

Principle 2. Women play a central role in coffee production.

Women play a central role in coffee production, particularly harvesting, and to date their role has largely been ignored in agricultural extension. [Matilda Hamago's ACIAR-sponsored](#) thesis identified the male bias in training and the difficulties of targeting women in extension when so few female extension officers are employed in the industry.



(Credit: Susan May Inu)

Women's contribution to coffee production has declined in recent decades because of what they perceive as underpayment of their labour in coffee. Many women now prefer to invest their labour in livelihood activities like food gardening for markets because they have more control over the income earned. However, when women are remunerated adequately for their labour in coffee they can contribute much to coffee production, especially to harvesting and processing which is particularly important for control of the devastating coffee pest, Cocoa Berry Borer (CBB).

The extension materials in these modules seek to enhance women's engagement and participation in coffee on a fair and equitable basis in ways that benefit women and their families.



Women sorting coffee cherry prior to pulping. Women provide a lot of labour in coffee production, particularly for harvesting and processing which are the periods of high labour demand.