

2. Production

2.2 Commercialization and marketing of agro biodiversity

Title: **Byproducts from green coffee chain to diversify income for farmers**

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For many countries such as Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico, Ethiopia and Vietnam, coffee cultivation is a particularly important activity for the national economy; and despite the fact that the global coffee market is worth around USD 90 000 million, small producers struggle to earn enough to sustain their livelihoods. To overcome this situation, mainly due to the instability of the coffee trading market (wide price fluctuations determined on coffee stored instead of the quantity produced), small farmers have implemented a series of activities to reduce costs and increase their income. Among them the recovery and reuse of agro industrial coffee wastes as raw materials for new by- products. The implementation of this kind of practice could promote economic benefits, reducing pollution and other environmental problems. This work therefore aims to investigate the different reuses of coffee processing by-products (production of tea, honey, fertilisers, etc.) in order to establish whether they can be a real source of additional income for small producers and, starting from the observation of the significant number of female workers involved in the coffee chain, understand how these practices can be, through the creation of new jobs and opportunities such as micro-credit, a valid strategy to achieve gender equality.

This paper presents some cases studies for which the practice of reusing the by-products of coffee processing both as a soil conditioner and as new preparations for infusions (made from dried cherries), limits the waste disposal problems and opens up new market opportunities.