Permalink/DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.17358/jma.16.2.191 Available online at http://journal.ipb.ac.id/index.php/jmagr by Directorate General of Higher Education (DGHE), Republic of Indonesia No 30/E/KPT/2018

# INDONESIAN COFFEE IN THE GLOBAL VALUE CHAIN: THE COMPARISON OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION

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Abstract: Global partnerships based on sustainability standards compiled by international NGOs are needed to achieve social, economic and environmentally sustainable development, as well as to deal with global uncertainty in trade and business of agricultural commodities, including coffee in Indonesia. This paper aims to compare the implementation of global partnership standards in coffee between Indonesia and other producer countries. The Study focused on sustainable standard-compliant in coffee such as 4C and Organic certification standards. Trade and sustainability map tools were described. The findings demonstrate that there were only 8 percent and 9 percent of the Indonesian coffee area certified by 4C and Organic, respectively. Indonesia placed at number fourth of 4C implementation in the worldwide after Brazil, Colombia, and Viet Nam. Indonesia is also placed at number fourth of Organic implementation in the worldwide after Mexico, Ethiopia, and Peru. To compete in the potential market, Indonesia's commitment to implement sustainable standard-compliant in coffee is needed. Therefore, Indonesia has to increase the coverage of sustainability standards certified area to meet the global market demand. The government also should implement the right policies and programs to enhance the sustainability compliance of national coffee stakeholders.

Keywords: coffee, global trade partnership, sustainability standards, global value chain

Abstrak: Kemitraan global berdasarkan standar keberlanjutan yang disusun oleh LSM internasional diperlukan untuk mencapai pembangunan sosial, ekonomi dan lingkungan yang berkelanjutan, serta untuk mengatasi ketidakpastian global dalam perdagangan dan bisnis komoditas pertanian, termasuk kopi di Indonesia. Makalah ini bertujuan untuk membandingkan penerapan standar kemitraan global dalam kopi antara Indonesia dan negara-negara produsen lainnya. Fokus penelitian pada standar kepatuhan yang berkelanjutan dalam kopi seperti standar sertifikasi 4C dan Organik. Implementasi digambarkan dengan pendekatan kualitatif dalam rantai nilai global berdasarkan pada perangkat peta perdagangan dan keberlanjutan. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa hanya ada 8 persen dan 9 persen dari area kopi Indonesia yang disertifikasi oleh 4C dan Organik, masing-masing. Indonesia menempati urutan keempat implementasi 4C di seluruh dunia setelah Brasil, Kolombia, dan Vietnam. Indonesia juga berada di urutan keempat implementasi Organik di dunia setelah Meksiko, Ethiopia, dan Peru. Untuk bersaing di pasar potensial, komitmen Indonesia untuk menerapkan standar kepatuhan dalam kopi diperlukan. Oleh karena itu, Indonesia harus meningkatkan cakupan area bersertifikasi standar keberlanjutan untuk memenuhi permintaan pasar global. Pemerintah juga harus menerapkan kebijakan dan program yang tepat untuk meningkatkan kepatuhan keberlanjutan pemangku kepentingan kopi nasional.

*Kata kunci:* kopi, kemitraan perdagangan global, standar keberlanjutan, rantai nilai global

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### **INTRODUCTION**

In the trade and business of agricultural commodities, global partnerships based on standards compiled by international NGOs is are needed to achieve social, economic and environmental sustainability. Fair Trade sustainability standards implementation rapidly increase on the global food markets (Raynolds, 2012). However, the partnership by implementing these sustainability standards has not been fully effective in improving the performance of the agricultural sector in Indonesia. Besides, the right business partnership strategy is needed to deal with global uncertainty in trade, industry, and business of agricultural commodities. International business collaboration in commodity development is needed to achieve more sustainable commodities in developing countries (Vermeulen, 2010).

The 17th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) focuses on strengthening partnerships for sustainable development. This goal means the implementation and revitalization of the global partnership to supports the fulfillment of the sixteen other goals. The consumption growth of coffee with sustainability standards wake up the producers to set their business strategy courses towards sustainable production. Intersectoral partnership in coffee global chain (Bitzer et al. 2008). It also contributes to the 17th SDGs that aiming

to have sustainable consumption and production via partnerships (UN DESA, 2017). Therefore, there was development and co-evolution of commodity value chain and sustainability standards in the global market (Manning et al. 2011).

