



Our sustainability journey

A glimpse of our
impact around
the world in 2025





Introduction

Volcafe sources and supplies a wide range of coffees to customers around the world through a network of 15 origin operations and field offices, working across more than 25 countries. This close presence in producing regions gives our teams direct insight into the realities of coffee farming, the entire supply chain and the challenges and opportunities shaping the sector today.

Coffee production occurs in multifaceted contexts where agricultural, economic, and social realities are deeply linked. Farmers must navigate fluctuating prices, evolving agronomic challenges, and the impacts of a changing climate, while also supporting their households.

Addressing these challenges requires pragmatic and farmer-centric solutions.

Through the Volcafe Way farmer support programme, a network of more than 250 field technicians works directly with over 45,000 coffee farmers, providing technical guidance, training, and practical tools that support improved productivity, strengthen farm management, and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

At Volcafe, sustainability is embedded in how we work with producers and partners across the coffee supply chain. Our approach is grounded in three interconnected pillars – sustainable profitability, regenerative practices, and responsible citizenship – which shape the initiatives carried out by our origin teams and support collaboration with customers and partners across the industry.



2025 in retrospective

Climate variability, rising production costs, labour constraints, and shifting market expectations all place new pressures on the farmers who grow one of the world's most widely traded agricultural products. At the same time, the global coffee sector is undergoing a period of transformation, with increasing focus on whether coffee is produced according to environmental and social standards. These pressures highlight the importance of farmer-centric support and collaborative approaches that strengthen the long-term resilience of coffee farms and communities.

Across our origin operations, Volcafe teams work closely with farmers and partners to address these evolving conditions through a range of sustainability initiatives. Many of these activities are delivered through the Volcafe Way programme, a global initiative which connects farmers with technical guidance, training, and tools designed to improve farm performance and sustainability. As part of our delivery of Volcafe Way, our technicians and agronomists visit farmers in the field, providing contextualized recommendations.

From investments in infrastructure and plant material to programmes that promote regenerative agricultural practices, education, and farming community resilience, these initiatives reflect the diverse ways in which sustainability takes shape on the ground.

This booklet, organized around the three pillars of Volcafe's sustainability strategy, presents a selection of the activities undertaken with farmers and partners around the world during the year.

While each origin has its own context, the experiences shared here demonstrate the value of collaboration and practical action in building a thriving, sustainable coffee business for all.







Statement from our Sustainability Director



Sustainability continues shaping how our business adapts and grows. We operate in a complex, rapidly changing world where escalating environmental risks, shifting societal expectations, and evolving regulatory requirements continuously redefine what responsible trade looks like.

Navigating this landscape demands greater agility from all of us in the coffee supply chain and it challenges the coffee sector to innovate and collaborate in new ways. Yet these pressures also open the door to fresh thinking, stronger partnerships, and more resilient models that benefit everyone along the value chain.

At Volcafe, our ambition is to help build a coffee sector that is resilient, inclusive, and future-ready. Achieving this means working closely with farmers and roasters, deepening partnerships, and continually improving how environmental, social, and governance considerations guide our daily decisions. It also requires an adaptive mindset: staying open to new tools, concepts, and approaches, and learning as the world around us evolves.

We are proud of the progress our teams have made over the past year – progress shaped by real challenges, practical solutions, and shared learning. We are equally eager to hear your ideas on how we can continue making coffee business better, together.

Raphaëlle Peinado

Sustainability Director



VOLO CAFE SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY





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Sustainable Profitability

For coffee farmers, the ability to earn a stable and reliable income is the foundation of long-term sustainability. This income must not only cover production costs, but also enable farmers and their families to live decently and invest in their future. When farms generate sufficient returns, producers are better positioned to reinvest in their crops, maintain their land, and build more resilient livelihoods. Without this economic foundation, the future of coffee farming becomes uncertain.

At Volcafe, supporting sustainable profitability means enabling farmers to strengthen the performance of their farms as viable agricultural businesses. Through the Volcafe Way farmer support programme and partnerships with roasters, development organisations, and local institutions, our teams work directly with producers to improve productivity, enhance coffee quality, and strengthen the infrastructure that supports coffee production.

Across our origin operations in 2025, these efforts have taken many forms. In some regions, farmers received improved planting material and technical guidance to renew ageing farms and address threats such as pests and disease. In others, investments in infrastructure – including warehouses, coffee nurseries, and processing facilities – supported farmers to manage their harvests more efficiently and preserve coffee quality.

Together with initiatives that promote responsible sourcing and strengthen market connections, these activities aim to create the necessary foundations where farmers can operate resilient and profitable coffee businesses. By linking agronomic knowledge, practical investments, and supply chain partnerships, Volcafe continues to work toward a more stable and sustainable future for coffee producers.

Designed to strengthen the economic foundations of coffee farming, this pillar of our sustainability strategy focuses on the following core themes:



Farming as a business

Supporting farmers with the knowledge, resources, and infrastructure needed to manage productive, resilient coffee farms as sustainable businesses.



Quality improvement

Enabling producers to improve coffee quality through better agronomic practices, pest management, and post-harvest handling.



Responsible sourcing

Building transparent and responsible supply chains that connect farmers to markets while supporting improved livelihoods and sustainable production practices.





Farming as a business

The concept of ‘farming as a business’ recognises that coffee producers are entrepreneurs who must manage their farms in a way that balances productivity, costs, and long-term sustainability. When farmers have access to the right tools, knowledge, and infrastructure, they are better positioned to improve yields, maintain plant health, and secure more stable incomes from their crops.

Through the Volcafe Way programme and partnerships with organisations across the coffee supply chain, our teams work directly with producers to strengthen farm management and to implement agronomic practices. These efforts range from supporting farm renovation and improving access to quality planting material to helping farmers prevent pests and diseases that threaten their harvests.

