

COOMAP



NEWS



Technical assistance has always been a cornerstone for COOMAP. Through this very important tool it was possible to help members increase yields per hectare, learn how to calculate their production cost, implement more sustainable practices, improve coffee quality and consequently make them and their families have more quality of life. Our sustainability department, which is in charge of technical assistance, has decided that it's time to move forward regarding this key aspect of COOMAP's activities and implement...

## **Regenerative AGRICULTURE**

This kind of agriculture is based on the **concept of nature balance principle**. It consists in using inputs in a reasonable way in order to keep biodiversity and harmony between human beings, soil, plants and animals.

When it comes to coffee crops, regenerative agriculture can be widely useful. In fact, it is able to bring good results to all members of the supply chain, like preserving the environment, allowing growers to have better income and supplying **quality food to consumers**.

Implementing Regenerative Agriculture is more a matter of the way crops are managed and handled. Among main changes we could include:

**(a) Reducing the use of herbicides** and changing the kind of products used to those that don't have negative effects on soil living matter.

**(b) Exchanging chemical fertilizers for biological ones**

**(c) planting specific kinds of plants between rows of coffee trees, which has the following positive results:** helping nutrients fixation and recycling from soil deep layers, making it difficult for weed to appear, attracting natural enemies that help in pests control and increasing soil organic matter.

COOMAP has hired a specialist consultant in Regenerative Agriculture in order to provide training to technicians and get them prepared to assist producers. Furthermore, a series of

meetings took place at the communities where members live and at COOMAP headquarters in order to explain to growers the importance of this kind of agriculture management. Right now technicians are making prescriptions already based on Regenerative Agriculture principles and during the following months they'll be checking results and helping our members get used to this **new way of dealing their crops**.

COOMAP realizes that although this change might be quite challenging to our members, this is going to keep them catering to the market's needs, since consumers are more demanding when it comes the way their food is produced. At the same time, all these changes are positive to nature because it is **used less pesticides and there is more organic matter on crops and more biodiversity**. Finally, growers also benefit from this kind of management because they won't spend so much on fertilizers, herbicides and pests control due to the balanced environment that there will be on their crops, which will include natural defenses.

In other words, it's possible to state that Regenerative Agriculture is positive to every chain link and that's what motivated our sustainability department to move toward this direction. In the future, as the implementation of this new management goes ahead, COOMAP is going to bring more details about this initiative results, which we expect will keep our members *cultivating work and harvesting great results*.

# GrowerS of the month

In this edition something different will be presented in our grower of the month section. As part of the celebration of COOMAP's 65th anniversary, a series of short videos were recorded describing the positive effects that technical assistance, courses and environment care initiatives have had on our members. Thus we are proud to introduce you to Zé Andrade, a member who got to thrive by following the technical assistance offered by COOMAP and that's exactly the point he's going to talk about... We sincerely hope you appreciate it and get to see that providing extension services to farmers is one of the best ways to help them be more sustainable.

*Watch by  
clicking here*



[youtu.be/k0SOv9R\\_LvE](https://youtu.be/k0SOv9R_LvE)



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