

Press Release - 19 December 2011

World Premiere: Efico Launches the World's First Coffee Farm Finca El Platanillo to be Rainforest Alliance Verified™ as Climate-Friendly.

El Platanillo coffee farm in San Marcos, Guatemala, has become the world's first coffee farm to become Rainforest Alliance Verified™ for its compliance with the Climate Module of the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN), the international coalition of conservation organizations that manages Rainforest Alliance certification.

The announcement was made during the **United Nation Durban Climate Change Conference** by the Rainforest Alliance and its partners in conjunction with the coffee trading company EFICO and the National Coffee Association of Guatemala (ANACAFE, in Spanish).

Gianluca Gondolini, project manager for the Rainforest Alliance, praised the dedication of El Platanillo's owner and employees for meeting the requirements of the module. "By fulfilling the SAN Climate Module, coffee plantations like **El Platanillo can demonstrate their commitment to reducing emissions and improving the ability of their farms to adapt to climate change**. We hope that farmers in Guatemala and elsewhere will follow in El Platanillo's footsteps," said Gondolini.

Producers that commit to implementing the SAN Climate Module will be able **to improve their own greenhouse gas balance and better adapt to changing climatic conditions**. They'll be able to identify the risks that climate change poses to their farms and communities and estimate their level of vulnerability in the face of prolonged droughts and severe floods -- which are becoming more frequent and intense, impact harvest seasons and can lead to plague and disease outbreaks. The audit of the Climate Module can take place within the normal Rainforest Alliance certification without significant additional audit costs.

Verified producers will also increase the level of carbon stored on their farms by replacing decomposed earth, reforesting certain areas on their farms and improving soil conservation, all of which helps reduce agriculture's climate impacts and offers farmers a way to do their part to solve this challenging global problem.

For years, Finca El Platanillo has partnered with EFICO and its clients to adopt sustainable farming practices.



The EFICO Foundation has supported the development of sustainable farming models, and Belgian coffee roasters Mokaturc www.mokaturc.be and Colruyt www.colruyt.be have invested in certification, education and infrastructure development. Over the past two years, Finca Platanillo, the Rainforest Alliance, Anacafe and EFICO have joined forces to develop and implement the SAN Climate Module. Through its embrace of the SAN Climate Module ("Criteria for Adapting to and Reducing Climate Change"), El Platanillo is working to make

agriculture more climate-friendly. The Climate Module seeks to raise awareness among farmers about the impacts of climate change and promote the adoption of new practices that can mitigate these impacts and be integrated into a farm's sustainable management plan.

The SAN Climate Module also provides benefits beyond the farm. "The concept of sustainability is a dynamic process that is continually evolving," said Katrien Delaet, EFICO Head of sustainable projects. "The module is a practical and accessible tool for the entire coffee chain. It encourages farmers to create carbon stocks and reduce their emissions, and it persuades industry to commit to sustainable supply chains."

“We are pleased with the great interest European coffee roasters show and she announced that **the first containers of the farm’s coffee have been sold** to European roasters committed to sustainable development, such as: Peeze Coffee www.peeze.nl , in the Netherlands, and Beyers www.beyers.eu , Coffee Rombouts www.rombouts.com and Mokaturc in Belgium.

PARTNERS OF THE PROJET

Founded in 1926, **EFICO** is a Swiss-Belgian trading company that sells green coffee and cocoa beans. With offices in Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Brazil, Ethiopia and Guatemala, EFICO provides a range of services to its suppliers as well as to its 450 clients in the coffee and cocoa industry, adding value to their work by following the highest standards for quality, food safety, traceability and sustainability. Responsible business practices and corporate social responsibility are embedded in EFICO's business policy and are strengthened by the values of the UN Global Compact, which Efico subscribed in 2003 as first coffee trading company. www.efico.com

The Rainforest Alliance works to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable livelihoods by transforming land-use practices, business practices and consumer behaviour. For more information, visit www.rainforest-alliance.org

The National Coffee Association of Guatemala (**ANACAFE**) is a public institution that was created under Guatemala's "Coffee Law," decreed by the country's congress in 1960. The association is composed of a team of researchers and technical advisors who develop technologies that help meet the needs of Guatemala's coffee industry – improving productivity levels and competitiveness and promoting the country's coffee at the national and international level. www.anacafe.org



Coffee picker in the coffee plantation El Platanillo



Landscape of the coffee plantation El Platanillo in Guatemala

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More info on:

- <http://www.forestcarbonportal.com/news/finca-platanillo-guatemala-world%E2%80%99s-first-coffee-farm-be-rainforest-alliance-verified%E2%84%A2-climate-f>

- <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/newsroom/news/first-climate-friendly-farm>

- http://portal.anacafe.org/Portal/DesktopModules/ShowContent.aspx?Eid=8&Path=Documents/News/2011-12/8/2011_12_06_RA_Certificacion

- http://portal.anacafe.org/Portal/DesktopModules/ShowContent.aspx?Eid=8&lid=2690&Path=Documents/News/2011-12/8/2011_12_06_Prensalibre_Dan