Across different coffee origins, these initiatives aim to give producers the practical resources they need to maintain profitable and resilient coffee farms.







Peru: Institutional nursery supports coffee farm renewal in Cajamarca



Renewing aging coffee farms with healthy planting material is an important step toward safeguarding the future productivity and resilience of coffee farming businesses. In Peru's Cajamarca region, Volcafe established an institutional nursery at the end of 2024 and beginning of 2025 to produce high-quality coffee seedlings using the Volcafe Way methodology.

The nursery was created to ensure that local producers have access to strong, healthy plants that are better prepared to resist pests and disease, helping reduce risks that can threaten future harvests and farm income. By providing reliable planting material, the initiative enables farmers to renew older coffee plots, therefore strengthening the long-term sustainability and economic viability of their farms for the future.

Located in the province of Jaén, the nursery has a production capacity of 11,500 seedlings, which will be distributed to producers who are renewing their coffee plantations. The first delivery provided 1,320 seedlings to a local farmer, marking the beginning of a broader effort to support farm renovation with the goal of improving productivity and securing the future of coffee cultivation in the region.





Honduras: Cosecha Más Sin Roya programme strengthens farm resilience

Coffee leaf rust remains one of the most persistent threats to coffee production in Central America, affecting plant health, yields, and farmer livelihoods. In **Honduras**, Volcafe has partnered with agronomic supplier Disagro to support farmers through the Cosecha Más Sin Roya programme, an initiative designed to strengthen farm resilience and help protect the long-term future of coffee production.

Through the programme, farmers receive specialised agronomic kits that include foliar nutritional supplements and crop protection products, alongside technical guidance on best practices to maintain plant health and productivity. Implemented as part of the Volcafe Way programme, the initiative focuses on preventive measures that support farmers to safeguard their crops today while reducing risks to future harvests.

Over the past two years, the programme has reached 3,000 farmers across five regions of Honduras, covering more than 6,100 hectares of coffee farms and supporting an annual production of approximately 117,000 bags of coffee. By strengthening plant health and improving disease prevention, the programme helps ensure that coffee farms maintain productivity and improve resilience for the years ahead.





Uganda: Strengthening livelihoods through “climate-smart” farming

In **Uganda**'s Masaka region, Volcafe and its partners are supporting coffee-growing households through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded 'Reviving High Quality Coffee' initiative, which reflects the Volcafe Way motto of “farming as a business” by supporting farmers to strengthen the long-term resilience and economic viability of their coffee farms.

The programme addresses key barriers affecting farming households, including limited access to production resources, weak financial inclusion, low farm diversification, environmental degradation, and poor household nutrition. Through training in climate-smart agriculture and improved farm management practices, farmers gain practical knowledge to improve productivity and manage their farms more effectively.

The initiative also promotes financial inclusion through the formation of Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), allowing farming families access to savings and credit that can be invested in their farms and households.

To date, the project has supported 4,200 smallholder households, including 1,680 women, with improved technical and financial resources. Farmers report stronger collaboration within households, more efficient farm management, and growing recognition of gender equality as a driver of long-term social and economic well-being.



Quality improvement

Producing high quality coffee is one of the most reliable ways for farmers to improve the value of their harvest. When producers are able to maintain consistently good quality through good agronomic practices, careful processing, and effective pest management, their coffee can access stronger markets and command higher prices.

Through the Volcafe Way programme and partnerships with industry stakeholders, Volcafe teams work directly with farmers to strengthen the practices that influence coffee quality at every stage of production. This includes providing technical training, improving access to agricultural inputs, and supporting farmers to protect their crops from pests and diseases that can reduce yields and damage quality.

Across our origin operations, these initiatives aim to ensure that producers have the knowledge and resources needed to maintain healthy plants, protect their harvests, and deliver coffee that meets the expectations of global markets.



Papua New Guinea: Training farmers to control the coffee berry borer



The coffee berry borer (CBB) remains one of the most significant threats to coffee production in **Papua New Guinea**. Since the pest was first identified in the country in 2016, many farmers have continued to face challenges in identifying and controlling infestations, leading to damage of coffee cherries and reduced quality of green coffee.

In response, Volcafe has expanded its farmer training efforts to strengthen knowledge of effective control methods. During the past year, the team trained more than 11,000 farmers across all coffee-growing provinces of Papua New Guinea on five key steps to manage and reduce CBB infestations on their farms.

The training focuses on practical farm management techniques that enable farmers to detect the pest early and limit its spread. By improving farmers' understanding of how to monitor and control the insect, the programme supports healthier coffee crops, protects coffee quality, and contributes to producers' safeguarding of their income. Through these efforts, Volcafe continues to support farmers in reducing CBB damage while strengthening the long-term resilience and quality of coffee production in Papua New Guinea.





Colombia: **Constructing** **warehouses for** **producers in** **Antioquia to** **maintain quality**

In the rural community of La Cascada in Abejorral, Antioquia, **Colombia**, Volcafe in Colombia and its partners are supporting coffee-growing families through the construction of a warehouse that will serve as a central hub for a local producers' association. Around 50–60 coffee farming families, located between 1,400 and 2,100 meters above sea level, cultivate coffee across the mountainous terrain of the region.

Because roads only reach a single point in the community, farmers often transport coffee and farm supplies on foot or by mule. The new warehouse will provide an intermediate collection and storage point where coffee can be safely stored before transport to market.

By providing dedicated storage infrastructure, the project helps safeguard coffee quality before it reaches the market, while also connecting remote farmers more closely to the coffee value chain and supporting long-term opportunities for rural communities in Antioquia.





Uganda: Exploring the quality and market potential of Excelsa coffee

In **Uganda**, Volcafe and its partners are working with farmers to demonstrate the potential of Excelsa coffee, a species that offers both environmental resilience and new market opportunities for producers. Through the Coffee Natural Capital for Environmental and Livelihood Sustainability project, farmers have received support to improve post-harvest handling and coffee segregation, helping to strengthen the quality and consistency of Excelsa coffee.