The sustainability of how such commodities are produced, traded and consumed is at a critical juncture with the outcome likely to be decided within the coming decades (Gardner et al. 2019). Based on ITC (2018), there was significant growth in areas certified by sustainability standards from 2011 to 2016 (Figure 1). There are 14 major voluntary sustainable standards which are initiated by international NGOs including Round Table on Responsible Soy, RSPO, Rainforest Alliance, UTZ, IFOAM - Organics International, Agriculture Network, Forest Stewardship Council, ProTerra Foundation, Better Cotton Initiative, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, Fairtrade International, GLOBALG.A.P, Cotton made in Africa, BONSUCRO, and 4C. Coffee area with sustainability standards increased by 77.9%. The coffee production area certified by RA, organic, UTZ, Fairtrade International, and 4C) with an average 3.9 million hectares or 35.5% of the total global coffee area in 2016 (Lernoud et al. 2018). The data of certified area by standard and selected agricultural products in 2016 can be seen in Figure 2.



Figure 1. Selected Products Area Growth Certified by Sustainability Standards 2008-2016 (International Trade Center, 2018).



Figure 2. Certified Area by Standard and Selected Agricultural Products 2016 (International Trade Center, 2018)

Brazil, Viet Nam, Colombia, Indonesia, and Ethiopia contributed 69% of the global coffee production. Brazil, Viet Nam, Colombia, Indonesia, and Ethiopia have increased their production by 16% during 2011-2016 (FAOSTAT, 2018). In terms of sustainability standards, these five counties also contributed around 71% of the total coffee area certified by 4C. Based on CAS (2016), 4C certification aims to increase economic, social, dan environmental dimensions of global coffee production and manufacturing based on good agricultural and management practices. 4C certification has the largest sustainability standards of the coffee area (Figure 3). Arround 1.8 million hectares of global coffee production area certified by 4C and over 933,950 hectares of global coffee production area certified by Organic as sustainability standards in 2016. The implementation of coffee sustainability standards in Indonesia shows that 4C certified 150,177 hectares in 2016. Based on Lernoud et al. (2018), Indonesia placed at number fourth in the worldwide after Brazil, Colombia, and Viet Nam. While the implementation of coffee sustainability standards in Indonesia shows that Organic certified 81,750 hectares in 2016. Based on Lernoud et al. (2018), Indonesia also placed at number fourth in the worldwide after Mexico, Ethiopia, and Peru.

However, despite the implementation of sustainability standards by Indonesian coffee, many countries argue that the implementation was not adequate compared to the total production area. This happened because there were many challenges and barriers faced by smallhorders to fulfill specific compliances for sustainability standard or certification (Brandi et al. 2015). As a result, many countries start to impose trade barriers, and it raises uncertainty for coffee production in global trade. The trade barriers imposed on the Indonesian coffee commodity indicate the sustainability standard partnership has not been fully effective in improving trade performance. According to Neilson (2008), Indonesia coffee systems faced many challenges over the last decades in terms of fulfill international agencies standards, company-sepecific needed, country and industry regulations and policies. Therefore, this paper aimed to compare the implementation of global partnership standards in coffee commodity between Indonesia and other main producer countries. We focused on sustainable standard-compliant such as 4C and Organic certification standards. Commodities with sustainable standard-compliant can improve its competitiveness and sustainability performance on the global value chains (Arifin, 2013).



Figure 3. Coffee Production Area by Sustainability Standards 2018-2016 (Lernoud et al. 2018)

## **METHODS**

The study conducted to assess the sustainability standards applied in Indonesian coffee and several main producer countries. The location of this research was conducted in Indonesia. The study was conducted during April-May 2019. The type of data used was secondary data. The main data source in the form of official statistics data comes from the International Trade Center (ITC). The ITC data used to be processed and analyzed was derived from the trade map and sustainability map tools. The data collection technique used were documents and database study of the international trade, especially related to coffee commodities.

