

Cafetal El Equimite - Veracruz, Mexico

Development Stage



Veracruz, the state in which the El Equimite farm is located, has been described as having one of the richest varieties of wildlife in the western hemisphere. Unfortunately, most of the native forest has been destroyed due to logging for commercial timber and land clearing for agriculture and pasture. El Equimite is a biodynamic agricultural company, focused on the production of specialty coffee, different vegetables, and medicinal plants. Through its integral agroecological production model, the project prevents the area from further deforestation and contributes to the local ecosystem and economy. With reNatures collaboration, the objective is to serve as a demonstration and educational space for regenerative agroforestry.

Finance & Planing



400.000

Investment



Gibran Cervantes

Initiator



LOCATION:

Veracruz, Mexico

SIZE OF PLANTED PLOT:

12 ha

SIZE OF POTENTIAL AREA:

32 ha

CLIENT:

El Equimite

COMMODITY:

Coffee

INDUSTRY:

Food

GOAL:

Long-term economic resilience along the coffee value chain & promote regenerative agroforestry practices.

MAIN FOCUS:

Biodynamic coffee production.

PARTNERS:

Ensamble Cafés Mexicanos,
Ensamble International, Bios Lil



ENSAMBLES
CAFÉS MEXICANOS



Assignment & Impact

Number of expected beneficiaries

60 members of Bios Comunidad Sustentable and 2,897 farmer families in the producer network.

Development Challenges

Even though, Veracruz is a fertile region for agricultural production farmers are also experiencing the challenges of climate change. Especially for coffee production temperature fluctuations can reduce production up to 34% leading to socio-economic challenges for coffee farmers. There is a need for new ways of stabilizing and improving the living standards of farmers while taking environmental sustainability into account.

Intervention

In the long-term, through integrated sustainability indicators it will be easier to evaluate and monitor the processes of the farm and region and come up with potential solutions. Currently, adaptations are being made to cultivate the best coffee varieties that are resilient to temperature fluctuations. A diversified production system leads to economic resilience creating new market opportunities. From the experience and learnings as well as with the support of reNature, the El Equimite project will upscale regenerative agroforestry practices to other coffee produces of the region.

Paragraph Title

reNature Model School: est. € 200k - 400k

Objective

El Equimite envisions long-term sustainable coffee production contributing to positive impact throughout the entire value chain. Therefore, the main objective is to incorporate socio-economic and environmental actions into their business model and make it a widely adapted sustainable operating model.

Inspirational Impact

The main inspiration of El Equimite is to be able to improve the livelihoods of coffee producers by establishing a network through trust and knowledge exchange on how to produce high-quality regenerative coffee with low input and low environmental costs. For the best support, they work with many allies such as research organizations, universities, governments, and NGOs. El Equimite has organic certification by Sagarpa and NOP (USDA), as well as Demeter (biodynamic). Additionally, they are part of the organization "Bios Comunidad Sustentable", which promotes education, health, art, bio-construction, agriculture, and other activities contributing to the local community.



3.000

Community
Members



61% More

Biodiversity



45% More

Improved Water
Cycles



23% More

Soil Carbon Stock

Environmental Impact

Agriculture is one of the most important sources of income for the Mexican population. Because of this large industry the country has been suffering from deforestation for many decades. Today, only 20% of Veracruz's original ecosystem remains, with 64% transformed by human exploitation. Despite some efforts for conservation, exploitation continues to put pressure on remaining wild areas. To counteract this process the project at El Equimite shows farmers how agricultural production can be done without exploiting nature. On the farm they work with biodynamic methods, perceiving the farm as a living organism and manage it in a comprehensive, diversified way respecting natural cycles. The coffee is planted under shaded trees, within "mesófilo forests", contributing to the creation of diversified ecosystems. The diversification of crops will among others improve the soil and demonstrate reduced dependency on individual crops whilst protecting farmers from crop failures.

Social Impact

The urgency to transform the reality of coffee communities as well as the numerous benefits of adopting regenerative agroforestry systems will inspire thousands of (coffee) farmers. For this reason, El Equimite is building a network of coffee producers from different parts of Mexico intending to achieve a better future. The farmland will function as a Model Farm and a Model School of the region that can be studied and multiplied. Socially the farm is a meeting place where knowledge can be exchanged, and coffee producers are brought closer to a technologically based model for sustainable production validated by scientific research.

Economic Impact

At El Equimite the objective is to transform the paradigm of the coffee value chain. Because of the risks and costs involved in this transformation, they are creating equity models for producers, and every actor along the value chain to obtain the right percentage for their activity. A network of coffee producers and other stakeholders along the value chain is supposed to build strong trust relations and create new opportunities. Furthermore, because of the increased quality of the products producers will be able to sell their products for a higher price nationally and internationally.

Impact Metrics

Outcome Metrics

1. Increase coffee quality and diversification produced on the farm
2. Maintain the 4 organic-biodynamic management certifications
3. Generate technology transfer in regenerative agriculture aspects to more than 400 coffee producers in Mexico each year.

Evaluation Method

1. Measurement of soil quality through edaphological studies
2. Measurement of coffee quality through cupping results by certified organizations
3. Number of farmers that have participated in trainings and workshops



El Equimite
caféetal biodinámico