More than 300 farmers have been profiled, while investments in post-harvest infrastructure – including 52 drying beds, four pulpers, and 40 tarpaulins – have improved processing capacity. The project has also distributed 400 Purdue Improved Crop (PIC) storage bags, supporting better coffee storage and quality preservation.

These efforts have contributed to the sale of Excelsa coffee, while growing interest in Excelsa seedlings is paving the way for expanded production and a larger nursery planned for 2026.



Costa Rica and Guatemala: Improved coffee varieties help protect quality



Volcafe partnered with Starbucks to support the renewal of coffee farms in Central America by delivering a curated selection of coffee saplings to farmers participating in Starbucks' C.A.F.E. Practices (Coffee and Farmer Equity) programme, a sustainability standard that promotes responsible coffee production.

In **Costa Rica** and **Guatemala**, Volcafe supported the distribution of coffee seedlings, donated by Starbucks, to more than thousands of smallholder farmers. The varieties were selected for their performance in climate adverse conditions while maintaining production yields and the cup quality.

These initiatives formed part of Starbucks' global commitment to support the future of coffee and distribute 100 million coffee trees to farmers, enabling them to renew their coffee farms, protect the quality and future productivity of their harvests, and ultimately improve farm resilience.





Responsible sourcing

Responsible sourcing remains a central pillar of Volcafé's sustainability strategy, ensuring that coffee is produced, traded, and sourced through transparent supply chains that support farmers and meet the expectations of global markets. Through the Volcafé Responsible Sourcing (RS) programme, the company works with producers and supply chain partners to verify responsible practices, strengthen traceability, and support long-term market access for coffee-growing communities.

Over recent years, the share of responsibly sourced coffee (3rd and 2nd party assured) within Volcafé's supply chains increased from 25% to 40%, reflecting continued progress across origin countries.

By the end of 2025, 13 Volcafé RS value chains had been verified across both arabica and robusta production systems, supporting growing demand. These include five Volcafé Verified supply chains in Brazil, Colombia, Uganda, and Vietnam, and eight Volcafé Excellence value chains across Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru.

Together, these certified and verified supply chains represent almost 12,500 producers, demonstrating the growing scale of responsible sourcing initiatives across Volcafé's global network.





Costa Rica: The Casco supply chain advances responsible sourcing standards



In the Pérez Zeledón region of **Costa Rica**, Volcafe works with producers through the Casco supply chain, supporting farmers in strengthening the transparency and long-term sustainability of their coffee production. By building stronger links between producers and international markets, this initiative is a driver allowing coffee from the region to be produced and traded through responsible and traceable supply chains.

The supply chain recently achieved Volcafe Excellence accreditation, recognising strong performance within the Volcafe Responsible Sourcing framework. Building on this foundation, the Casco supply chain is now working toward the implementation of the FairTrade USA standard, responding to growing demand for certified coffee while creating additional incentives for farmers in the region.

By aligning responsible sourcing standards with evolving market expectations, the initiative helps position producers to access future opportunities while strengthening the long-term sustainability of coffee production in Pérez Zeledón.





Colombia: Rural purchasing strengthens traceability in Nariño

In the Nariño region of **Colombia**, Volcafe has strengthened responsible sourcing through a rural purchasing model designed to connect coffee producers more directly with the formal supply chain. The initiative enables Volcafe teams to purchase coffee directly from farmers in some of the most remote coffee-growing communities.

Between June and September 2025, during the region's main harvest, Volcafe purchased dry parchment coffee directly from more than 600 coffee growers. By bringing purchasing operations closer to farms, the programme reduces reliance on intermediaries while improving traceability and transparency within the supply chain. This approach also ensures that farmers can access competitive market prices while strengthening the visibility of coffee from these remote communities.



Case study

Tanzania sustainability project with Seven Eleven Japan



In southern **Tanzania**, many coffee farmers face ongoing challenges that limit productivity and profitability, including ageing coffee trees, low shade cover, and declining soil health. At the same time, limited access to adequate drying infrastructure has affected post-harvest handling, leading to inconsistent coffee quality and reduced market value.

This sustainability project, implemented by Volcafe together with Seven Eleven Japan, was developed to address these constraints through a combination of farm renovation, climate adaptation, and quality improvement. A key focus of the initiative is expanding access to improved planting material, enabling producers to replace older coffee trees while introducing shade trees that support more resilient growing conditions.

In 2025, the project scaled its nursery operations with the establishment of an additional site at a new Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS), increasing the production of both coffee and shade tree seedlings. Across all participating regions – Mbeya, Songwe, Mbinga, and Arusha – the project supported the production of more than 106,600 coffee seedlings and 82,000 shade tree seedlings, reaching 8,200 farmers.



Building on distribution of previous years, each farmer, on average, has received 13 coffee seedlings and 10 shared trees. This initiative supports long-term farm rehabilitation.

To strengthen coffee quality, the project also introduced improved drying infrastructure through the construction and distribution of drying tables at selected AMCOS', helping ensure more consistent and controlled drying conditions.

Alongside these interventions, farmers participated in training programmes focused on pruning and shade tree management, equipping them with the knowledge needed to manage their farms more effectively. Together, these efforts contribute to more resilient farming systems and position producers to achieve stronger yields and improved coffee quality.





Regenerative practices

Coffee farming depends on healthy ecosystems. As climate conditions become more unpredictable, farmers are increasingly required to adapt their practices to protect both their crops and the natural resources upon which they rely. Regenerative agriculture offers a pathway to strengthen farm resilience while supporting long-term environmental sustainability.

At Volcafe, when promoting regenerative practices, we focus on improving soil health, enhancing biodiversity, and reducing the environmental footprint of coffee production. Through the Volcafe Way farmer support programme and partnerships with producers and industry stakeholders, initiatives are implemented to respond to local conditions while supporting broader climate goals.

