

PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS REVIEWS

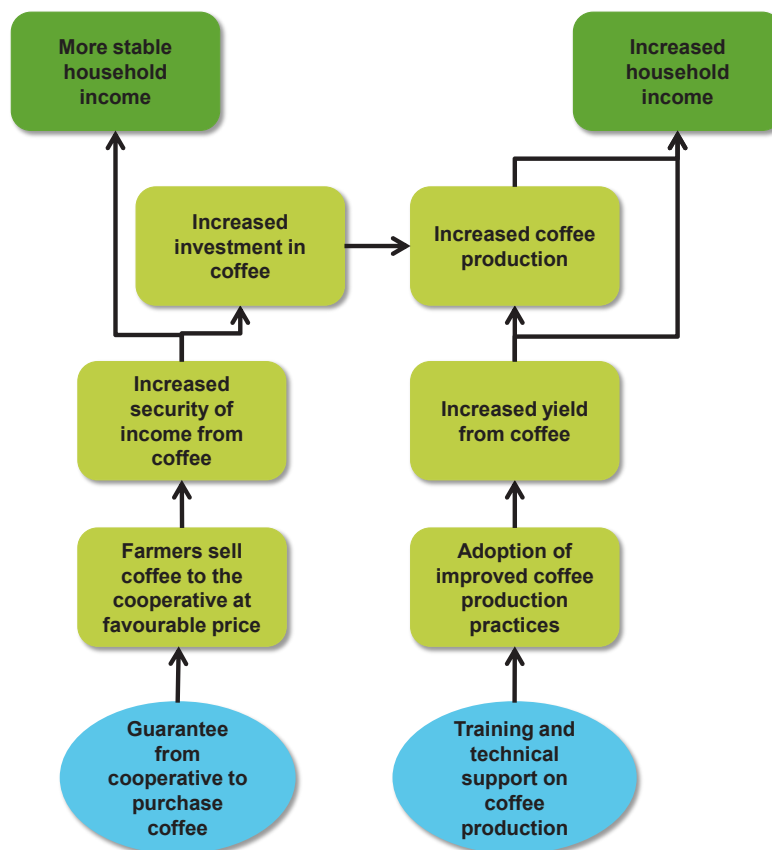
'enhancing effectiveness through evidence-based learning'



Support to Coffee Farmers: Haiti 2011/12

RECOCARNO is a network of eight coffee producers' cooperatives operating in the North and North East departments of Haiti. Oxfam GB has been supporting coffee producers in these areas since 1997, and was instrumental in establishing RECOCARNO in 2001. RECOCARNO's Fairtrade certification enables it to market the coffee produced by its members at a premium above international prices, with profits being redistributed to producers each year. The network also provides training and technical support on production techniques, as well as facilitating access to services such as credit, ploughing and transportation.

Oxfam GB's support to RECOCARNO originally involved strengthening the institution and assisting it to establish commercial relationships with buyers. In recent years, Oxfam's support has focused on encouraging coffee producers to diversify their income sources, in order to reduce dependence on coffee and provide more reliable year-round income.



*Figure 1: Intervention logic:
Support to coffee production*

Photo credit: Toby Adamson

Evaluation Method

In November 2011, a household survey was carried out with 493 randomly-selected coffee producers in the North and North East departments of Haiti. Survey respondents were selected from among the membership of four RECOCARNO cooperatives and the membership of three cooperatives outside the RECOCARNO network, which were considered to be suitable as a comparison group. The survey was designed to capture data relevant to the global indicator for livelihoods – % of supported households demonstrating greater income, as measured by household expenditure per day per capita – as well as to other intended outcomes of the project. These included diversification of income sources and attitudes to women's economic roles. At the analysis stage, the statistical tools of propensity-score matching and multivariable regression were used to control for observable differences between the intervention and comparison groups

Rating key: ● - Evidence supporting large impact; ● - Evidence supporting more modest impact; ● - Evidence of large impact, but only for specific sub-groups/measures; ● - Evidence of modest impact, but only for specific sub-groups/measures; ● - No evidence of impact

Results

The effectiveness review found a substantial positive effect from RECOCARNO membership on the level of household income in the North East department, but no effect in Dondon (in the North department). The positive result in the North East appears to be driven by the higher prices which these producers are being paid for their coffee production. However, even in the North East, there is little or no evidence that this boost in incomes has yet led to long-term improvements in wellbeing. In addition, there is no evidence that members of RECOCARNO cooperatives in the North East are diversifying their income sources: they are actually more focussed on coffee and sell fewer other crops than members of the comparison cooperatives.

In Dondon, while there is no clear advantage to RECOCARNO membership in terms of the price received for coffee, it does appear that members of the RECOCARNO cooperatives are bringing a wider range of crops to market. This perhaps provides some evidence that the diversification activities were successful. The results also showed a positive effect on men's attitudes towards women's economic roles in Dondon, but none in the North East.

Outcome	Rating	Commentary
Outcome 1 – Increased household income	●	Strong evidence of a positive impact in the North East department. No evidence of impact in Dondon.
Outcome 2: Diversification of household income	●	Some evidence of diversification of crop types brought to market by producers in Dondon. No evidence of impact in the North East.
Outcome 3 – Accumulation of asset wealth	●	Little evidence that increased household income has led to long-term accumulation of assets.
Outcome 4 – Improved attitudes to gender roles	●	Evidence of improved attitudes to women's roles among male respondents, though not among female respondents themselves.

Going forward

Although Oxfam's support to RECOCARNO has now been phased out, the findings were shared and discussed with RECOCARNO, and they will be used to inform other programme work. Since some of the findings about the impact on producers were unexpected, even after more than 10 years of work with this partner, programme teams will work to ensure that systems to monitor progress on long-term improvements are integrated into the design of future livelihoods projects. Programme staff will seek support from Oxfam regional and international advisors, particularly on how to promote diversification and improve gender equity in future projects with small-scale agriculture, and will seek to build partner capacity in these areas.