



Case Study

WATER RESILIENT COFFEE COMMUNITIES IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, VIETNAM

The community irrigation system in Ea Tan Commune, Vietnam is the first one in the PPI Compact areas of Krong Nang District and represents a significant change in the behaviour of the local farmers. Prior to the community irrigation system being put in place, farmers expected an irrigation system to be provided by the government and for water to be available free of charge. When no irrigation system was available, individual farmers would build wells to water their farms with groundwater. Over time, this placed the area's water resilience at risk.

Due to the high price of the high-tech irrigation systems and the low coffee prices, farmers were neither able nor interested to invest. At the same time, the coffee program commissioned a study to analyze the various irrigation systems and farmer incentives to use these systems. This analysis confirmed the field-level observations: it is difficult for farmers to invest in high-tech irrigation systems. As a result, IDH worked with Simexco and irrigation companies on two different solutions: 1) low-tech systems that allow water use and soil moisture to be measured, but are a lot cheaper; and 2) communal water-use plans in which equipment can be shared (like weather stations). These were implemented for 60 farmers in Vietnam.

The new community irrigation system, which also benefits neighboring farmers, is the first time private land in the area has been volunteered for a common irrigation system. Once completed, the system will be handed over to the farmers for management, who have shown support for a pilot fee system. This will fund the system's regular maintenance in the future and is in line with the water pricing policy of the new Vietnam Law on Irrigation, due to come into effect in 2021.



ACHIEVEMENTS & FUTURE GOALS



Objective to reduce water amount for coffee production from the current level of 550-600 litres a tree per round to 450 litres and increase the use of surface water for coffee irrigation to 10,500 hectares.



In 2020, the infrastructure will be set up for five systems in two districts, covering 110 hectares of coffee and intercrops. In 2020, analysis on how the maintenance of the communal systems can be made economically viable will be carried out.



Stakeholders signed a PPI Compact to replicate this model toward responsible and sustainable coffee production. This is expected to cover an area of more than 24 thousand hectares and benefit more than 6,600 farmer households by 2025.



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It is great progress to help us achieve an important objective of the PPI Compact in Krong District – that is to reduce water amount for coffee production from the current level of 550-600 liters a tree per round to 450 liters and increase the use of surface water for coffee irrigation to 10,500 hectares.

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the sustainable trade initiative