Across origin countries, these efforts take many forms. Producers are renewing aging coffee farms with improved planting material and integrating shade trees to create more resilient agroforestry systems. In parallel, new approaches such as biochar, organic fertilisation, and soil analysis are being introduced to improve soil structure and reduce emissions. Other initiatives focus on protecting ecosystems and promoting regenerative agriculture practices that support both productivity and environmental balance.

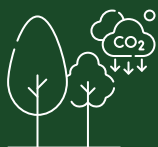
Together, these activities aim to build farming systems that are better equipped to withstand climate-related challenges while maintaining the long-term viability of coffee production.

Designed to strengthen the environmental resilience of coffee farming, this pillar of our sustainability strategy focuses on the following core themes:



Resilient farming

Supporting producers to renew and adapt their farms through improved planting material, agroforestry systems, and practices that strengthen long-term productivity under changing climate conditions.



Carbon reduction

Implementing approaches that reduce emissions and improve soil health, including biochar, organic fertilisation, and farm-level innovations that support more sustainable production systems.



Safeguarding the environment

Promoting regenerative agriculture practices that protect biodiversity, improve ecosystem health, and maintain the natural resources essential for coffee production.





Resilient farming

As climate conditions continue to shift, coffee farmers are increasingly required to adapt how their farms are managed to maintain long-term productivity. In many regions, an ageing crop profile, declining soil health, and changing weather patterns are placing pressure on farm performance, making renewal and adaptation essential.

At Volcafe, resilient farming focuses on strengthening the long-term viability of coffee farms by supporting practices that enable producers to adapt to these challenges. This includes the renewal of ageing plantations, the integration of agroforestry systems, and the introduction of plant varieties and farm management techniques better suited to evolving environmental conditions.

By focusing on how farms are structured and managed over time, these initiatives aim to build more adaptable and productive farming systems that can sustain coffee production into the future.







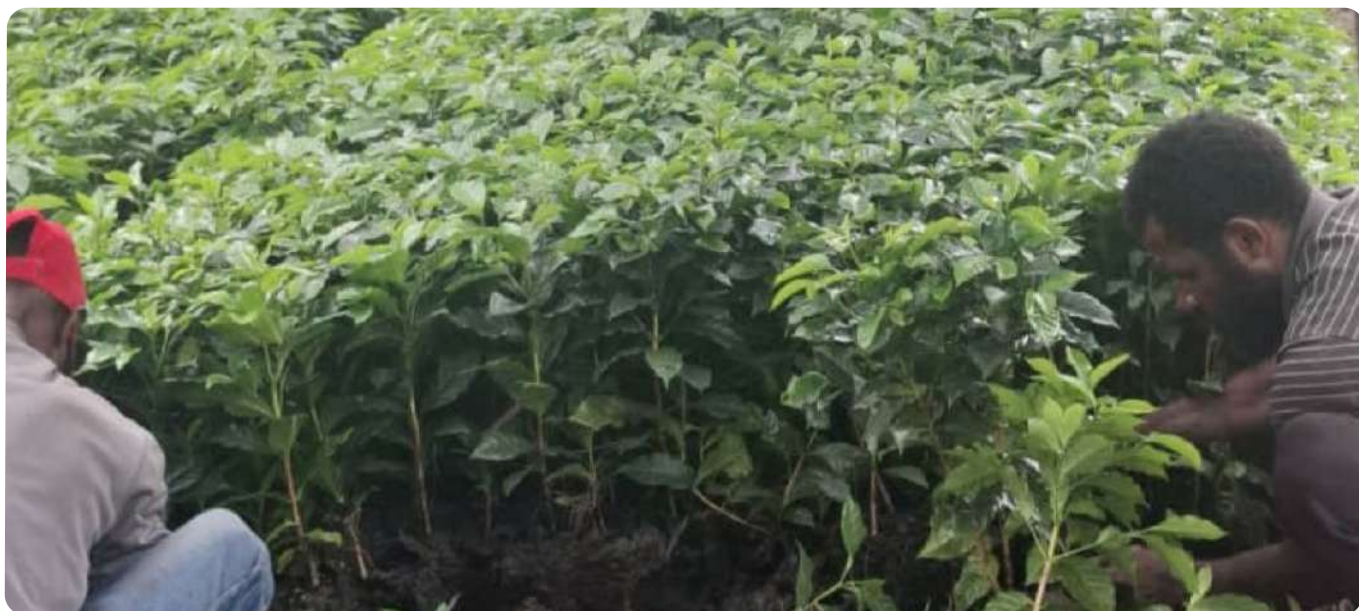
Papua New Guinea: Rejuvenating coffee farms through replanting



In **Papua New Guinea**, many coffee farms are characterised by ageing trees, which limits productivity and reduces the long-term viability of coffee production. To address this, Volcafe has worked with farmer groups in Papua New Guinea's Eastern Highlands Province and Jiwaka region to support the rejuvenation of coffee farms through targeted replanting.

The initiative included the distribution of more than 40,000 coffee seedlings, enabling producers to replace older trees, improving bean quality and productivity, leading to healthier growing conditions. Alongside this, farmers received training on replanting techniques.

By improving the age structure of coffee trees, the programme supports more productive and resilient farms, positioning producers to maintain coffee quality and yields in the years ahead.





Peru: Testing F1 hybrid varieties for future climate resilience

In **Peru's** Cajamarca region, Volcafe has established demonstration plots to evaluate the potential of F1 hybrid Arabica varieties as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen climate resilience in coffee farming. As environmental conditions continue to shift, exploring and validating new agronomic solutions is becoming increasingly important to sustain productivity under changing climates.

The project includes the installation of two demonstration plots designed as on-farm innovation pilots, where four hybrid varieties are being assessed alongside a local control variety. Over a six-year period, the plots will be used to evaluate yield performance, adaptation to specific microclimates, and resistance to natural coffee leaf rust infection.

