Communicating positive impact
Farmer stories - coffee

Name: K.C. Achaiah
Works at: Tank Side Estate in the Coorg District of Kanataka, India
Member of: Nedcommodities India Cooperative

K.C. Achaiah: “I am a small scale coffee grower, and I have seen a number of improvements since my estate became UTZ certified. For example a significant reduction in the use of plastics, as well as improved awareness on chemical use amongst the workers on the estate. Maintaining hygiene on the farm and keeping it clean and presentable is now becoming common practice for us, the workers and our families. Lastly, the premium contributes to improvements in living conditions for the families associated with the farm.”

Name: N.C. Subbaya
Works at: Kumbarabane Estate in the Coorg District of Kanataka, India
Member of: Nedcommodities India Cooperative

N.C. Subbaya: “I have grown Robusta coffee on my 42 acre farm for many years now. UTZ certification has led to many improvements, including good farm management systems, improved documentation, and clean and proper storage rooms for coffee, fertilizers and pesticides. There is greater awareness among farm employees about the correct use of pesticides, banned chemicals and use of protective gear during spraying. To me this means even more than the premium that I get from selling certified coffee.”
Name: Francisco & Fatima Blandon
Work at: Coffee farm in Jinotega, Nicaragua
Member of: UTZ Energy from Coffee Wastewater Project in Central America is turning wastewater from coffee production into safe, renewable energy, reducing emissions and water use and benefiting the health of farmers and their families.

Fatima: “The biogas that is extracted from the coffee wastewater can be used for our cooking stoves. A traditional wood-burning stove can be a major source of indoor air pollution. Now I cook with my children in the kitchen, where before it was too hot or smoky for them. Cooking with biogas is also much faster than wood, so my family has more free time. The neighbors who visit say 'Wow, you hit the jackpot!' Yes, the biogas system has helped improving the quality of life for many small farmers here.”

Francisco: “Wastewater from our farm used to cause a lot of pollution... and it smelled. A lot of families live by the river. They bathe there, wash their laundry. It gave them rashes and intestinal parasites when they drank it. In the first year after joining the Energy from Coffee Wastewater project year the system reduced the levels of water contamination by 81%. We used to use around 1,500 liters of water per 46 kilograms of pre-pulped coffee. Now we only use 250 liters.”
Name: Y. Yon Mlo, coffee farmer in Vietnam

"With UTZ I have improved my agricultural practices. I can control my production costs and save money from making the right investments before selling my coffee, which I sell for a higher price. I am now more aware of protecting water sources and the environment, not only for enhancing the quality of my family life but also for our community and later generations as well. I’ve found that we are enjoying a happy life with visible and invisible benefits from UTZ. It’s not small but huge really!"