

International Year of Woman Farmer 2026

Women in Commodities

This report is prepared by CFC in observance of International Women's Day on 8 March and the United Nations-observed International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

from the CFC Managing Director

Teach a man to farm and he feeds a season. **Support a woman farmer and she feeds a community.**

Why Women ?

43%

of the global agricultural labor force is women



30%

productivity gains if the gender gap in agriculture is closed



90%

income earned by women is reinvested into their families and communities



Investing in Women

Cooperativa Cafetalera Capucas Limitada

Capucas, Honduras
Empowering Women in Specialty Coffee

trade finance
USD 1 m

- 989 smallholder farmers supported by 2025, with 26% women members.
- Women hold 60% of senior management and 50% of board positions.
- “Manos de Mujer” initiative increases women farmers’ incomes and leadership opportunities.
- Technical training and specialty coffee expertise provided to empower smallholders.
- Sustainable practices include diverse processing methods, blockchain traceability, and environmental programs.
- Exports 4,822 MT of coffee in 2025, connecting farmers to global markets.
- Contributes to gender equity, inclusive growth, resilience, and SDGs on poverty reduction, climate action, and sustainable production.

Manos de Mujer (Hands of Woman)

“Manos de Mujer” is Capucas’ flagship initiative to empower woman coffee farmers, promote gender equity, and strengthen the economic and social participation of women within the cooperative.



Picture: Capucas



Picture: Capucas

Investing in Women

Colcocoa

Colcocoa, Colombia
Women Leading Change in Cocoa Value Chains

trade finance
USD 1 m

- **Woman-led company, co-founded by Gabriela Alvarez**, with a clear vision of linking business growth to social and environmental impact.
- Works with **8–9 cooperatives** and **2,000+ smallholder farmers** across Colombia, ensuring fair payment and market access.
- **Echar Pa'lante** program integrates productivity, quality, and personalized social benefits, enabling farmers to grow sustainably while gaining technical, professional, and social support.
- **Hacienda la Tentación**, a 137-ha agroforestry “living laboratory,” allows testing of cocoa varieties and sustainable practices without risking farmers’ livelihoods.
- Farmers participate in carbon offset programs, earning payments for reforesting land and contributing to climate action.
- Focus on wellbeing and stability: farmers gain secure incomes, climate risk mitigation, and opportunities for family development.
- Supports gender equity, rural development, climate resilience, and sustainable cocoa production, demonstrating how woman leadership can drive systemic impact.



Picture: Colcocoa



Picture: CFC

Voices from the Field: Insights from JKCC

JKCC General Supplies Limited, founded in 2017 and based in Nabbingo, Uganda, is a green coffee trading and processing company focused on high-quality Arabica and Robusta exports.



Impact Performance

>50% of women farmers report increased influence on household decisions, self-confidence, and financial agency.

84% of women farmers report higher earnings due to increased volume sold and better prices.

84% report improved quality of life, including paying household bills and affording education.

98% confirm that women in their community are involved in coffee farming.

Source: 60 Decibels, JKCC

Women Farmers Share How JKCC Supports Their Well-Being

The money I get from JKCC has improved my health because i can now buy my pressure medication with ease, I also bought solar in my house because candles had become dangerous for my children and I managed to also start a small grocery shop. - Woman, 24

When my husband left I thought I could never manage anything but when I joined JKCC I managed to get money after selling my coffee, took my children to school, bought cows to help in providing fertilizers to my plantations, bought a plot of land and managed to construct a house for myself. - Woman, 74

I got money which helped me send my children to a university in Kampala, am in position to also send them enough money to cater to what they need, I bought some cows and goats at home and am also able to take care of my home. - Woman, 36

I bought land where am planting maize, bananas, G-nuts and beans, I have never missed paying school fees for my children yet I have many that am paying for, I was also able to Install solar in my house since thieves were very many now I have security lights which keep them away, and am able to look after my family. - Woman, 72

Integrating a Gender Lens across Technical Assistance Interventions

A gender lens is applied across all TA projects and programs managed by the CFC on behalf of external impact investment funds.

Our approach includes:

- Identifying and addressing constraints faced by different historically and culturally marginalized groups.
- **Gender-sensitization** trainings for partner company staff and the supplying farmer network.
- Capacity development and leadership training for **women farmers**.
- Promoting **women's participation and ownership** across agricultural value chains.

Implementation Approach

- Interventions can be **gender-aware, gender-responsive, or gender-transformative**, depending on partner readiness and local context.
- Interventions aim to support and improve **inclusive business models** that enhance social inclusion across agricultural value chains.





Picture: Ten Senses

CFC's Commitment to **Women** in Commodities

Leadership

- Support for women in senior management and decision-making roles across investee firms.
- Promotion of women-led initiatives, ensuring women guide strategic directions.

Governance

- Encouraging woman representation on boards and committees of investee companies.
- Supporting policies that give women a voice in commodity value chain decisions.

Participation & Inclusion

- In 2024, over **73,000** woman farmers benefited from CFC-supported projects, reflecting the focus on inclusive participation.
- Active monitoring of women's engagement across **21** investee.

Capacity & Empowerment

- Strengthening women's roles in leadership, agriculture, and business through targeted Technical Assistance and capacity-development initiatives