By testing these varieties under real farm conditions, the initiative provides valuable insights into how hybrid genetics can contribute to more resilient coffee production systems. While currently implemented with two participating producers, the findings are expected to inform future farm renovation strategies, guide innovation-led decision-making, and support the adoption of climate-tolerant varieties across the region.

Uganda: Agroforestry systems to strengthen climate resilience in Masaka



In **Uganda's** Masaka region, coffee farmers are increasingly exposed to climate-related pressures, including prolonged dry periods, erratic rainfall, and rising pest and disease incidence. Combined with limited access to advisory services and low tree cover on farms, these challenges are placing growing strain on coffee production systems.

To address these risks, Volcafe, in partnership with a roaster partner and PUR, has implemented an agroforestry initiative designed to strengthen the resilience of coffee farms. The project supports farmers through the integration of native tree species into coffee plots, alongside ongoing technical advisory services.



To date, the initiative has reached over 1,250 farmers, with the planting of more than 120,000 trees consisting of 14 different species throughout the greater Masaka landscape. Farmers also receive incentives linked to tree survival, reinforcing long-term adoption of agroforestry practices.

By increasing tree cover and diversifying farm systems, the project contributes to more stable growing conditions while supporting broader environmental and economic resilience. It also strengthens local engagement, with increased interest in agroforestry practices and expanded opportunities for youth involvement in nursery management and tree distribution.



Carbon reduction

Reducing the environmental footprint of coffee production is an important building block for the sustainability and climate-resilience of supply chains. A significant share of emissions associated with coffee occurs at the farm level, making it essential to support producers with practical approaches that improve efficiency while strengthening soil health and productivity.

At Volcafe, carbon reduction initiatives focus on promoting farming practices and technologies that help lower emissions and enhance natural carbon storage within agricultural systems. These include the use of organic fertilisers, improved soil management techniques, and innovations such as biochar, which can help retain carbon in the soil while improving its structure and fertility.

Through pilot projects, model farms, and targeted support programmes, these initiatives are tested and adapted to local conditions, providing scalable solutions that contribute to both environmental sustainability and long-term farm performance.



Vietnam: Regenerative practices reduce carbon footprint in Robusta production



In **Vietnam**, Volcafe is implementing the Nestlé Regenerative Agriculture Project, a six-year programme aimed to contribute to reducing the carbon footprint of Robusta coffee production while strengthening long-term soil health.

The initiative, which is part of the Nescafé Plan 2030, engages 6,300 farmers across the Dak Lak, Lam Dong, and Dak Nong provinces, promoting regenerative farming practices.

The programme combines farmer training with practical interventions focused on nutrient management, residue recycling, and soil regeneration. Participating farmers receive organic fertiliser inputs, while a network of 64 model farms and two trial farms demonstrate and evaluate approaches such as biochar application, coffee by-product fermentation, and organic fertilisation under real farm conditions.

To support data-driven decision making, the project also integrates AgroCares soil analysis technology, enabling farmers to better understand soil conditions and optimize nutrient use. By 2030, the programme aims to achieve a reduction in CO2 emissions and promote carbon sequestration.





Honduras: Biochar pilot advances circular solutions in coffee farming

In El Paraíso, **Honduras**, Volcafe has launched a biochar pilot as part of the European Union-funded Paraíso Verde project under the Global Gateway Initiative, in partnership with Swisscontact. Under this pilot, 42 coffee producers and 18 local technicians have been trained in the production and application of biochar. Using coffee pruning waste and pulp residues, the project converts organic by-products into a stable form of carbon that can be returned to the soil.

Biochar plays an important role in regenerative coffee systems by improving soil structure, increasing nutrient retention, and enhancing water-holding capacity. At the same time, it enables long-term carbon storage, contributing to reduced emissions at farm level. By transforming agricultural waste into a valuable input, the approach introduces circular practices that reduce reliance on external fertilisers while improving overall farm efficiency.

As a pilot, the initiative provides practical insights into how biochar can be produced and applied under real farm conditions, demonstrating its potential to strengthen both environmental performance and soil health in coffee production systems.

Building on this work, Volcafe continues working to further develop and scale biochar solutions across multiple coffee-producing countries. Current efforts focus on refining production methods, evaluating carbon sequestration potential, and adapting biochar applications to different origin contexts. Together, these activities aim to position biochar as a scalable tool for reducing emissions and supporting more resilient coffee farming systems in the years ahead.

