

## **The Industry Is on the Precipice, Says Coffee Expert**

Any further increase in global warming poses a significant threat to the livelihoods of more than a hundred million people and the coffee industry as we know it, warns Pact Coffee's Director of Coffee and Social Impact, Will Corby, following today's news from the EU climate service that global warming has exceeded 1.5 degrees celsius across an entire year.

This first year-long 1.5C rise above 'pre-industrial' levels reaches the target limit set in the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. In the historic 2015 UN climate action conference, it was stated that achieving no more than a 1.5C rise would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.

This milestone brings the world closer to breaching this limit, and this poses a significant threat to the future of Arabica, the most revered coffee species which represents around 60% of total global coffee production.

Rising temperatures bring both extreme water shortages and erratic rainfall, crop-killing hailstorms, and a higher risk of plant disease to 'the bean belt', where almost all Arabica grows. As a result, Arabica supply has failed to meet demand for the past two years.

Corby said: "The world is on track for 2.5C of global warming by the end of the century, and this will wipe out the vast majority of coffee production".

"I've seen the clear effects of climate change in all manner of countries of origin over the past decade, and this has been devastating for farmers. In some relatively lower altitude areas, farms are no longer able to grow good-quality Arabica, and this has given the farmers no choice but to farm up further into mountains, putting them into significant debt and causing deforestation"

"As the coffee industry, we need to come together immediately to play whatever small part we can to mitigate climate change and its effects. We've now hit that milestone over a full year, and this needs to be a very scary wake-up call to everyone involved."

"We've been working for years to help farmers prepare for climate change. This has been with research, methodology and, most significantly, the development of Cenicafé 1."

"Cenicafé 1 is disease-resistant and can produce fantastic speciality coffee with high cupping scores. Farms we work with across Colombia were selected by a research institute as the first to grow this Arabica variety, and we were the first roastery in the world to import it".

"We've continued to champion Cenicafé 1, and the outstanding quality coffee it can create, over the years since, and it'll soon be back on our menu. We believe that varieties like Cenicafé 1 are the long-term answer for farmers in the face of climate change, as well as mitigation through responsible, planet-friendly practices".

**ENDS**

**About Pact Coffee**

Pact Coffee goes straight to the farmer to bring you the world's greatest coffee made on rare, outstanding lots.

The London roaster cuts out the middlemen and puts the farmer first to make sure they're given a truly fair price for truly phenomenal beans.

With Pact, you're making the planet-friendly choice too – supporting recyclable packaging, our carbon-neutral roastery, and pioneering sustainability projects at origin.

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