

# Research Report

(Brief report of stay abroad from scientific point of view, ca. 1 page)

This research report is divided into three main moments of my research stay. First, the summer course at IPB in Bogor; second, the exchange and visits in Bandung; third, visit to farms in Flores Island.

The research stay began with a scientific approach focused on the coffee bean in Indonesia, from its varieties, chemical composition, international standards, brewing methods, technologies associated with coffee processing, the emergence of instant coffee, health benefits and risks, innovations in sustainable practices in Indonesia and other countries such as Thailand, and some alternatives explored in the face of crises facing the coffee industry worldwide related to prices and climate change. I also conducted laboratory work with hand-brewed coffee experiences. I visited specialty coffee shops in Bogor, such as Ruman Khapi, and understood the coffee production and processing using the Luvak animal. This was very interesting to compare the flavors of fermentations that were completely new to me, such as the one that takes place inside an animal endemic to Indonesia. This research stay gave me the opportunity to compare the flavors and aromas of varieties that are unique to this country, such as the Iberica variety, which is an intermediate between the well-known Arabica and Robusta varieties. Likewise, the opportunity to understand how locals identify the notes and characteristics of their coffees, and how they evaluate, accept, or reject them according to the specific, sometimes subjective, characteristics of their context, was enlightening for my own discussion of what the value of coffee means.

Second, during the visit to Bandung, I had the opportunity to learn and observe the union of different civil actors around the production of a podcast called Bandung Coffee Exchange, where my supervisor Xiomara Quinones participated by offering an overview of the institutional climate in Colombia, and the associativity that she has observed in her years of experience in coffee value chains in other producing countries. This experience is important to understand the participation mechanisms of people involved with coffee - not only from production - in countries where there is no defined institutional framework around a commodity. We also visited the processing facilities of a producer who exports the coffee produced by his family and some members of his community to international buyers. This allowed us to see the importance of regional ties and trust building in belonging to any type of association.

Finally, during this research stay, I was able to visit the farms of small producers who grow coffee and sell it to local processors. During these visits, I was able to learn about the social value of the commodity in the region and the customs surrounding its production. I was also able to visit forest reserves, which to my surprise were only for coffee, since this crop has the status of a protected reserve at the national level, and the government promotes its production without any type of intervention (such as pruning). This is very important for my research because it sheds light on the origins of a crop like coffee and the paths of development it has taken.

To conclude, even though Indonesia produces a lot of coffee, like my home country Colombia, the culture and the institutional framework are completely different. I was fascinated by how differently we manage the crop and understand the bean. Being in a country from another continent that also participates in the value chain of a highly traded commodity gave me new and insightful perceptions of how history, private and public governance, and social initiatives determine the development and evolution of an agricultural sector. It helped me to broaden the understanding underlying my dissertation. Moreover, the experience of traveling with my supervisor and being able to learn from her experience of observing and participating in such an exceptional context as Indonesia has significantly nourished my practice as a researcher and as a person, and I feel very happy and satisfied with this experience.

Thank you for your help!