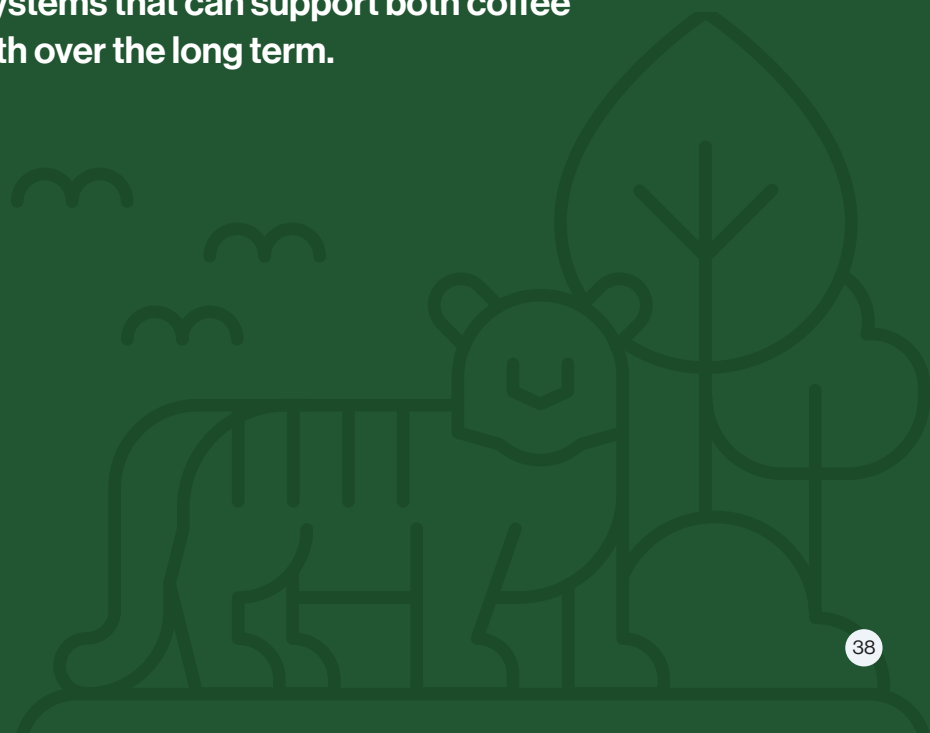


Safeguarding the environment

Protecting the natural environment is essential to the long-term viability of coffee production. Healthy ecosystems support soil fertility, regulate water cycles, and provide the biodiversity needed to sustain productive agricultural systems.

At Volcafe, safeguarding the environment focuses on integrating regenerative agriculture practices that maintain and enhance these natural systems. This includes promoting agroforestry (which improves soil fertility and thus reduces incentive to deforest), increasing tree cover on coffee farms, and supporting initiatives that protect and restore local ecosystems.

Across origin countries, these approaches are adapted to local conditions, from strengthening shade tree systems within coffee plots to supporting wider landscape-level initiatives. By reinforcing the connection between coffee farming and the surrounding environment, these efforts contribute to more balanced production systems that can support both coffee cultivation and ecosystem health over the long term.







Papua New Guinea: Agroforestry through shade trees



In **Papua New Guinea**, Volcafe is working with farmer groups in the Eastern Highlands Province and Jiwaka to strengthen the role of agroforestry systems within coffee farms. In regions where coffee is often grown under low or inconsistent shade, increasing tree cover is an important step in maintaining balanced and productive ecosystems.

The initiative has supported the distribution of over 6,000 shade trees, encouraging farmers to integrate shade into their coffee plots. Alongside this, training has focused on how shade trees function within the wider farm system, including their role in regulating microclimates and supporting soil health, enabling farmers to better manage the balance between coffee production and surrounding ecosystems.

By strengthening the relationship between coffee plants and surrounding vegetation, these systems contribute to improved soil protection, microclimate regulation, and biodiversity within coffee-growing areas. This approach supports more stable and environmentally balanced farming systems, helping ensure that coffee production can be sustained within healthy ecosystems over time.





Tanzania: Training programmes promote environmental stewardship in coffee farms

In **Tanzania's** Mbeya and Songwe regions, Volcafe is working with farmers through the Tim Hortons Sustainability Project to strengthen environmental practices at farm and community level. The initiative focuses on building awareness and supporting the adoption of agricultural practices that protect natural resources within coffee-growing areas.

Through structured training programmes, farmers are introduced to approaches such as soil conservation, biodiversity protection, responsible agrochemical use, and pollution prevention. In 2025, the project reached 1,735 farmers, with 1,572 trained, resulting in strong adoption of improved practices — including 92% of farmers improving pest and disease management, 88% implementing soil conservation and biodiversity measures, and 83% applying no-pollution practices.

By strengthening environmental awareness and practical farm management, the project contributes to more responsible production systems and supports the long-term protection of coffee-growing ecosystems.



Costa Rica: Regenerative certification and tree planting strengthen ecosystems

In **Costa Rica**, Volcafe has advanced its environmental commitments through early adoption of the Rainforest Alliance's Regenerative Agriculture Standard, becoming one of the first coffee supply chains globally to achieve the certification under this framework. The standard promotes farming practices that restore soil health, enhance biodiversity, and strengthen the ecological balance within agricultural systems.

Our team in Costa Rica also supported the planting of more than 135,000 native trees across coffee farms in 2025, increasing tree cover and reinforcing the integration of agroforestry systems. These efforts contribute to improved habitat connectivity, soil protection, and the long-term health of coffee-growing landscapes.

By combining regenerative certification with on-the-ground implementation, the initiative strengthens the relationship between coffee production and the surrounding environment, supporting farming systems that maintain ecological integrity while sustaining coffee cultivation into the future.



[Click here to read the full story](#)



Case study

Creating shared value through youth engagement and regenerative farming in Uganda



In **Uganda's** greater Masaka region, coffee farmers have faced a combination of structural challenges, including low and inconsistent yields, poor coffee quality, limited access to markets, and increasing climate-related pressures. At the same time, high youth unemployment and unequal access to resources have constrained opportunities for long-term resilience within coffee-growing communities.

The Nestlé Creating Shared Value Project, initiative within the Nescafé Plan 2030, was implemented to address these interconnected challenges by strengthening both farming systems and the broader coffee value chain. Central to the initiative is the integration of regenerative agriculture practices, alongside targeted efforts to engage and empower young people within the coffee sector.

Through structured training programmes, 6,840 farmers have been introduced to regenerative techniques focused on improving soil health, productivity, and climate resilience. In parallel, 726 young people have been trained in coffee farming and service provision, with 79 youths employed and many others actively engaged in the sector as farmers and advisors.

These combined efforts have contributed to measurable improvements across the region. Average yields have increased significantly, while coffee quality and farmgate prices have strengthened. Today, 29% of farmers are earning above the living income benchmark, and the region is developing a more stable and reliable supply chain.

By linking regenerative agriculture with youth participation and market access, the project demonstrates how coordinated action across the value chain can strengthen both environmental and economic outcomes. It also positions the next generation of coffee producers to play an active role in shaping more resilient and inclusive coffee systems in the years ahead.



