



FARMER STORIES



“Until the last of my days, as long as the coffee gives us enough to survive,” reflects Francisco Hidalgo, “I will be a coffee producer.” Francisco inherited this land from his father who was also a coffee farmer, as are six of his seven brothers.

Francisco’s farm, El Recreo, is exceptional in that 50% of the farm is dedicated to forest conservation. “It pleases us to see the beauty of nature,” Francisco explains. As one of the first participants in S&D’s Raíz Sustainability program, he was drawn by the program’s commitment to producing coffee in a way that protects nature.

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Raíz also encourages the practice of alternating crops, which Francisco has done for years. Agronomists help farmers identify crops that are compatible with coffee that actually help increase coffee productivity. Francisco plants a type of bean that feeds his family, plus the beans grow on a tree with foliage that is rich in nitrogen to enhance the soil.

One idea that Francisco has adapted directly from the Raíz program is the planting of hedges as natural barriers. These hedges protect living areas as well as water sources from chemical spray.

Raíz has provided Francisco with training and collaboration with experts as well as other farmers. “I am enthusiastic about the program because I see the many benefits it provides.”



PRODUCER: Francisco Hidalgo
FARM: El Recreo
SIZE: 8 hectares (approx. 20 acres)
LOCATION: Santa Lucia, Costa Rica

IMPACT SUMMARY

MAJOR FOCUS AREAS

ECONOMIC
Increased productivity

ENVIRONMENTAL
Forest conservation
Enhanced soil health

ADDITIONAL FOCUS AREAS:

ENVIRONMENTAL
Improved water management

SOCIAL
Fair labor practices



ROOTED IN IMPACT



FOREST CONSERVATION

El Recreo is divided in two - half for coffee and other crops to provide for the family and half dedicated to preserving the land's natural beauty.

COMPATIBLE PLANTING

Planting coffee with corn, a coffee-friendly crop, increases coffee productivity as well as the total profitability of the farm.



HEALTH SAFEGUARDS

Hedges are planted as natural barriers to protect living areas from chemical spray.

TRANSPARENT SUPPLY CHAIN

S&D Director of Marketing Helen Griffith visits with Raíz producer Francisco Hidalgo on El Recreo.



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