

A woman wearing a white protective beekeeping suit, including a hood with a mesh face and gloves, is smiling and holding a wooden frame filled with a dense layer of bees. The background is a lush, green forest with various trees and foliage.

bean
voyage

CARE REPORT

JANUARY-MARCH 2022

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support of Bean Voyage over the last few months. The first quarter of Bean Voyage's 2022 can be summarized in two words: change and expansion.

After three years with the organization, our Costa Rica Country Manager, Adriana stepped down. With her leadership, the organization was able to formalize its operations in Costa Rica. This change in leadership meant a great deal of changes -- and provided us with an opportunity to re-evaluate our organizational structure.

We are currently in the middle of a six-month process of developing a long term organizational structure for Bean Voyage. In the meantime, we are excited to welcome **Maria Jose Monge** to the team as our Operations Manager!

The first quarter was also filled with expansion -- from growing our services to launching a new country operation in Mexico.

Over the next few pages, you will find organizational updates from Q1 of Bean Voyage. As always, thank you for following along and supporting Bean Voyage with your time, treasure and talent!

Food Security Initiative

Costa Rica

- **Food Baskets:** We completed the delivery of six months of food baskets in March 2022. In total, we delivered 4,801 kg in food baskets to 100 families, serving more than 470 people.
- **Adaptation Training:** In addition to receiving food baskets each month, participants also received training on food security and adaptation techniques such as home gardening, bee keeping, and hen keeping.
- **Micro-funds:** At the end of the training, participants applied to receive small grants to implement their own food security projects at a farm level. From 100 families, we received a total of 67 applications, out of which, 47 families were awarded **USD 14,337.41** in micro-funds, with an average grant size of \$305 per participant.
- **Partners:** The Starbucks Foundation, Coffee Institute of Costa Rica (ICAFFE), Western Union, and Neues Schwarz.
 - [The full project report can be found here.](#)



Market Readiness Initiative

Mexico



- **Producer Recruitment:** As this is our first pilot in Mexico, we focused on recruiting an intentional group of farmers that can provide us with feedback and guidance on the overall model of Bean Voyage's bundle: training, financing, and market access. We recruited a total of 50 farmers for this pilot program.



- **Training on Post-Harvest Practices:** In January, we visited the community of Zongolica to diagnose and consult producers on their farm management and practices. We were accompanied by agronomist and coffee professional, Alexis Calvo, agronomist Itzel Mendoza and biologist, Norma Falcon, as part of the team. We identified that the biggest challenge concerning producers in Zongolica were low productivity of their coffee plants (due to limited financial capacity to fertilize, maintain healthy soil and implement good farm practices). Following the individual visits to the farm over a period of week, we hosted a 2-day workshop on fertilization, good farming practices, and processing & fermentation to equip producers with easy-to-implement techniques.

Market Access Initiative

Mexico

- **Training on Quality Control:** In March, we conducted a 3-day quality improvement workshop, focusing on drying & storing coffee, export and sample preparation as well as sensory skills to taste and evaluate coffee quality. We partnered with Coetzala's Town Hall to provide the training in an accessible location. While not every participant could attend all three sessions, we had more than 30+ participants attending each session.
- **Buyer Recruitment:** interest for Mexican coffee has been flooding our inbox. However, as the quantity available this year is limited, we look forward to working with our existing client in Korea and the United Kingdom, and potentially a client in Australia.
- **Samples:** We received 35 unique samples from producer partners in the network. We have analyzed the quality to send 15 samples (some are blends of smaller lots) to our buyer partners.
- **Coffee quality:** after various rounds of cupping (coffee lingo for quality scoring), we are excited to announce that 33 coffees have passed the threshold of 81 points to be considered for international market! With those that didn't qualify, we are following up to provide them with more in-depth feedback so their future lots can be improved.



Market Access Initiative

Mexico

- **Partners:** Australian Embassy (Direct Assistance Program), Beyond Our Borders (Women's Foundation of Colorado), Colectivo Rokunin, and Townhall of Coetzala.



Advocacy and Storytelling Initiative

Costa Rica

- **Gender Policy Adoption:** In February 2022, the Board of Directors of Coffee Institute of Costa Rica (ICAFFE) officially passed the Gender Policy in Coffee (that we researched and drafted last year in partnership with Triptico Consultants)! Over the next few months, our team will develop a work-plan and timeline to oversee the implementation of this policy at a national and regional level. Some of the activities that will be incorporated in this work-plan include training local cooperative leaders, and technical assistance providers on gender sensitivity, bias, and understanding of key gender terms.
- **Stronger Than Coffee Documentary:** We hosted an official screening of the Stronger Than Coffee film with a small group of supporters that funded the post-production process of the films. Our team is currently working towards developing a distribution plan in collaboration with Needle & Frame, and the 5 participating producers, and will start the process of hosting screening events around the world in the next few months.

Organizational Updates

HR, Fundraising, and Events

- **HR:** we were sad to announce the departure of Adriana Vasquez Rodriguez, who has led the organization's operations in Costa Rica for the last three years. We wish Adriana all the best in her future endeavors, and look forward to following along her journey! We also welcomed Maria Jose Monge as a full-time staff after having led a stellar Food Security Initiative for the last eight months.
- **Fundraising:** we raised a total of **\$175,371.46** in the first quarter of 2022. This is very much aligned with our fundraising goals to raise majority 2022 funding by end of Q1. It's a combination of foundation grants as well as earned revenue from coffee sales, and university visits.
- **Events and Outreach:** We presented at events hosted by the Barista League (High Density Conference), Algrano (a webinar) and Vanderbilt University (the Wondry) in Q1.





Looking forward, our team will be working on the following major initiatives:

1. **Sustainable Livelihood Initiative:** Providing training, mentorship, and finance to 150 smallholder women coffee farmers in Costa Rica.
2. **Womxn-Powered Coffee Summit:** Connecting 50 smallholder women coffee farmers in our network with coffee professionals (traders, roasters, baristas) to build strong relations, and an exchange of skills in Costa Rica.
3. **Stronger Than Coffee Premiere:** Hosting worldwide events to screen the short documentary filmed and produced by 5 producers in Bean Voyage's network.
4. **Financial Literacy Initiative:** Providing training to 50 smallholder women coffee farmers in Veracruz, Mexico towards improved financial management.

On behalf of Bean Voyage, we would like to thank you for your trust and support of our work.

We wish you a wonderful quarter ahead!

Best,
Sunghee and Abhinav
Co-Founders, Bean Voyage