Technical analysis of data using four steps, first, the data were collected from the International Trade Centre (ITC). Two main standards were assessed sustainability for its implementation and compliance. Then we performed a descriptive analysis and sustainability map tool database for developing the maps. Finally, we assessed the implementation in the global value chain based on trade and sustainability map tools results.

The research framework was carried out by identifying problems in the implementation of sustainability standards of Indonesian coffee. Furthermore, trade performanceandsustainabilitystandardsimplementation of coffee were analyzed. Coffee global value chains of Indonesia and several main producer countries were compared using maps to get recommendations and managerial implications. Following is the framework for this research (Figure 4).

## RESULT

Figure 5 shows the comparison of 4C certification between the main producer countries. In 2016, Indonesia had only 8 percent of coffee production certified by 4C (150,013 hectares). It was almost onefifth of Brazil's certified area (737,430 hectares) as the largest coffee-producing country, almost one-half of Columbia's certified area (354,217 hectares) as the second-largest coffee producing country, and almost similar with Vietnam's certified area (150,177 hectares) as the closest competitor country in Asia. Figure 5 also shows that Organic had a lower certified area compare to 4C standards. There were four countries with the largest Organic certified coffee area. The largest area was in Mexico (231,000 hectares), then followed by Ethiopia (159,850 hectares), Peru (81,750 hectares) and Indonesia (81,750 hectares).

Based on the global trade coffee performance showed that Brazil, Columbia, Vietn Nam, Ethiopia, and Indonesia are the top five global coffee exporters in 2018 with value exported of USD 4.37 billion, USD 3.26 billion, USD 2.34 billion, USD 8.57 billion, and USD 8.18 billion, respectively (Table 1). Brazil, Viet Nam, Columbia, and Ethiopia are the main competitor for Indonesia in USA and Japan markets. In the European market such as Italy, Indonesia competed directly with Brazil and Columbia as the main competitor. In recent year, Indonesia had a positive growth (15% p.a.) in the Egypt market from 2014 to 2018. Ethiopia had a higher growth market (10% p.a.) in the USA than other top five global coffee exporters while Indonesia had

a negative growth (-4% p.a.). This situation can be a threat to Indonesian coffee market in the USA as the largest importer country in the worldwide.

The study found that 4C was used as the main certified standard by coffee importer countries. The results also show Indonesia has many partner countries that imported 4C and Organic certified coffee in 2018. There were 2 countries have a larger import growth from Indonesia than the import from the rest of the world that serve as Indonesia's main potential market, namely Canada and the Republic of Korea. Currently, the Republic of Korea becomes an emerging market of the global coffee trade. In comparison to another ASEAN country, Viet Nam has significantly higher potential country markets than Indonesia. Viet Nam and Indonesia have almost similar coffee area certified by 4C around 150,000 hectares

in 2016. But, there were 12 countries that had a larger import growth from Viet Nam than the import from the rest of the world.

Other countries from South America were considered as Indonesia's potential competitor in the coffee certified sustainability market namely Brazil and Columbia. Thus, we found that the market prospect for Brazil was the USA, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Belgium. Thus, the market prospect for Columbia was Germany, the USA, Spain, Italy, and Japan. Indonesia competed directly with Brazil and Columbia as the main competitor in the USA, Japan, and Italy coffee markets. These countries were the traditional coffee markets in the world. Brazil becomes a good business model for Indonesia to capture domestic demand and consumption.







Figure 5. Top 10 Countries by 4C and Organic certified Coffee Area in 2016 (Coffee Assurance Services and FiBL, (2018)

