

COOMAP NEWS

On our 8th edition we introduced you to our Water treatment Project, remember? It's the one in which we install filters at our member's farms at no cost to them... Ok? Well, at the time you read about it you might have asked yourself: shouldn't they be taking care of the water source instead of cleaning water that has to be consumed? Yeah, you are right. And we also did it through our...

WATER SPRING RECOVERY PROJECT

For most of our member's water spring are the main source of water, and for many of them the only one. Some farms have several of them while others have just one. With this in mind, one of our first worries when we improved our environmental approach were them. After doing lots of research about ways of protecting water springs we got to the conclusion that we should use a simple and efficient method that could be easily learned by our members.

In order to broadcast our intent, several meetings took place at different communities in our working area in order to execute one spring protection as a practical lesson for members who live in the neighborhood. This is how we got to make our members become aware toward the importance of protecting their water sources. But what about the protection itself?

This is how it works:



01. At first it is necessary to clean the spring by removing pieces of log, plastic or any kind of dirt that we might find;



02. A two-meter-long pipe (6.56 ft) is set in spring bottom. This pipe is closed at its outer end and will only be opened in case it is necessary to clean the spring in the future;



03. A second pipe is installed right above the first one in order to be connected with the farm house plumbing system;



04. A last pipe is placed above the second one. Its function is to let excess water flow out so that it doesn't increase pressure inside the spring. This pipe has its outer protect with a fine net in order to prevent impurities to come into the spring.



05. Large rocks are set inside the spring to prevent it from being smashed by animals that might walk on them, what could make water flow change its direction and consequently would make the spring useless.



06. Finally, the whole spring is covered with a mixture of cement and soil so that it gets hard and protected.

Simple but efficient project

This simple but efficient project is guaranteed to protect the spring for at least 300 years! Quite enough, isn't it?

Until now 130 spring have been protected and our target is to reach _____ more. All of the materials necessary for every spring protection is provided by COOMAP at no cost for our members. Furthermore, our technicians are always available to help our members in this important project.



By doing this we help preserving this vital natural resource for the generations to come! This is COOMAP, good to the grower and sustainable to the environment.

GROWER OF THE MONTH:

This time we are going to introduce you to Joaquim Carlos Silva, or Carlinhos (little Carlos in plain Portuguese), a soft spoken, 55-year-old grower, father of 2 daughters, both of them married, who has 2 grandchildren and has always worked with coffee.

At his early days, he used to work as an employee, but at the age of 18, his father gave him 1000 coffee trees. He kept working for others and taking care of his small crop, which by the way he has until nowadays. 3 years later, he got to buy his first piece of land with the money made on his crop. Nowadays, he has 46 hectares of land, in which 33 of the have coffee planted on. According to him, if it weren't for COOMAP he really wouldn't have everything he has. He says this is true because of technical assistance, management guidance and the use of only necessary fertilizers and pesticides. His average production is 800 bags of coffee. He takes care of his crops all by himself and during the harvest he has the support of his two daughters, which take care of the coffee on the patio, dryers and everything else.

Spring recovery

In 2016, when COOMAP explained to them water spring recovery project, they were really worried because his springs also supply water for several of his neighbors. But Rogério, the Technical department manager at COOMAP, assured that it would not cause any problems regarding it, thus he decided to go ahead with it. At this time, Mr. Joaquim's wife, Maria, a very humble person, got into the conversation and said in a very proud way that she's absolutely sure that she drinks clean water and she adds that in the past, when it rained she always got dirty water, which used to make laundry dirty, however this belong to past. And by the way, his springs still have abundant water to his and his neighbors houses.

Family succession

Regarding family succession, his daughters has had their own plots of coffee within their parent's land since the time they were teenagers. Recently they took a part in the course of Family Succession, offered by COOMAP, where they learned about the importance of getting the next generations ready for taking the lead of the family business. Because of it, Mr. Joaquim is already getting prepared to split the land among his two daughters so that they get ready to manage everything in the near future and never leave their land.



COOMAP is really proud of having members like these, we mean it because at the end of the interview Mr. Joaquim said that he has a lot to thank to the co-op because the support provided by COOMAP really played a very important role on everything he got to have for him and his family!

See you next month!