Responsible citizenship

Coffee-growing communities depend on more than agricultural productivity to thrive. Access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities plays a critical role in shaping long-term outcomes for farming households and the next generation of producers.

At Volcafe, responsible citizenship focuses on initiatives that strengthen these social foundations by addressing practical challenges faced at community level. Across origin countries, we have implemented projects to support greater inclusion and participation in the coffee sector, particularly for women and youth, while improving everyday living conditions.

These efforts include expanding income-generating opportunities for women, improving access to menstrual hygiene resources to support school attendance, and creating safe environments for children during the harvest season. In parallel, health-focused interventions such as improved cooking facilities have helped to reduce exposure to household air pollution and improve overall wellbeing.

By addressing these interconnected needs, these initiatives contribute to stronger, more inclusive communities and support the long-term sustainability of coffee production.

Focused on strengthening the social foundations of coffee-growing communities, this pillar of our sustainability strategy centres on the following core themes:



Gender Equity

Expanding opportunities for women and girls by improving access to resources, income-generating activities, and participation in the coffee sector.



Education

Supporting access to learning and safe environments for children, helping reduce barriers to education in coffee-growing communities.



Health

Improving living conditions and reducing health risks through practical interventions that support the wellbeing of farming households.





Gender equity

Promoting gender equity is an important part of strengthening coffee-growing communities and the households that sustain them. In many producing regions, women play a central role in coffee production, yet often face structural barriers that limit access to resources, income opportunities, and decision-making.

At Volcafe, gender-focused initiatives aim to address these gaps by creating more inclusive opportunities for women and girls, as part of a broader household approach to supporting coffee farming families. This includes supporting income diversification, improving working conditions, and addressing practical constraints that can limit participation in education and community life.

By enabling more balanced participation within households, these efforts contribute to stronger household outcomes and more inclusive coffee supply chains over time.







Tanzania: Poultry project to support women's income diversification



In **Tanzania**, the LISAU AMCOS Poultry Project supports women's economic participation through small-scale poultry farming as an additional income-generating activity. The initiative provides an opportunity for women to diversify household income beyond coffee production while building practical skills in livestock management.

In 2025, the project managed over 180 chickens, with additional eggs in incubation. While initial production targets have been affected by challenges such as unreliable electricity supply and difficulties maintaining consistent humidity levels, the project continues to operate and adapt.

These early experiences are helping identify the conditions needed for successful poultry production, including improved access to power, vaccination, and feed. As these factors are addressed, the project has the potential to strengthen income opportunities for women and support more resilient household livelihoods in the years ahead.





Uganda: Improving menstrual hygiene management for young women and girls

In **Uganda's** Mount Elgon region, limited access to menstrual hygiene resources, combined with stigma and inadequate wash facilities, can restrict girls' participation in education and community life. These challenges affect both wellbeing and long-term opportunities for young women in coffee-growing communities.

To address this, a menstrual hygiene management (MHM) project was implemented to strengthen knowledge and improve access to sustainable solutions. The initiative trained master trainers and supported the production of reusable sanitary pads, enabling communities to maintain access to essential products.

Through outreach activities, 22 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) and 466 community members were trained, including men, women, and youth. By increasing awareness and reducing stigma, this project supports improved school attendance for girls while strengthening community understanding and education of menstrual health.





Education

Access to education plays an important role in supporting the long-term development and resilience of coffee-growing communities. In many producing regions, children face barriers to consistent schooling, particularly during peak agricultural periods such as the harvest season, when family labour demands may increase.

At Volcafe, education-focused initiatives aim to create safer and more supportive environments for children, helping reduce disruptions to learning, improve overall participation in school, and ultimately reduce child labour. These efforts include providing structured activities during harvest periods, supporting community-based childcare solutions that also enable greater participation of women, and strengthening awareness around the importance of education.

By improving access to learning and creating conditions that support school attendance, these initiatives contribute to stronger outcomes for youth and support more sustainable community development over time.



Guatemala: Coffee Camps support learning and safe environments for children



In **Guatemala**, Volcafe partners with Funcafé to deliver Coffee Camps and Kindergartens in coffee-growing communities, creating structured educational spaces for children during the harvest season. These programmes provide a safe environment where children can continue learning while reducing exposure to risks associated with child labour.

Designed for children aged 4 to 13, the centres offer age-appropriate learning, nutrition, and structured activities that support both academic and personal development. In the 2024/25 harvest, each programme reached around 40 children per centre, with 100% retention.

The initiative has contributed to strong learning outcomes, with 83% of Coffee Camp participants exceeding reading fluency standards and more than 80% of kindergarten children improving across key developmental areas. By combining education, nutrition, and community engagement, the programme supports more consistent school participation and strengthens long-term learning outcomes in coffee-growing regions.





Costa Rica: Day care centres support access to education during harvest

In Costa Rica, Volcafe is expanding its day care initiative to support children in coffee-growing communities during the harvest season. A third day care centre is set to open during the 2025–26 harvest, marking the first of its kind in the Central Valley region.

These centres provide safe, structured environments for children under the age of 12 while parents are engaged in coffee picking. By offering supervised care during this period, the initiative enables greater participation of women in coffee production and helps combat child labour.

As the programme expands, it contributes to more consistent access to safe and structured care for children, reinforcing the importance of education within coffee-growing communities.





Health

Health and wellbeing are essential to the stability of coffee-growing communities and the sustainability of coffee production. In many regions, everyday household conditions can expose families to health risks, particularly where access to safe infrastructure and resources is limited.

At Volcafe, health-focused initiatives prioritise practical interventions that improve living conditions and reduce these risks. This includes supporting access to cleaner household technologies, promoting safer practices, and addressing environmental factors that affect daily life.

By improving conditions at household level, these initiatives contribute to healthier communities and support the long-term wellbeing of coffee-producing families.





