



Connecting Over Coffee

Dear Marjolein,

April 16, 2021

I am writing to **thank you for your critical support** during the first few months of 2021. At the close of 2020, Chajulense coffee producers and their families were almost broken. Not only had their local economy been devastated by the coronavirus, two hurricanes destroyed hundreds of coffee farms and swollen rivers knocked out bridges and washed away the meager possessions of numerous families, and in some cases, their entire homes. But the Chajulense people do not give up easily, and apparently, neither do you.

With your support this year in spite of the awesome challenges facing the Chajulense people,

- Close to 250,000 coffee plants have been purchased by a consortium of The Coffee Trust, Asociación Chajulense, and Cooperative Coffees, and will soon be planted by 291 Chajulense coffee producers whose coffee plants were washed away during hurricanes Eta and Iota.
- 15 Chajulense homes in Chel, some of which were entirely washed away during the hurricanes, are in the process of being rebuilt.
- Honey producers have been able to continue replacing their old hives with new, highly efficient and ever-so-slightly more spacious Langstroth hives that are already significantly improving total honey production and adding to critical family income.
- The women's savings and micro-credit group has been able to continue to benefit from training in financial management and is developing their own finance school, as the now-successful credit program operates as the only low-interest loan fund to the poor in the region.
- Our developing agroforestry project continues to get closer to producing and reproducing no-cost, locally harvested micro-organisms that protect coffee plants against numerous fungi and other pathogens.
- We are helping to rebuild a local school and provide 500 seeds for the children to plant trees and learn first hand the critical importance of reforestation.

I will keep you updated on the progress of these projects along with any others we might be able to undertake this year. However, you must know that **without you, the Chajulense people would be facing these challenges on their own.** They would make the best of their situation. But fewer coffee plants would be planted. Fewer homes would be rebuilt or rebuilt well. Honey production would not increase. The finance school, the agroforestry project, and the school reforestation project most likely would not happen at all.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks and the thanks of the Chajulense people for your unflinching support during these most challenging times. Thank you so very much.

All the best,

Bill

PO Box 4728, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Phone: (505) 690-5834

www.thecoffeetrust.org

info@thecoffeetrust.org



Marjolein - Thank you so very much for your long term support. It goes a very long way in the Chajulense coffee region. This year it has made a world of difference as the Chajulense people survive. Don't let Venice down them!

Thank you again!