri unde ar trebui să vă beți cafeaua, orașe pe care ar trebui să le explorați, evenimente la care ar trebui să vă faceți timp să ajungeți, pentru a vă îmbogăți cu experiențe care să vă umple sufletul și mintea.

Călătorie frumoasă cu 2016!

*Silvia Constantin
coffee connoisseur*

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How can we reduce the carbon footprint in the coffee industry?

Jose Ureña

For this edition of Coffee Break Magazine, I had the pleasure to interview my good friend, colleague and conational Hortensia Solis (lady in orange), who is currently the Climate Change Consultant for the International Coffee Organization. As a bonus, at the end of the interview, we have a very good article she wrote, about the agreement on reducing emissions reached at the COP21 conferences in Paris and how it will impact the coffee industry, I hope you all will enjoy reading it as much as I did.

Jose Ureña: Tell us a bit about how you got involved with coffee and how it changed your life.

Hortensia Solis: I have been around coffee all my life. You could say that coffee is my life. I was born to a coffee farmer in the valley of Dota, Tarrazu, Costa Rica. I grew up in the small town of Santa Maria de Dota. As a child, I helped my father pick coffee and look over the farm. Despite the tough times that the coffee industry went through in the 1980s and 1990s, it was a great childhood.

I studied agriculture engineering at EARTH University in Costa Rica. During my summers, I interned in the local coffee cooperative, Coopedota. This coop is close to my heart, as my father was one of the founding members. After graduation, I took a job there in sustainability projects.

After a few years, I had enough projects and funding to have a small team of people working with me.

We reduced the coop's water and CO2 footprint. We tested innovative technologies in biogas and bio-ethanol. In 2011, we certified the world's first carbon neutral coffee.

Jose Ureña: Please tell us a bit about your work within ICO and your involvement with climate change.

Hortensia Solis: I started working with the ICO in 2013, while I was on a International Climate Fellowship with the Humboldt Foundation sponsored by the German government. I created scenarios on CO2 emissions associated with the global coffee sector. I also showed how the sector offered an opportunity to reduce CO2 emissions at a low cost to society. The actions I suggested had multiple co-benefits, including adaptation to climate impacts and improved productivity for the farms. In 2014, I began working with the ICO in order to educate its members on the latest climate science from the IPCC. I wrote a report (soon to be published) that showed how the sector was being impacted by climate change, how the sector was beginning to respond to the challenge, and how much more needed to be done. The report helped the ICO frame the discussion around global climate change ahead of the COP21 meeting in Paris at the end of last year (2015). I helped coordinate ICO's participation in the global climate change conference. We participated in several side events, met with senior officials, and presented at the high-level session of the UNFCCC meeting. It was a first for the sector and ICO - and we are pleased with the outcome.

Jose Ureña: What do you think the European coffee consumers could do to help the coffee producers?

Hortensia Solis: There are many ways that consumers can help producers. The simplest and oldest approach is to just buy fair trade and other certified coffee products. However, this is a very basic step and not really ground breaking. I can think of two new approaches that consumers can help producers.



First, there are people who are beginning to travel to coffee regions to learn more about coffee production. This type of “origin trips” can have a positive impact on coffee communities because - if done properly - they provide additional income for farmers.

Second, consumers can begin to educate themselves on the most important issues that the coffee industry faces, especially climate change. By advocating and supporting efforts to adapt coffee farms, they can help increase the resiliency of coffee farmers.

Jose Ureña: What do you think are the changes we all should make in the coffee industry?

Hortensia Solis: First, it is important that you know that 50% of the CO2 emissions from the coffee sector come from the production side of the value chain (i.e., the farms). The other 50% comes from the consumption side of coffee (i.e., the preparation of coffee beverages).

The coffee industry has begun working on actions to reduce its environmental footprint. The majority of these actions have been focused on the production phases of the value chain. Farmers are asked to meet environmental and social criteria in order to get their coffee beans certified to international standards like UTZ and Rainforest Alliance. In addition, large coffee roasting companies have invested significant efforts to ensure farms are managed in a sustainable way.

I am not sure that the same can be said for the consumption side of the value chain. I don't know of any major environmental certification scheme for roasters and coffee shops.

There is significant opportunity to reduce the CO2 emissions associated with this side of the value chain. I recently produced a bilingual video that speaks to this point. It's an amateur video, but it highlights the key opportunities for reducing emissions from the consumption side.

See the video here: <https://vimeo.com/148005267>

Jose Ureña: Please tell us a few words for our specialty coffee lovers' community.

Hortensia Solis: Over the past 3 years living in Europe, I have had the opportunity to visit 80+ different coffee shops in 20+ countries. I have visited historic coffee shops in places like Venice and Vienna. I have also shared many wonderful filter coffees at 'third wave' shops in London, Amsterdam and Paris. The coffee culture in Europe is so rich. As an example, a country like the Netherlands can offer amazing history lessons on coffee. If you travel to Joure, in the north of the country, you can learn about coffee roasting and trading in the old days at the Douwe Egberts museum. You can learn about the roots of fair trade coffee at the Multatuli museum in Amsterdam. While in Amsterdam, you can go see the “mother” of all coffee plants in Latin America at the Amsterdam botanical garden.

I would encourage folks to get to know more about the history of coffee and its roots. Get to know where coffee comes from: go to Ethiopia, go to Indonesia, go to Costa Rica, etc. But also, go to your local coffee shop and ask them what's the latest coffee variety they are serving... then ask them “What are you doing to reduce your carbon footprint?”

Interview by Jose Manuel Ureña aka “El Cafetalero”
editor@RevistaElCafetalero.com

HORTENSIA SOLIS

How the Paris Agreement
impacts the coffee sector



The Paris Agreement has been hailed as “historic.” It is the first time that nearly every country commits to lowering greenhouse gas emissions to prevent climate change. The coffee sector was visible during the COP21 conference that led to the agreement. Here is my summary report:

Coffee sector delegation: Over 20 people from the coffee sector present at COP21, including representatives from inter-governmental organizations, NGOs, companies, national governments and academia. First time that an agriculture sector makes an organized showing at UNFCCC. Example: watch this session to see coffee sector discuss climate change.

Contributions by countries: Most coffee-producing countries submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Eight coffee producing countries (representing 32% of production) mentioned the coffee sector in NDCs. See chart below. Countries need to update NDCs by 2020. [Note: Costa Rica gets more funding for coffee sector action plan. Rumors that El Salvador is working on a coffee sector plan.

Temperature goal: Remains “well below 2°C”, but there is new intent “to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C.” Good news for sector as scientific models indicates that 1°C of temp. Increase reduces coffee yields by 137 Kg/ha.

New initiatives: Conservation International launched Sustainable Coffee Challenge to “make coffee the first sustainable agricultural product in the world.” More details at 4th World Coffee Conference next March in Ethiopia. (2.) Fairtrade International launched the Fairtrade Climate Standard to produce Fairtrade Carbon Credits from projects that deliver mitigation and adaptation benefits.

Value chain emissions: Long-term goals were set at: (1.) countries reaching peak emissions peak by 2050, and (2.) reaching a balance between man-made emissions and emissions sinks during 2050-2100 (a.k.a. net zero emissions). Such goals mean coffee sector will likely contribute to mitigation actions across its value chain. Companies like Lavazza looking at tech solutions in the end-use side of the chain. For COP21, I produced a short movie on the issue of consumer emissions.

I am very happy to have been part of this process over last 2 years. I look forward to continued progress in the years ahead.

*Article by Hortensia Solis
hortensiasolis@co2.cr
Climate Change Consultant for
the International Coffee Organization.*