The Costa Rican Coffee NAMA is the worldwide first agricultural Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) to be implemented. It aims to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improve resource use at coffee farms and mills, thus producing the world’s first low carbon coffee and giving Costa Rica’s coffee farmers access to differentiated markets. With a volume of US$ 10 Mio. the project includes the entire coffee production and processing and aspires to create a foundation on which to extend the initiative on a national and international level and in different sectors.

**General objective and goal of the Coffee NAMA**

The project’s goal is to implement a sustainable and low-carbon coffee production and processing in Costa Rica. This objective will be achieved by strengthening technical and institutional capacities at the national level and at the same time facilitating the inclusion and coordination of the public and private sectors in national initiatives aimed at reducing GHG emissions. At the end of the initiative, coffee farmers and mill operators will have the agronomic and technological knowledge to initiate the shift towards low-carbon coffee production. To ensure the project’s success, the entire value chain from farmers to exporters is included in a wide range of activities.

**The NAMA Support Project “Low Carbon Coffee Costa Rica”**

The Coffee NAMA receives technical and financial assistance from the NAMA Support Project “Low Carbon Coffee Costa Rica” (NSP Café). With a volume of €7 Mio. provided by the NAMA Facility, the main project partners Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE) and the National Coffee Institute (ICAFE) with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH facilitate technical and feasibility studies, capacity building measures and training activities for local actors. During its 4 years of implementation, the NSP Café aims to reach 6,000 coffee producers on 25,000 hectares that apply at least two sustainable agricultural practices and 50 coffee mills that implement at least 2 low-emission technologies.

**On behalf of**

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and British Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

**Partners**

Ministry for Environment and Energy
Ministry for Agriculture and Livestock
National Coffee Institute

**Duration NAMA**

10 years

**Duration NSP**

2015 – 2019

**Volume NAMA**

US$ 10 Mio.

**Volume NSP**

EUR 7 Mio.
Latest results of the NSP Café

- **Sustainable coffee production**
The NSP Café promotes the implementation of 10 Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) on coffee farms, offering workshops for coffee farmers in all of Costa Rica’s coffee regions. Topics included the efficient use of fertilizers, pest and weed management, as well as the benefits of introducing shade trees on farms. Over 5,000 coffee producers and more than 300 agricultural advisors of both MAG and ICAFE as well as several coffee mills have been trained on the topics so far. Over 84% of trained farmers are successfully implementing GAPs on their farms.

- **Low carbon coffee processing**
Over 60 coffee mills receive support in calculating their GHG emission inventories annually including their farm and/or mill within their scope. Energy efficiency studies have proved crucial for optimizing energy consumption. Currently, coffee mills are developing and implementing sustainable practices, such as acquiring low-carbon, energy and water-efficient equipment. All in all, the activities carried out will mills and farmers have reduced 38,000 tons of CO₂e.

- **Measurement, Reporting and Verification System**
A system for measuring, reporting and verifying data from every emission source during coffee production and processing has been established. The data will be channeled through the National Metric System on Climate Change (SINAMECC, currently under construction). The coffee sector’s MRV system will also serve as a model for similar systems in other sectors. A digital smartphone app will facilitate data collection in the future.

- **Strengthening marketing and sales skills**
With the added value of a low-carbon and sustainable coffee, coffee producers will have access to a differentiated market that offers favorable prices or a preference for Costa Rica’s low carbon coffee. To achieve this objective, market opportunities have been analysed, the cooperation between Costa Rican and international actors strengthened and mills supported in developing marketing and sales strategies. At least 10 mills participating in the project have successfully positioned their low carbon coffee in Germany and the United States as a result of business tours offered between 2016 and 2018.

A Traceability and Sustainability Statement developed by ICAFE aims to provide transparent traceability of Costa Rican coffee regarding economic, social, sustainability and environmental standards.

- **Financial incentives for the implementation of low carbon technologies and practices**
Launched in July 2018 with the Central American Development Bank (BCIE), the NAMA Café credit line includes US$ 10 million offered to coffee mills across the country at special interest rates. The goal is to help mills invest in low-carbon, sustainable technologies and practices. Several mills have already applied for loans.

A co-financing system for mills participating in the NSP Café has resulted in 14 investments in sustainable and low-emission technologies through subsidies amounting US$ 94,000. Grants for a further eight investments are currently being paid out.

Financial incentives for planting shade trees in coffee plantations with US$ 2.14 per verified tree have motivated farmers to plant 9,000 trees so far (goal: 75,000 trees).