



Kaski Community Project 2016:

Activating and Equipping Communities

Worldwide:



25 million rely on coffee farming to survive



12.5 million of them live on under €2 per day

In Nepal:



Coffee provides up to **25%** more income than other main food crops

The Project:



Establishes a 2 acre organic coffee farm



Creates a commercial coffee nursery



Provides a sustainable income for vulnerable women



Trains **300** local farmers in coffee production over 4 years

Aim: This project will establish a model coffee farm providing income generation for vulnerable women whilst also providing training for over 300 farmers over a year's programme. The project integrates organic coffee farming, beekeeping and composting while also establishing a commercial nursery to supply coffee plants to local farmers.

Why Nepal?

Nepal has an ideal coffee growing climate. Coffee was introduced in the late 1980's as a way to create soil stability on the steep slopes of rural Nepal and is now becoming a widespread commercial crop that fetches a higher price than traditional cereals.

The 20/20 Project works through partners on the ground to reduce overheads. We do this to utilize established connections and thus build trust in communities. Our project partner in Nepal is an organisation called 'Kopila Nepal'. This project is located in the Kaski Region, Western Nepal.



Background:

This project will establish a two-acre organic model coffee farm which aims to provide an income for vulnerable women in a 'safe house' project in rural Nepal. The project includes a wider remit to train **300 local farmers** in coffee production, allowing them access to a higher income than the traditional cereal crops currently grown.

This project will be funded over a four-year period (coffee takes 3 years to produce its first fruits). The project will also be complemented by beekeeping and compost production in order to generate revenue in the interim period before the coffee has matured.

Coffee in Nepal:

Coffee was introduced by a Nepali national, Hira Giri, from Myanmar in 1938, but it was not commercialised. Coffee was reintroduced in the early 1980's from India as a soil conservation project to increase soil stability and to reduce runoff.

However, there was very little education/training or infrastructure, and so it remained an underdeveloped sector. In recent times the Government alongside Helvetas (a Swiss NGO), has provided technical and financial support to farmers; its cultivation has gradually spread to about 40 districts of the middle hills of Nepal. However, it is only commercial in half of them.



The majority of coffee farmers are smallholders that have between 10 to 50 plants on their land. These resource-poor farmers cannot afford fertilizer or pesticides, and so the majority of production is 'organic'. Coffee production takes place primarily in unused marginal land in the mid hills which is helping to reduce soil degradation. It is also providing up to 25% more income than maize or other food crops.

Project Partners:

The 20/20 Project partners with Kopila Nepal, which have been granted land by the local government to create a safe house programme for vulnerable women which has a focus on promoting organic agriculture. Kopila Nepal is an NGO with a focus on psycho-social care. Kopila has a track record of working with vulnerable women in rural communities in Nepal

This project will build the capacity of the vulnerable women and local farmers in the Kaski district in Western Nepal. It will establish a model farm which will provide a sustainable income for the safe house programme. It will further train local participants in the fundamental elements of coffee farming.

