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**Supersack decision
could lead to further
price decline**

**Capsules assume
leading role in
German market**

**Certification report
calls for harmonization
and transparency**

**Tanzanian
partnership
will enhance
farmer income**



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COVER

Coffee farmers in Tanzania receive training as part of the 'Coffee Partnership for Tanzania,' a development project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and managed by DEG in Germany (photo: DEG)



Solidaridad, Dutch government and Nestlé launch food security programme

Solidaridad, together with farmer organisations in East Africa, the Kenyan coffee research institute and companies including Nestlé, are launching a €9.2

million development programme with a focus on food security through improved resilience of small-scale farmers in Ethiopia and Kenya.

The aim of the programme is to improve farmers' food security and resilience by combining coffee as a cash crop, with intercropping of a selection of food crops for farmers' own consumption and local markets. The increase in coffee and food production by 120,000 smallholders in East Africa will have a profound impact on the region. About 50 per cent of the funds for the programme will be from consortium partners. The programme has been developed in co-operation with the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs in The Netherlands.

Karugu Macharia, Director of Solidaridad East Africa, said co-operation between farmers, governments and the private sector was the key to Solidaridad's strategy. "This programme ensures benefits for all stakeholders including better food security and income for farmers, sustainable economic growth and the availability of better coffee," he said. Solidaridad will provide farmers with practical solutions and viable business models, to enable them to improve their coffee and food production, the storage, distribution and to reduce post-harvest losses.

Nestlé empowers female coffee farmers in Kenya

Nestlé is encouraging more female coffee growers in Kenya to take up leadership roles in co-operatives as part of its commitment to promoting gender equality and education for women and girls.

The company has launched a programme to train more than 1,000 women in better agricultural practices and develop their confidence and business skills. Nestlé is working with nine co-operatives with the aim of seeing women hold at least one third of all leadership positions within them by 2015.

"Women do more than two thirds of the work involved in coffee farming in Kenya," said Svetlana Obruchkova, Managing Director of Nestlé Kenya. "However, fewer than 5 per cent of leadership roles in the country are currently held by women. We are encouraging them to move into leadership roles, so they can be adequately represented in decision making," she continued. "Through the programme, we have identified a selection of women from each co-op and trained them to become 'promoter farmers', to take the knowledge and skills they've acquired back to their communities to educate their peers."

Nestlé is running the training programme in Kenya in collaboration with agricultural business services provider Coffee Management Services, as part of its Nescafé Plan activities in the country.

Coffee farmers fighting climate change

Hundreds of coffee farms in Central America have achieved Rainforest Alliance climate-smart verification. Rainforest Alliance told C&C that more than 200 coffee farms in Central America have achieved climate-smart verification. Located in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, the farmers are preparing for the challenges already evident from a changing climate by meeting the standards of the Sustainable Agriculture Network Climate Module. By adopting practices that curb emissions and increase carbon storage, the farms have captured more than 218,000 tonnes of carbon.

The achievement marks the culmination of a two-year project by Rainforest Alliance and EFICO that aims to promote the Climate Module among Central American coffee farmers that are vulnerable to the higher temperatures, erratic rainfall and pest and disease outbreaks that are aggravated by the unstable climate. The project provided training and technical assistance to 538 coffee growers and saw 218 farms achieve verification, bringing 7,413 acres (3,000 hectares) of land under sustainable, climate-smart management.

In brief...

■ *Confidential* reports that the latest data from University of São Paulo's indicate that the average price of Arabica type 6 FAQ in São Paulo state was R\$253.94 in October, the lowest level since July 2009. Correcting for inflation in the period, this is the lowest coffee price since August 2002 when it reached R\$215 per bag. *Confidential* said price falls for Arabica and Robusta in the Brazilian physical market are causing growers to reduce

husbandry, lay off employees and even abandon plantations.

■ Puerto Rico's Governor Alejandro García Padilla has announced details of a US\$4.2 million investment plan to reinvigorate the country's coffee industry by improving yields and adding jobs. He said the plan foresees development of 16,000 acres of new coffee lands and the creation of 6,000 new jobs. Money will also be provided for fertilizer. Production in

Puerto Rico is now at historically low levels.

■ In order to meet what it described as "overwhelming customer demand" HiLine Coffee Company has launched seven new espresso blends in what it described as "Nespresso-compatible capsules."

■ St Louis-based Ronnoco Coffee has acquired Henderson Coffee Corporation in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Henderson manufactures and distributes coffee, tea,

and related products and equipment to restaurants, casinos and convenience stores throughout the state of Oklahoma and into the neighbouring states of Arkansas, Missouri, and Kansas.

■ *Agrimoney* reported recently that the Colombian coffee crop could recover to 20-year high. Since 2008/2009, production in Colombia has declined well below historical levels thanks to the impact of coffee leaf rust or 'roya' and a replanting programme with trees resistant to

the disease. However, Colombia's 9.93 million bag harvest in the 2012-2013 season, beating a US Department of Agriculture forecast by 1 million bags, "leads to high promise of even stronger output in 2013-14," according to analyst Judy Ganes-Chase, who was quoted in the report. "It is possible that Colombian output could reach 12 million bags now the recovery is underway, disease is under control and the newly-planted trees are starting to bear fruit," she said.