



As you know quite well, last year was a tough one on Brazilian coffee producers, mainly because of the draught season and the frost.

In the 24th edition of this newsletter, we showed the measures implemented in order provide relief to our members. And this time we'd like to explain to you in a bit more detailed way our...



SOYBEAN PROJECT

Back in September 2021 COOMAP hired a consultant specialized in this plant. Before inviting members to be part of the project, several rules were established in order to make sure that everything would develop in harmony with COOMAP main product – Coffee. For example, it was defined that due to Fairtrade Certification rules, **transgenic seeds wouldn't be used**. Then several meetings were conducted by the consultant with COOMAP field technicians and co-op members who were interested in having an alternative income source.

26 members decided to be part of this initiative, in which soybean would be planted between coffee trees lines. Since soy needs abundant sun, this joint between coffee and soybean was mainly appropriate for crops that needed to be stumped or young ones, even though many producers decided to grow it even between grown coffee trees.

Right now soybean is being harvested and COOMAP has already established commercial partnerships with buyer companies in order to help our members sell their production and take advantage of current market prices, which are at really attractive levels.



COOMAP set aside one of its Agronomical Technicians in order to provide technical assistance to the members involved in this project so that their doubts could be solved really quickly, after all soybeans demand immediate attention when problem come up. **Since we are talking about technical support, it's important to mention that intercropping coffee trees and soybeans has many advantages:**

- The nitrogen fixation carried out by soybean crop, that is, getting nitrogen from the air and setting it into the soil;
- Erosive processes control, since the area between the lines of coffee trees will be occupied with soybeans;
- Increased stability of organic matter in the cultivation area;
- Reduction of weed infestation.



Productivity was also an important achievement for this project since average yields per hectare was about 65 bags, while Brazilian average is 55 bags.

Growers who decided to be part of this project are really satisfied with its results. Check out what our member Claudemir Silva said: *"We used to intercrop beans with coffee, but sometimes prices for our production were really low. When COOMAP came up with the idea of planting soybeans, we got really excited about it and decided to get into it. I am really happy with it!"*

It's appropriate to say that through this project COOMAP is acting according to its mission, which is to promote our members' development and provide security and efficiency to their business, especially during challenging times like the ones we've had in 2021. **That's what cooperativism is all about, isn't it?**



Growers of the month

This month we'd like to invite you to watch a special video that was recorded with 3 members we have at COOMAP.

Thus we are glad to introduce you to Elinton, Donizete and José Frankelin.



Elinton



Donizete



José Frankelin

They are going to let you know about the challenges they had to go through in order to have their farm and get to produce coffee, something they do with great passion and care!

Due to the movement Black Lives Matter, one of our clients demanded coffee that came from farms owned by black producers.

Watch by clicking here.



Link: youtu.be/k0SOv9R_LvE



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