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The Rise of Rooibos: South Africa's Healthy Red Cup Goes Global

- Decaf: More Than Just the Process
- The Debate Over Roasting Methods
- The Middle East: Blending Old and New
- Innovative Packaging Technologies

Eu'Vend & Coffeena: Beneficial Union

Eu'Vend & Coffeena, which took place September 19th-21st, attracted more than 5,000 visitors from 60 countries, who travelled to Cologne, Germany to explore the latest innovations from the international vending and coffee sectors. With 215 exhibitors from 26 countries, the trade fair—a joint venture between the European Vending Association (EVA) and Coffeena—provided a platform for networking and discussion of concerns currently affecting the coffee and vending industries. Discussions included the cultivation of refined specialty coffee, sustainability, the latest in vending innovation and the new food information directive. Major coffee companies including Nestlé, Jacobs and Alloys Dallmayr were represented along with international exhibitors like Indonesian Trade Promotion Center and the Coffee Board of India and raw coffee suppliers Phuc Sinh from Vietnam and the Italian firm Sandalj.

The three-day event featured workshops, competitions and forums. The London-based Specialty Coffee Association of Europe (SCAE) was the official partner for the training in the coffee sector. Annemarie Tiemes, SCAE education coordinator, led workshops ranging from courses in sensory perception and cupping to barista skills, with the option of gaining credit towards the SCAE Coffee Diploma.

The German Coffee Association (Deutsche Kaffeverbrand) exhibited at the show for the first time, providing information on its activities and participating in "Red Sofa" discussions throughout the show. Holger Preibisch, managing director of Deutsche Kaffeverbrand, noted: "The number and the overall decision-making authority of the visitors was at a high level. The information offered

along the entire coffee value chain led to extremely fruitful discussions."

Preibisch hosted a Red Sofa discussion titled, "What Defines Sustainability in the



Topical coffee conversations were held on the "Red Sofa" every day during the three-day Eu'Vend & Coffeena trade show in Cologne.

Coffee Business." Germany is the second-largest exporting country of roasted coffee in the world (behind Brazil). About 98 percent of German imports of green coffee come from developing countries, exceeding the EU average by 10 percent. About one third of the green coffee is directly re-exported, and Germany is currently the largest re-exporter in the world (International Coffee Organization Analysis, March 2013).

According to Preibisch, many members of Deutsche Kaffeverbrand are concerned about the effectiveness of these fair-trade organizations, and that there might be a public backlash against the coffee industry for displaying logos on products without successfully enforcing fair-trade policies. Representatives from UTZ Certified, Rainforest Alliance, Transfair and 4C were invited to discuss the challenges of enforcing fair trade policies in developing countries. After all four representatives explained their organizations' fair-trade program, Preibisch led a lively discussion with the panel and the audience. One audience member pointed out that certain countries like Puerto Rico, Jamaica and several other Central

American countries have no need for fair trade organizations as they have government laws on minimum wage, guaranteed pricing, no child labor and strict environmental laws, so perhaps fair trade organizations should copy the policies of socially responsible countries. Another visitor said she was not convinced they are doing enough to protect children. Preibisch agreed that enforcing fair-trade policies remains one of the greatest challenges in the coffee sector today.

Talk in the aisles concerned the recent damaging BBC World Report exposing animal abuse of civet cats in Indonesia by producers of Kopi Luwak coffee, and the continued need for transparency and proof of origin. It appears that large operators like Nestlé and Jacobs are concerned that if more is not done to preserve small coffee farmers worldwide, due to problems such as rust leaf disease and sustainability, there could be a shortage of coffee in the near future. Large German companies also expressed a high interest in specialty coffee in conjunction with their mass market coffee.

Held every two years, the next Eu'Vend & Coffeena will take place September 24-26th, 2015 in Cologne, Germany.—*Nanette Eldridge*

Dispatch from the Field: Nicaragua Steps Up Its Coffee Research

After Panama, Nicaragua reported the lowest number of hectares affected by the recent *roya* leaf rust outbreak this spring. This promising outlook runs deep. In a country with much less focus on coffee from governmental and institutional organizations than its neighbors to the north and south, the future of Nicaraguan coffee has fallen into the hands of determined producers and innovative companies.

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Sustainable Management Services (SMS) operates a lab in Sebaco, Nicaragua on the edge of the Matagalpa growing region. This facility is the source of genetic material and varieties of coffee that just may be the necessary solutions to revitalize coffee production in Nicaragua and beyond.

One of the lab's main activities is cloning various hybrids (Caturra and Sarchimor crossed with Ethiopian varieties) via somatic embryogenesis, a process that consumes significant time, space and

money. These varieties are considered desirable for their increased productivity compared to Caturra and because they flourish as part of an integrated system allowing for the cultivation of other crops and hardwood trees.

Because these hybrids are not true breeding, the cloning process is necessary to generate new seedlings. However, the star performer to emerge from SMS and its ongoing collaboration with the French research institute CIRAD is the



The Marseillesa coffee-plant variety, a new breed, is inherently coffee leaf rust resistant.

Marseillesa variety, a true breeding line selected from a Sarchimor, itself a cross between the Villa Sarchi varietal and Catimor. Because of its genes from the Catimor, the Marseillesa is inherently rust resistant, making it a very desirable varietal in light of the leaf rust outbreak.

Since it is true breeding, Marseillesa does not have to be cloned; producers and the growers can select seeds from Marseillesa trees to then germinate their own nurseries. Farms in Nicaragua first planted test lots of Marseillesa in 2009, and those matured trees are now producing harvests at or above levels of the regional standard Caturra—without suffering losses due to rust.

Ecom SMS and CIRAD have upped their research efforts and have test lots planted with other developmental varietals to assess what other possibilities for diversification they can offer to producers.

While Nicaragua's production has declined as a result of the rust epidemic, the significant planting and renovation efforts made by producers in 2011 help offset those losses. However, those recent renovations are only as strong as the investments producers can continually make to maintain them. The newly formed National Association of Nicaraguan Coffee Growers (ANCN) represents one grass-roots effort by Nicaraguan producers to pursue the institutional support enjoyed by other producing nations in the region.—*Rachel Northrop*

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