CAFÉ CON HISTORIA

4th Edition

Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung
THE STORY BEHIND EVERY CUP

Café con Historia recognizes the incredible work of smallholder coffee farming families taking part in our projects around the world. To date, we have worked with more than 300,000 farmer households.

URREA LÓPEZ FAMILY

For María Esperanza López and the rest of her family, coffee has always been part of their history. “I remember my father looking over our coffee plantations and watching my mother craft brooms from remnant farm material to sell at the local market.” María is a 40 year old coffee farmer and business woman from Corquín, Western Honduras. María, together with her husband, Hector Urrea and two sons, live in small but very diverse coffee farm in the highlands of their village, Hichozal. Home to many wildlife animals and bird species, the farm is recognized for its favorable geographic location and close proximity to springs, allowing the Urrea family to successfully grown high quality coffee and other crops such as banana, plantain and oranges.

When María grew up, her parents made sure to involve her in all of their family business activities as they did with her older siblings. Her daily responsibilities included supervising areas of the coffee farm and overseeing family finances next to her father, who taught her the basics on how to become a good administrator at an early age. By the age of 18, she finished her secondary degree in business administration and founded the first coffee cooperative in her community, COPRANIL, at 21 years old.

Described as an optimistic, hardworking, and confident woman with an uplifting spirit, it is no surprise that her name, Esperanza, means “Hope”. Often referred to as the “Hope of COPRANIL” by everyone in the coffee cooperative, María has worked tirelessly to make the organization grow, improve their members coffee quality and develop strategic partnerships and technical trainings to help them expand their work. After 10 years of continuous hard work, María is now the general manager of COPRANIL; she supervises 8 people in managing positions, oversees coffee commercialization and is part of the 140 members that make up the organization.

“Waking up in a coffee farm everyday is not only joy, but an opportunity to learn something new.”
Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung (HRNS) has been a key implementer of programs in the Trifinio Region over the past 10 years and continues to work in the region with an increasing focus on women and coffee cooperatives. In 2018, when HRNS began a program together with the initiative of coffee&climate as part of its gender component, María decided to take this opportunity, eager to learn how it would influence and benefit her family’s business and coffee cooperative.

María attended meetings and trainings promoted by HRNS that supported her both at home and within her cooperative on topics of gender sensitization, entrepreneurship, income management and climate adaptation. She developed new agronomical knowledge which led her to establish an innovative system on her farm promoted by the initiative for coffee&climate for income diversification, 5x1 spacing system and implementation of climate-smart agricultural practices such as temporary shade. She also established a microenterprise that offers organic fertilizers within the cooperative to generate additional income for members of the organization, mostly women and youth.

After one year, María continues to manage the coffee farm firmly with her husband Hector and oldest son Hector Emilio, who is currently studying agronomy. They’ve been able to improve the quality of their coffee significantly, sell their coffee through the cooperative with certification and diversify their income with other crops and salary from the administrative position María holds within the cooperative. Most importantly, María has been a role model and great leader for many women in her community. She has guided and worked closely with them to further enhance the skills learned during the project to make them reach the highest benefits and profitability for their families and farmer organizations. Accompanied by the unconditional support of her family, the Urrea Family strive to improve the overall living condition of coffee farming families in the region.

VISION OF CHANGE

Gender Inclusion

Inequalities between family members add to the challenges faced by rural farming families and hamper their efforts towards improving their livelihoods. We support farming families on their way to a more balanced family life. In all of our interventions, we focus on coffee as a family business to ensure the highest benefit for the family and profitability of the farmer organizations.

Women in coffee&climate

Women in coffee producing areas are often left out in decision-making processes and are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. As implementing partner of the initiative for coffee&climate, we support gender equality in coffee households and producer communities through the implementation of a gender focused climate component.

The project is not only closing the gap between gender and climate change in coffee production. It increases women’s participation throughout the coffee value chain, in joint decision making on household level, and enhances the adaptation of climate-resilient household practices.

Through our programs, we partner with private businesses, public institutions and farmer organizations. We seek to continue and strengthen our collaborative work towards improving the livelihood of smallholder farming families and creating better opportunities for female coffee farmers.
Located in the western department of Honduras, Copán, the farm is home to many bird species and wild animals. In addition to coffee, the Urrea family has diversified and also grow bananas and oranges. Good harvesting practices contribute to overall coffee quality. Because the Urrea Family is part of the coffee cooperative COPRANIL, they are able to use the organizations’ infrastructure. The process continues at COPRANIL’s wet mill where coffee was depulped and placed in fermentation tanks.

Fermentation process:
The fermentation process took place for 14 hours.

Washing process and classification:
After the fermentation process was complete, coffee beans were washed and classified.

Drying:
After the best coffee beans were selected, the coffee was placed in patios for 8 days, making sure the drying process was homogenous.

ABOUT THE COFFEE

Wet Mill Process

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Cup Profile

Fruity aroma, sweet, juicy body with caramel notes, mild acidity and brown sugar aftertaste.

“In partnership with Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung, María Esperanza López has received technical assistance and on-farm training to establish climate-smart agricultural practices in her family’s farm such as: diversification, organic fertilizers and temporary and permanent shade.”

LOCATION
Copán, Honduras

VARIETIES
Red Catuai, Parainema

ALTITUDE
1,250 mamsl

SIZE
4.3 Hectares