



SMALLHOLDER COFFEE FARMERS ARE MOURNING

Of the \$200 billion dollars that coffee sales represent worldwide, coffee farmers hardly receive between 6% and 10%. In addition, the current crisis, causing record low coffee prices, directly affects the 25 million farming families and over 100 million human beings whose livelihoods depend on coffee. Of these, nearly 80% are smallholder families.

While production costs continue to rise and climate change results in lower productivity and even higher costs; the current price of coffee on the stock market is approaching 90 cents (US\$) per pound.

On the other hand, there is increasingly more pressure on farming families, demanding a greater number of certifications, social, labor and environmental compliance, and on top of that we are asked to monitor the impact of our investments.

Given these challenges, we publicly share our concerns about the survival of coffee farming families, as our incomes are gradually reduced. Without enough income, we are forced to pull our children from school, and become more susceptible to nutritional deficiencies and other health problems. This ultimately leads us to abandon our land, resulting in mass migration.

Let's all wear these black ribbons as a symbol of mourning, as we cannot be responsible for deepening the lines of poverty for millions of farming families. We advocate for sustainable coffee and sustainable livelihoods, inviting the industry to pay costs of production, plus a reasonable margin for the producers.

Coffee farmers, members of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Fairtrade Small Producers and Workers (CLAC)



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