



COOMAP NEWS

As a coffee market worker, you are aware of the discussion related to glyphosate: at first its license wasn't going to be renewed, but in November 2023 the European Commission decided to do it for 10 years. Even so, many countries have established their own rules about it: banning domestic use of this product or in certain areas. When it comes to Fairtrade, glyphosate is on its red list, which means it is prohibited. Since most of the coffee produced by our members is Fairtrade Certified, COOMAP has decided to implement a...

GLYPHOSATE TEST LABORATORY

The most important tool of the lab is the spectrometer, a machine that reads samples and provides their glyphosate levels. But before we get to this point, it is necessary to grind each sample until it becomes a fine powder. Then it goes through some chemical processes, like adding solvents and other solutions, which allow the machine to make the molecule extraction.

Something worth mentioning is that this lab is only for internal use and no official reports are issued. When this is necessary, a third party lab does the analysis.



But why has COOMAP decided to have this structure? Here are the two main reasons:

1

The cost of sending each sample to be analyzed would be very high, which would make it unaffordable.

2

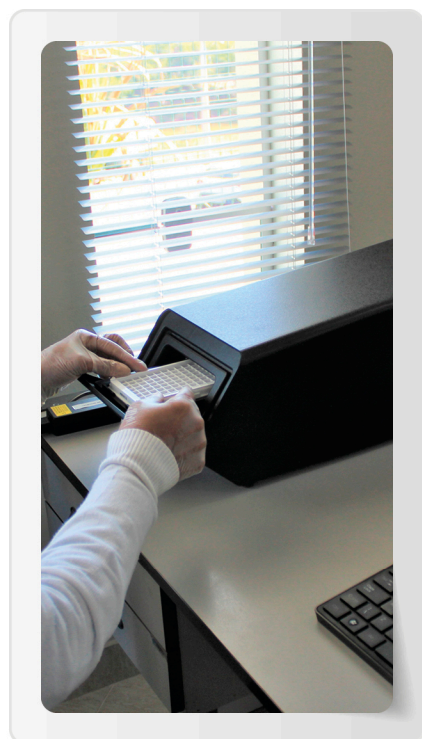
It takes a long time for labs to test each sample, and we need this to be done quickly because of pre-shipment samples and exports logistics.

Even being cheaper than tests performed by labs, the cost of this department isn't low. That is why COOMAP sets aside part of the Fairtrade Premium for this area.

Several months before glyphosate ban by Fairtrade, COOMAP organized a campaign to teach its members the importance of reducing the use of herbicides and the alternatives for the product that would be prohibited soon. Because of this, the project for regenerative agriculture was started at our co-op.

We have just finished the second crop testing each sample for this molecule. So far, being able to do it was of great help to improve our members awareness toward the reduction of the use of herbicides and to make sure that our clients really receive coffee which is free from glyphosate.

This initiative shows how compromised COOMAP is with its producers and clients and how focused we are on keeping up to our certifications requirements and having a professional approach of the business.



When we think of a role model for resilience, adaptability, and a deep passion for the land, Maria Cecília Gavioli Orfão is undoubtedly a name that comes to mind. The granddaughter of Italian immigrants, Cecília has faced many challenges and triumphs throughout her life, becoming a standout figure in organic coffee production. Now, it's time to learn more about this extraordinary COOMAP member, our...



► by COOMAP have made a significant difference in her management.

Despite her professional success, Cecília's life has always revolved around family. Her four children, all of whom have college degrees, are her greatest pride. One of them holds an MBA, while her daughter has a post-doctorate degree — achievements that Cecília is keen to highlight. Now, with six grandchildren, her primary concern is ensuring the family business is passed down successfully. She and her husband rely on the help of specialized consultants to ensure that the legacy they've built continues in the hands of future generations.

And speaking of grandchildren, we had to postpone our interview with Cecília by a day because she had an important commitment: a picnic with her grandchildren. For her, this connection with family is what truly defines her life. Living in the quiet countryside, with no neighbors nearby, surrounded by her dogs and the tranquility of rural life, Cecília has found the perfect balance between work, family, and nature.

Grower of the month



Cecília arrived in Paraguaçu when she was just 3 months old, as her family moved in search of new opportunities. Her father worked in the textile industry, supporting the family while Cecília focused on her studies. She graduated with a teaching degree and spent 30 years as a devoted school-teacher, shaping the lives of countless children. But her life was about to take a dramatic turn.

At 22, Cecília got married and moved to the countryside, where the reality was quite different from what she was used to. The house she and her husband moved into was far from ideal for starting a family — it had once been a grain storage facility. She recalls that at night, rats, armadillos, and skunks were frequent visitors, and she and her husband once had to deal with a rat that let a soap bar fall on them while trying to steal it. Challenges were immense, but that didn't stop her from persevering.

After a long teaching career, Cecília retired at the age of 50. But her journey with the land was only beginning.

Two years after retiring, she took on the task of managing the family business and certification, with a clear vision of modernizing and organizing the property. That was when she became an organic coffee grower, marking a new chapter in her life. Today, she manages 11 hectares of land and produces an impressive production of 750 coffee bags per year, equivalent to 68 bags per hectare. A remarkable achievement that highlights her adaptability and independence. Additionally, her dedication to quality paid off when she took 4th place in COOMAP's Coffee Quality Contest with an organic coffee lot that scored 85 points!

Over time, Cecília also took on the responsibility of implementing the Fairtrade certification requirements, which brought many challenges, especially with all the detailed demands. "It's a lot of work," she says, but acknowledges that the effort was worth it. Thanks to Fairtrade, everything is now well-organized: the properties are clean and well-maintained, all employees are legally hired, and environmental care is a priority. On top of that, Fairtrade premium and learning opportunities provided



Maria Cecília Gavioli Orfão is a living example of a grower who, over the decades, has reinvented herself and thrived. Her commitment to the land, her adaptability, and her dedication to family are an inspiration to all of us. We wish her continued success in the next chapters of her story, and may she keep reaping the rewards of her hard work!



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(35) 3267-4600

