



**BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus

Half Year Report

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 2-3 pages** in length.

If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2024

Please note all projects that were active before 1 October 2024 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

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| Project reference | DARNV024 |
| Project title | Digital innovation to protect Colombian coffee farms and farmers |
| Country(ies)/territory(ies) | Colombia |
| Lead Organisation | CABI |
| Partner(s) | Cafexport (Fundación Local Partners) |
| Project leader | Steve Edgington |
| Report date and number (e.g. HYR1) | 9 Oct 2024 HYR1 |
| Project website/blog/social media | This is the site however it is not updated fully yet https://www.cabi.org/projects/enabling-safe-and-climate-smart-coffee-production-in-colombia/ |

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end of September).

Although we are not looking for specific reporting against your indicators, please use this opportunity to consider the appropriateness of your M&E systems (are your indicators still relevant, can you report against any Standard Indicators, do your assumptions still hold true?). The guidance can be found on the resources page of the relevant fund website.

Project summary: The project will field-test a Coffee berry borer (CBB) alert for Colombian coffee farmers. This will improve CBB control by providing clear guidance on optimal (bio)pesticide timings. The project will deliver complementary training, resources and a messaging service to complement the alert.

Project outcome: Smallholder livelihoods, farm biodiversity, farm safety and female empowerment improved through digital innovation, equitable gender opportunities and biological pest management

HYR1: A key (indeed core) deliverable of the whole project is a field-tested CBB alert validated across multiple coffee cropping seasons. In Q1 Yr1, the project team visited all 16 project farms and set up the in-field equipment that will facilitate this validation. Equipment included

temperature loggers, rainfall gauges and CBB lure-and-kill traps, on each farm. The team provided training to a new member of staff who will be responsible for the monitoring and data capture on each farm; this included provision of written protocols (both EN and ES). Data sets will be generated on environmental parameters (temperature and rainfall), CBB numbers and CBB positioning (via trapping and dissection) and, crop phenology. Farmers on each farm were provided with training on maintaining, monitoring and recording rainfall gauges (which will be daily for 18 months).



Figure 1. Farm set-up: installation of temperature loggers (+ radiation shields) by project staff on each farm



Figure 2. Farm set-up: installation of rain gauges and complementary farmer training on monitoring and recording data

To facilitate the efficient delivery of field data to the validators/analysts back in CABI-UK, the team designed and translated (EN to ES) Open Data Kit (ODK) forms. The field data is collected on the ODK forms and then automatically delivered to the analytical team when the field officer is within wifi. The field officer will visit each farm once a week for 18 months (estimated total of 70 visits per farm), probably 3 farms per day. In Q1 the team established the schedule for the farm visits, based on farm geographies/access logistics.

To note against field implementation plan:

- RH, temperature and rainfall were the original environmental parameters to collect, however, following discussions with the data analysts, RH is not needed and instead there will be more concentrated efforts on temperature assessments at different crop heights.
- Farmers were originally planned to collect CBB trap data, however, this was deemed out of scope when meeting each farmer (due to time demands) and instead the farmers will collect rainfall data. The project field officer will collect CBB trap data.

The project team met with the head of sourcing in Colombia for Nestlé Nespresso. All the project farmers are part of Nestlé Nespresso's AAA Sustainable Quality™ Program, a coffee sourcing program for sustainable and ethically sourced coffee. The meeting included discussions on project plans, farm accessibility and plans for scale-out.

Overall, the project is on-track against implementation plan and budget.

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| <p>2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.</p> | |
| <p>Minor changes to anticipated deliverables, as noted above, but with no negative impact on project outcome</p> | |
| <p>3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</p> | |
| Discussed with NIRAS: | No |
| Formal Change Request submitted: | No |
| Received confirmation of change acceptance: | No |
| <p>Change Request reference if known: <i>If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome</i></p> | |

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| <p>4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)</p> <p>Actual spend:</p> |
| <p>4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2025)?</p> <p>No</p> |
| <p>4c. If you expect and underspend, then you should consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.</p> <p>If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes to your project if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.</p> <p>NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.</p> |
| <p>5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p> |
| <p>None</p> |

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| <p>6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report. If your project was subject to an Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessment please use this space to comment on any changes to international human rights risks, and to address any additional mitigations outlined in your offer letters. Please provide the comment and then your response. If you have already provided a response, please confirm when.</p> |
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Checklist for submission

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| For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1st April 2024) | |
| Have you responded to any additional feedback (other than caveats) received in the letter you received to say your application was successful which requested response at | y |

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| HYP (including safeguarding points)? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate. | |
| If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ? | y |
| For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1st April 2024) | |
| Have you responded to feedback from your latest Annual Report Review ? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate. | y |
| For All Projects | |
| Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email. | y |
| Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com . | y |
| Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website? | y |
| Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ? | y |
| Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report. | y |