

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Agriculture and Food (TEEBAgriFood) aims to equip decision-makers with the tools and information to account for the value of nature in food systems.

TEEBAGRIFOOD
MEXICO

TEEBAgriFood Initiative for coffee in Mexico

Background

Mexico is one of the world's reservoirs of high-quality coffee - but it's facing imminent threats due to climate change, poor management and global competition. Most of the national production comes from small farms and almost half of it is consumed nationally. In order to transform food systems and reach the targets set in the [2030 Agenda](#), coffee production must contribute to sustainable livelihoods, stable communities, foreign exchange, and biodiversity conservation. This is why the TEEBAgriFood Mexico Initiative for coffee will evaluate and compare different coffee policy scenarios, to determine which policies will underpin a more sustainable and equitable agri-food system. The initiative for coffee will generate science-based information to ultimately inform public policies that encourage a better balance between coffee production, coffee producer incomes, and environmental conservation.

Context & Focus

Coffee is of great importance in Mexico as an agroforestry system in the hands of small producers, mostly belonging to indigenous communities. In Mexico, coffee production processes have been transformed in recent years as producers respond to shifting market demands and climate challenges, which have driven two different productive conversions in the sector: one focused on differentiation of high-value products such as specialty coffee, certified organic, or fair-trade coffee, and another strategy focused on intensification with roya-resistant varieties and greater yields per hectare.

Location

The study will cover the 11 coffee growing regions of Mexico, located in the main states for coffee production: Chiapas, Oaxaca, Veracruz, and Puebla.



TEEBAgriFood Mexico Initiative for coffee map



"Coffee collectors, Veracruz, Mexico". Shutterstock

- Facts & Figures -



Exports of the product are estimated at US\$897 million/year



90% of producers have areas of less than 5 hectares



Mexico is the second largest producer of organic coffee in the world



Around 25 indigenous groups are coffee producers



45% of national coffee production is destined for domestic consumption and 55% for exports



Mexico has a low coffee productivity per hectare of 382 kg/ha



The coffee production chain in Mexico employs more than **Half a million** people



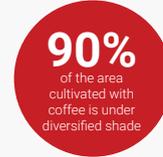
in **14** states



480 municipalities



& **5,000** localities



90% of the area cultivated with coffee is under diversified shade



which contributes to the conservation of biodiversity, soil erosion control, water capture and carbon sequestration, among other ecosystem services.

Activities & Objectives

A consortium of researchers from ten national research institutions, led by the [Instituto de Ecología \(INECOL\)](#) evaluate and compare the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of different production scenarios across the coffee value chain in order to promote improvements to policies guiding agricultural production, processing and marketing of coffee, and environmental conservation and land use planning in Mexico. A steering committee of government and coffee-sector representatives, convened under the co-leadership of the ministries of agriculture and environment (SADER and SEMARNAT), will oversee the project, and an independent technical committee will review study methods and outputs. The study will follow the [TEEBAgriFood Framework](#) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will steer the scientific study and communicate policy recommendations to coffee-sector stakeholders.

To this end, a series of foreseeable scenarios of land use, production methods, harvesting, processing, and distribution of coffee in Mexico, parameterized with

data from national censuses and field visits, will be developed and contrasted with current trends. The scenarios will represent policy options which, if implemented, would alter the course of the coffee sector. Evidence of the differences between the scenarios, measured in terms of human impacts including ecosystem services, wastes, and externalities will be used to develop recommendations for new or improvements to existing policies and programs that would benefit the coffee sector.



"Coffee farmers in Veracruz State, Mexico". INECOL

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