

Graber, Emily, “Local organizations and their impact on coffee growers’ quality of life in rural Costa Rica: Should coffee go ‘glocal?’” Advisor: Ivelina Romagosa. The University of Chicago. 2010. 52pp.

This study measured the impact that three local organizations have in the lives of coffee growers. Two of these organizations were based locally (a coffee cooperative and an association of growers with processing machinery) and the other one was a multinational coffee processing and selling company. Forty-one questionnaires were administered, together with interviews, to small and medium coffee growers associated with each of the three organizations, providing qualitative and quantitative data on the impact of each organization in 12 factors related to quality of life. Additionally, interviews were conducted with other key informants to deepen information about the functioning and advantages and disadvantages of each organization. One-way analysis of variance tests (ANOVA) showed that, within groups, each organization had a significant impact in at least four of the 12 factors, and between groups, there were significant differences in eight of the 12 factors. The results indicate that establishing ‘glocal’ trade relationships directly between international consumers and local organizations could be advantageous for both the grower and the consumer.