Honduras: Improved cookstoves reduce health risks in coffee-growing households

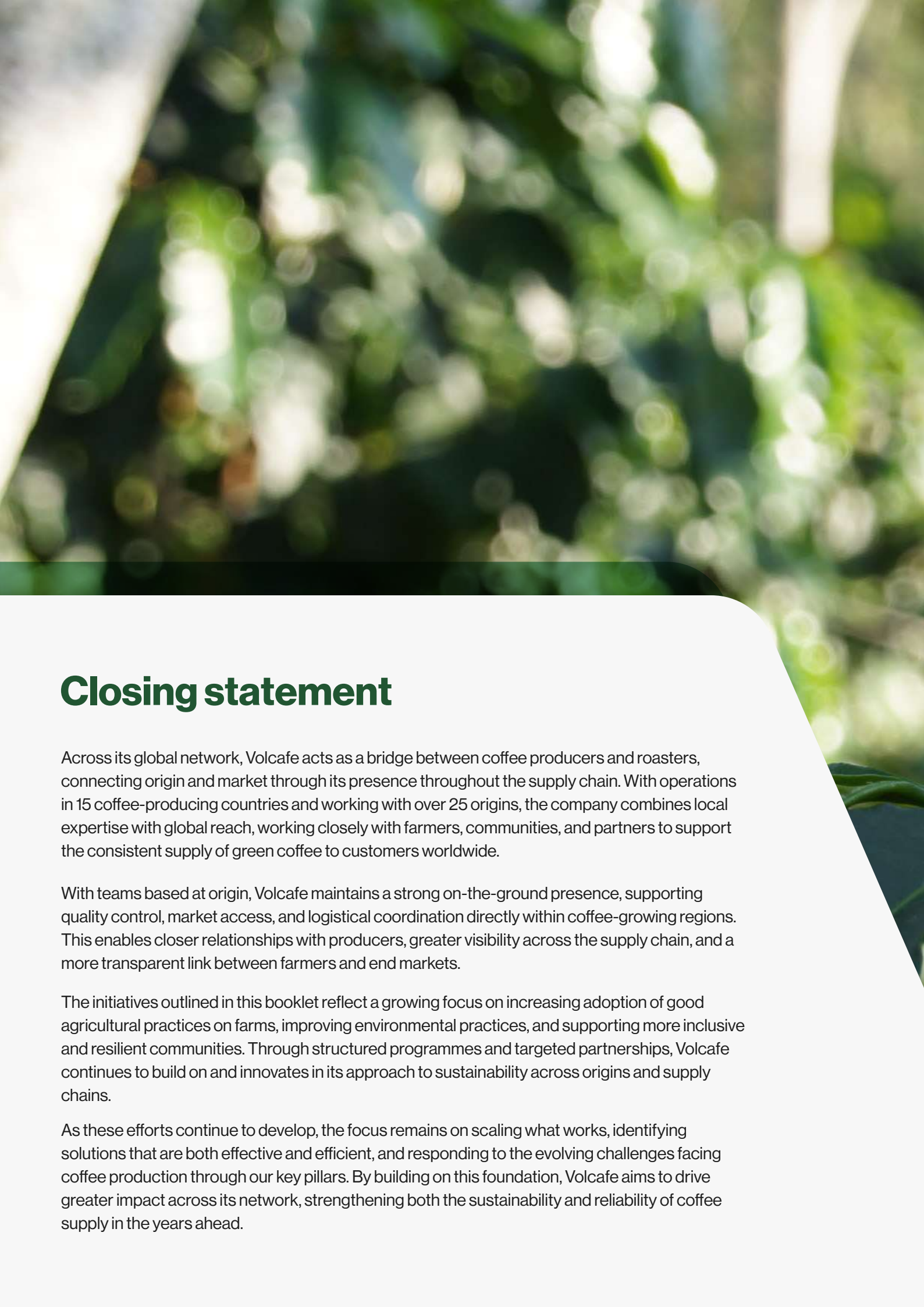


In El Paraíso, **Honduras**, Volcafe has supported the introduction of improved cooking technologies through the Efficient Cookstove Project, part of the European Union-funded Paraíso Verde project under the Global Gateway Initiative, in partnership with Swisscontact. It focuses on improving household conditions by reducing exposure to indoor air pollution caused by traditional cooking methods.

To date, 662 improved Justa 3D cookstoves are in use, contributing to a significant reduction in smoke exposure within homes. These stoves are designed to improve combustion efficiency, resulting in more than a 70% decrease in exposure to harmful indoor air pollutants.

In addition to health benefits, the project reduces reliance on firewood, leading to lower household costs and reduced pressure on local forests. By improving everyday living conditions, the initiative supports healthier households while contributing to more sustainable resource use in coffee-growing communities.





Closing statement

Across its global network, Volcafe acts as a bridge between coffee producers and roasters, connecting origin and market through its presence throughout the supply chain. With operations in 15 coffee-producing countries and working with over 25 origins, the company combines local expertise with global reach, working closely with farmers, communities, and partners to support the consistent supply of green coffee to customers worldwide.

With teams based at origin, Volcafe maintains a strong on-the-ground presence, supporting quality control, market access, and logistical coordination directly within coffee-growing regions. This enables closer relationships with producers, greater visibility across the supply chain, and a more transparent link between farmers and end markets.

The initiatives outlined in this booklet reflect a growing focus on increasing adoption of good agricultural practices on farms, improving environmental practices, and supporting more inclusive and resilient communities. Through structured programmes and targeted partnerships, Volcafe continues to build on and innovates in its approach to sustainability across origins and supply chains.

As these efforts continue to develop, the focus remains on scaling what works, identifying solutions that are both effective and efficient, and responding to the evolving challenges facing coffee production through our key pillars. By building on this foundation, Volcafe aims to drive greater impact across its network, strengthening both the sustainability and reliability of coffee supply in the years ahead.





Making coffee business better, together.

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