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COP21: leading coffee sector players pledge to address climate change in producing landscapes

Climate change represents one of the largest challenges of our time. In terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the agricultural sector is playing a crucial role – as well as regarding having to handle the impacts of climate change. In recent years, ambitious objectives to reduce deforestation and to restore degraded landscapes were made at international level: the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the implementation-oriented Bonn Challenge, the UN Climate Summit of 2014 and most recently the Sustainable Development Goals. In their diversity, all of them emphasize: the urgent need of significant contributions of private sector partners and the cooperation with public organizations to achieve the ambitious policy targets.

Worldwide, the livelihoods of ca. 100 million people depend on coffee. It is a key commodity in more than 70 developing countries, and a main element of many (sub)-tropical landscapes. The initiative for coffee & climate (c&c), established in 2010, is a pre-competitive, action-oriented partnership of like-minded companies and organizations in the coffee sector. It is open to all dedicated actors that share the concerns on climate change, and that show an interest in effectively addressing the challenges of its consequences. During its pilot phase, c&c worked intensively on the development of practical approaches and implementation of suitable coping strategies directly at farm level. In close cooperation with renowned scientists, practical approaches for enhancing adaptation and strengthening climate resilience could be progressed in field operations in four major coffee regions. More than 4,000 smallholder coffee growers take part in hands-on training activities, assisting them to find strategies that suit their specific needs.

Encouraged by the results, the initiative is now entering a second phase with the objective of further disseminating and replicating the experiences gained and lessons learnt. c&c seeks to further promote its approach, aiming at enabling more coffee farmers to better cope with the severe consequences of climate change. In order to enable this up-scaling, the initiative highlights its global efforts to promote better land use practices and strengthen the resilience of coffee growers at large.

The COP21 serves as the ideal platform to publicly release the voluntary statement of companies within the coffee & climate initiative. [In this statement](#), signed by Ecom Coffee, Franck d.d., Jacobs Douwe Egberts, Joh. Johansson Kaffe AS, Fondazione Giuseppe e Pericle Lavazza Onlus, Löffbergs Lila AB, Nestlé, Neumann Gruppe GmbH, Gustav Paulig Ltd, Starbucks Corp., Tchibo GmbH and Tim Hortons Inc., and endorsed by their partners Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) the c&c members pledge their further engagement to continue working towards a more sustainable and climate resilient coffee sector.

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