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**Sustainable Coffee Partnership** / **Sustainable Commodity Initiative**

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## The Committee on Sustainability Assessment (COSA) Field Testing Results:

*A Project Initiated by the Sustainable Coffee Partnership*

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 22 Berners St, London

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## Purpose of COSA

- **What COSA IS...**
  - A science-based and participatory process for measuring performance against widely recognized sustainability criteria and indicators
- **What COSA IS NOT...**
  - A process which attempts to draw conclusions on the overall sustainability of specific initiatives or farm interventions

**COSA is a tool for enabling decision makers (producers, policy makers, traders etc.) to apply their own value system to a set of globally vetted set of sustainability indicators**

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## THE CIRCLE OF SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE FARMER

**ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY**  
 Farm Income  
 Risk Exposure  
 Market Access  
 Farm Management  
 Producer Organization  
 Farmer Perception

**SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**  
 Occupational Health and Safety  
 Working Hours and Wages  
 Basic Human Rights  
 Community Relations and Well Being  
 Farmer Perception

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**  
 Resource Use  
 Pollution  
 Soil Quality  
 Recycling  
 Biodiversity  
 Carbon Sequestration  
 Farmer Perception

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## COSA Activities to Date

- Formation of Executive Committee (CIRAD, CIMS, CATIE, SECO and IISD)
- Facilitation of high level advisory panel, scientific research panel
- Formulation of a draft methodology and field guide
- Testing of the methodology across more than 50 farms in 5 countries

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## Field Testing Objectives

- **What the Purpose of the Field Testing Process WAS...**
  - To provide an indication of the feasibility of the COSA process as well as the appropriateness of the draft indicator set
  - To identify opportunities for improving data consistency and efficiency
- **What the Purpose of the Field Testing Process WAS NOT...**
  - To measure the sustainability of certified farms or specific certification systems
  - To gather statistically significant results across certification systems

**The results of the testing process MUST be considered with the understanding that the sample size was insufficient to provide "statistically significant" results**

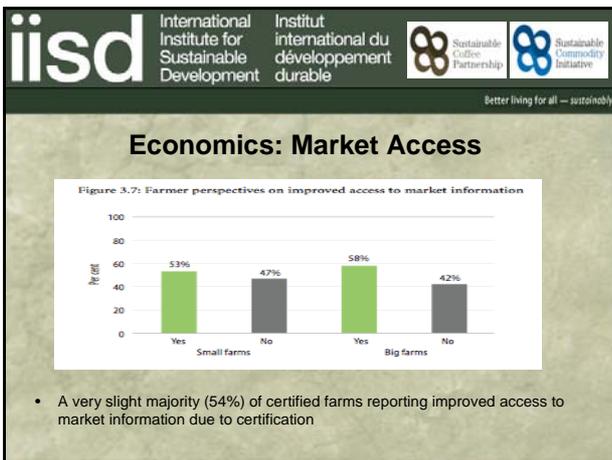
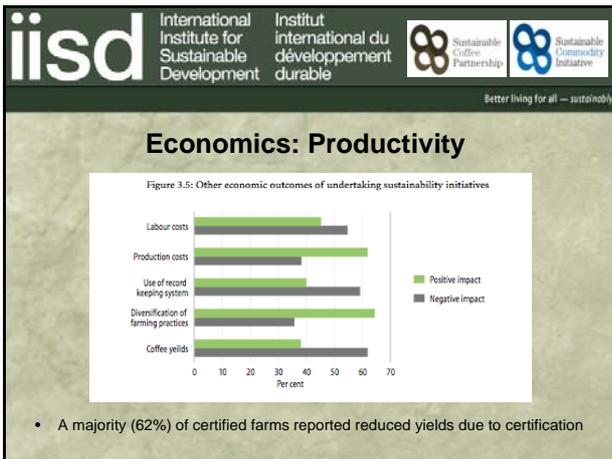
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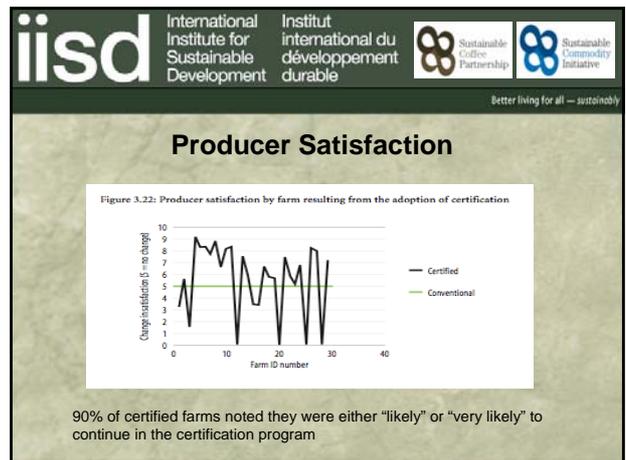
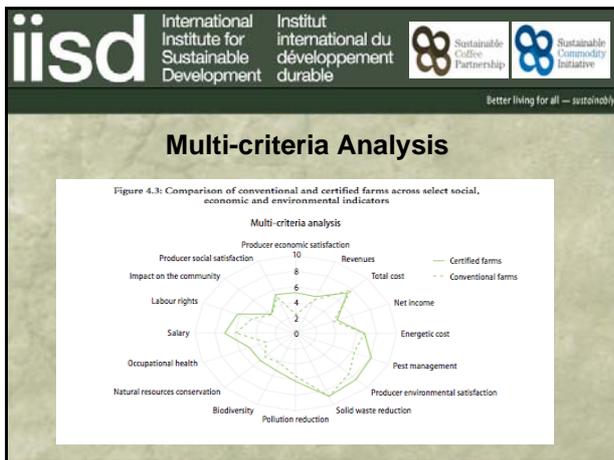
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## Methodological Observations

- **Farm Selection:**
  - In many countries, limited numbers of certified farms make it difficult to generate statistically significant results
- **Data Gathering:**
  - Use of different measurement units across countries and even within countries requires pre-visit research and calibration
  - Many farms do not have reliable economic data/records rendering the economic portion highly time consuming
- **Questionnaire Format:**
  - Needs to be reduced in length and simplified





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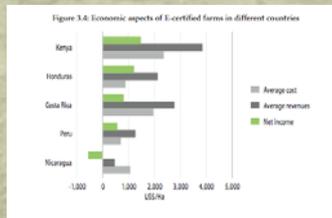
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### Moving Forward: Ongoing and Future Activities

- Full implementation over three years in Tanzania and Colombia
- Negotiations underway for application in several other African, Latin American and Asian countries
- Expanding partnerships and integration with capacity building strategies (Sustainable Commodity Assistance Network—SCAN) is an essential component of COSA's forward looking strategy





- Country conditions are a major determinant in sustainability performance. This graph shows variation within a single system are significant across countries.