

Rabobank Rural Fund



Rabobank
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Rabobank is a Dutch multinational banking and financial services company headquartered in Utrecht. It is a global leader in Food and Agri financing and in sustainability-oriented banking. Rabobank is traditionally a farmers' bank and it still holds an 85%-90% market share in the agrarian sector in the Netherlands. Throughout the years, the company has also started targeting small and medium sized companies.

Aims and Priorities

Rabobank looks to contribute to the realization of a sustainable coffee supply chain by client assessment and client engagement. Rabobank's Supply Chain Policy applies to commercial banking services such as credit facilities, project finance, advice service and trade finance.

Project Information

The Rabo Rural Fund is part of the Rabobank Group, and aims to support farming cooperatives and small and medium enterprises in developing countries. The fund helps agribusinesses to pre-finance purchase, processing and product sales. Its main tool is trade finance for exports of products including coffee, cocoa, cotton, nuts, peppers and sugars. Rabo Rural Fund awarded funding and guarantees to 27 projects for a total of €10.5 million in 2013.

The Rabo Rural Fund works in the following countries:

- Africa: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia
- Asia: Philippines, India, Indonesia, Laos and Vietnam
- Latin America: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru.

Coffee experience

- In Ethiopia, Rabo Development works with Cooperative Bank of Oromia to improve financing in the coffee sector. Ethiopia is a major exporter of Arabica coffee, but the coffee growers only have limited access to financing. Supported by the CFC, Rabo Development is implementing a project that rests on three pillars: (i) a Guarantee Scheme for which CFC and Rabobank Foundation have provided funds, (ii) strengthening of the cooperative and (iii) support of the coffee financing activities of CBO. The initial results are very promising and several cooperatives have received financing.