

Green Coffee Quality Report

Brazil

A very intense dry system was prevailing in most of the country in August. It blocked all wet cold systems coming from the south therefore kept the Central continent too dry.

The sunny, warm and dry weather kept helping coffee farmers to speed up harvesting procedures. Some regions of the coffee belt (especially the Varginha/Tres Pontas area) received moderate showers.

Although rains were not large nor of any full coverage, it was enough to change the current dry pattern and increase the air moisture of the area. Some flowering should happen in some areas but much more rains are needed to start the flowering process.

According to Agro wire news Safra&Mercados, Arabica harvesting reached 85% or approximately 30 million bags have been already picked. Safra&Mercados admit that the ongoing lower yields shall be certified/revised after the end of the harvesting. Despite the faster picking lately, harvesting by now, is yet behind last crop at same time of the year (94%) and below 5 years average (90%).

Colombia

The official production number for July is 1.5 Mio bags and 1.2 Mio bags exports. The highest since several years. The weather remains still a bit too dry but nothing to be worried about so far.

The main crop is still a couple of weeks away.

Guatemala

It finally rained in all producing regions ! Some regions were up to 45 days without a drop of

water. Although the weather conditions have improved, the rains remain insufficient. Harvesting has started in the lowest areas and first coffees are expected to become available in a few weeks.

At this moment wet mills are not yet open for the season. The Eastern part of the country has been the most affected by the lack of rains.

Anacafe's regional office coordinator notes that the area will carry a large amount of underdeveloped and black beans that will affect yields, this as the lack of humidity did not allow producers to apply fertilizers correctly or the plants did not absorb the necessary nutrients for an appropriate bean formation.

Honduras

The western region has received some very welcomed rains, thus fertilizers can be finally applied properly.

New crop coffee enters the market slowly. The low amount of rain concerns farmers and could cause a delays of cherry development if it will continue.

Nicaragua

Nicaraguan coffee crop is set to rebound next year to record levels, recovering from the outbreak of coffee rust.

Costa Rica

Strong demand for new crop, 30% of the coming crop is currently committed, slightly behind

historical average.

The central valley is opening the harvesting season, a long lasting picking season is expected due to the irregular season.

Peru

Medium and higher altitudes are still harvesting. The crop is about 75% finished.

El Salvador

The new crop in El Salvador is expected to be at levels similar to those of last year, with around 400K bags at most!

The farmers haven't managed to dedicate much time to their land, worried about the leaf rust and the low prices, and a total lack of support from the government, which only now seems to react and support the coffee sector. On the other hand, El Niño has affected the normal winter cycles, which were very irregular, and brought at least 3 dry spells since June, affecting the development of the beans, especially in the west and the center of the country. There are some plantations of roya resistant plants under development, but effects will only be seen in approx. 5 years.

Ethiopia

Export sales activities remain slow, mainly due to expensive prices.

Kenya

Overcast cool weather dominated the coffee zone, favourable for the ripening of the late crop cherries. Green cherries (late crop) sit on the trees and mature slowly, becoming tastier with each passing week - harvest activities on plantations is not expected much before early September.



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Current weather conditions are dry and warming up from the cool temperatures experienced in the past two months. The longer term outlook is for heavy rainfall October onwards, according to the meteorologists.

Naturals have started to appear in the auction, which signals the end of the early crop.

The Estate sector has been picking smaller quantities continuously during the last couple of months and now see heavier coffee coming through - this being cherries which benefitted from the long rains in April after the very dry conditions of the first quarter. The yields were reduced by some 30% as a result of the dry (drought) conditions.

Tanzania

Producers in the south are keen to mill their coffees and get them into the auction. The southern crop outlook remains positive with an estimated 75% of the crop already harvested. Northern growers are still waiting for their higher altitude coffee to ripen for harvesting. Generally warmer temperatures were seen in the south but the north needs more sunshine!

Uganda

Arabica

First samples of the new crop have arrived. The outturn yield is low as expected for the

beginning of the season. Quality cups clean. We are only a few weeks into the crop and the flow of parchment is still limited.

Robusta

The south-western crop is slowly coming to an end. Transport capacity to Mombasa remains relatively tight due to low imports.

India

Even with the monsoon rains almost coming to a standstill all coffee producing regions show deficient rain levels, the seasonal average remains in the negative.

PNG

Local prices remain above market levels, intermediary suppliers pay up for parchment and then consequently demand high prices for green coffee from the exporters. Dry conditions continue in line for this time of the year. No rains throughout the highlands. This weather is ideal for ripening and harvesting and trees continue to carry small amounts of red and green cherry.

Vietnam

The weather has been dry with some showers, still ideal for new crop development. Shipment numbers over the season are running around 30% behind the same period of the previous year. The first round of harvesting expected to start around mid-November, if current weather conditions remain good.

Indonesia

Weather remained dry on the eastern part of Indonesia (Java eastwards), Sumatra so far escaped the drought.

Various

Illy is on the offensive. After some months of rumors about a possible IPO, the Italian roaster has decided to stay independent and raise funds through a 70 million USD bond issue. To steer its ambitious expansion projects, they've hired consultant firm Roland Berger.

Sources: Flavour, Volcafe, Atte, Taylor Winch, ICONA



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