



SUSTAINABLE HARVEST

Application Name: Relationship Information Tracking System (RITS)

Area of Focus: Traceability, Supply Chains

How it works: RITS allows coffee cooperatives to trace every step of the supply chain process starting from the grower. Using a cloud-based application, the coffee co-op manager is able to record individual coffee farmer deliveries, track the certification status of each delivery, process farmer payment, record quality-related information, bulk coffee deliveries according to quality, and generate reports on farm productivity, payments, and samples.

Earlier in the year, Sustainable Harvest also launched RITS Ed, an iPad app that delivers agricultural training videos on organic coffee production and quality control that co-op managers can use to assist their members. In late 2011, Sustainable Harvest also plans to launch an iPad app that will enable co-op managers to input all of this information offline and then sync up to the online database as soon as they have internet connectivity. Furthermore, there are plans to launch RITS Metrics, a module that will help to expedite the application process for third-party certification through online data storage and more robust, customizable reports.

Technology used: Primarily Apple iPad and iPhone technology, although it can be accessed via any web browser or smart phone.

Implementer/Funder: USAID has provided funding to Sustainable Harvest to support the implementation of pilots in Tanzania and Peru. Additional implementation support has also been provided by The Lemelson Foundation and supply chain partners.

Fees: There are no fees to the end user associated with this application during the pilot and adaption phase.

Primary Markets: RITS is currently being piloted in Tanzania and Peru.

Users: Smallholder farmers (through cooperatives) and coffee buyers. Presently, they are working with two co-ops in Peru (representing 500 members) and one co-op in Tanzania (working with 1,840 members).

Business Model: Sustainable Harvest is currently evaluating a variety of user pricing options to make RITS self-sustaining for coffee cooperatives. Included in this evaluation is a survey of other supply chain partners with a vested interest in monitoring the data collected by the cooperative using RITS.

Impact: Sustainable Harvest estimates that RITS reduces the time spent on collecting information for grower certifications by 65%. They are currently conducting ongoing monitoring and evaluation of their pilots to track gains in efficiency and cost reductions in operations and training.

For more information visit: <http://www.sustainableharvest.com/RITS>

Sources: All information for this profile was provided directly from Sustainable Harvest.

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