Exporters	Importers	Value exported in 2018 (USD thousand)	Trade balance 2018 (USD thousand)	Share in exports (%)	Growth in exported value between 2014-2018 (%, p.a.)	Ranking of partner countries in world imports	Share of partner countries in world imports (%)	Average distance between partner countries (km)
Indonesia	USA	253,773	251,901	31	(4)	1	18	6,498
	Japan	84,375	84,306	10	(6)	6	4	11,915
	Malaysia	70,889	66,341	9	5	22	1	5,968
	Egypt	56,974	56,974	7	15	41	0	7,782
	Italy	54,025	52,650	7	(3)	4	6	7,030
	World	817,790	662,012	100				
Brazil	USA	775,457	772,921	18	(11)	1	18	6,498
	Germany	749,407	747,876	17	(12)	2	11	7,226
	Italy	461,561	455,828	11	(5)	4	6	7,030
	Japan	324,112	324,112	7	(11)	6	4	11,915
	Belgium	303,922	303,797	7	(14)	9	3	6,091
	World	4,371,253	4,310,264	100				
Viet Nam	USA	1,058,089	1,057,961	45	1	1	18	6,498
	Japan	195,241	195,241	8	(5)	6	4	11,915
	Germany	181,710	181,710	8	(3)	2	11	7,226
	Canada	180,530	180,530	8	1	7	4	4,660
	Belgium	125,268	125,268	5	(14)	9	3	6,091
	World	2,335,423	2,239,362	100				
Columbia	Germany	513,274	512,609	16	1	2	11	7,226
	USA	413,518	408,797	13	(1)	1	18	6,498
	Spain	269,009	269,007	8	-	10	3	5,520
	Italy	258,395	257,817	8	1	4	6	7,030
	Japan	189,276	189,274	6	5	6	4	11,915
	World	3,261,049	3,202,570	100				
Ethiopia	USA	142,121	142,121	17	10	1	18	6,498
	Germany	137,044	137,044	16	2	2	11	7,226
	Saudi Arabia	126,273	126,273	15	-	25	1	3,221
	Japan	83,760	83,760	10	1	6	4	11,915
	Republic of Korea	48,496	48,496	6	14	12	2	11,131
	World	856,929	856,859	100				

Table 1. Trade performance comparison of top five global coffee exporters 2018

Source: International Trade Center (2018)

Indonesia and Ethiopia have almost similar value exported coffee in 2018 (around USD 8 billion). There were 13 countries had a larger import growth from Ethiopia than the import from the rest of the world. Ethiopia also had a significant growth in exported value to emerging market such as the Republic of Korea (14% p.a) from 2014 to 2018. Meanwhile, Ethiopia still keeps its potential trade in the traditional market such as the USA with growth in exported value around 10%. The comparison of coffee trade performance of top five global exporters in 2018 can be seen in Figure 6.

Global coffee production and consumption have become an important issue in recent years. Coffee trade competitiveness compares to other countries has been linked to coffee industry growth in the world. As sustainability standard, 4C was introduced by coffee stakeholders to improve the coffee profile. Indonesia tries to promote and advocate the coffee by endorsing 4C and Organic certification. However, the effort may not meet the international market demand, especially from the USA, Japan, and Italy. Despite the fact of Indonesia was able to be placed as the fourth largest certified area by 4C and Organic, the sustainability practices via 4C and Organic are still low compared to the total coffee production area. Therefore, the effort is not sufficient, especially with the recent USA and Japan markets showed that the negative trends (-4% p.a and -6% p.a., respectively). It shows that the voluntary partnership is not working properly for Indonesia. As a result, it weakening Indonesia's coffee trade performance in the global value chain.

Since the sustainability mapping shows that Indonesia directly competes with Brazil, Columbia, Viet Nam, and Ethiopia in the Global Coffee Value Chain. Indonesian coffee industry development is required to meet the rising demand for coffee and to compete with these countries in the global value chain of coffee. There was still strong demand in many countries, especially from traditional markets (Japan, USA, France, Italy, and Germany). According to Sänger (2018), there was also big opportunity for further coffee demand in the emerging markets such China, Turkey, Russia, and South Korea. So, Indonesia should enhance its certified coffee area with sustainability standards. Indonesia also should focus on the biggest potential trade from emerging markets and domestic demand.

#### **Managerial Implications**

Therefore, for managerial implication Indonesia has to increase the coverage of sustainability standards certified area to meet the global market demand. The government also should implement the right policies and programs to enhance the sustainability compliance of national coffee stakeholders.





Figure 6. Comparison of coffee trade performance of top five global exporters in 2018

#### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Conclusions

Based on the global trade coffee performance showed that Brazil, Columbia, Viet Nam, Ethiopia, and Indonesia are the top five global coffee exporters in 2018 with value exported of USD 4.37 billion, USD 3.26 billion, USD 2.34 billion, USD 8.57 billion, and USD 8.18 billion, respectively. The findings also demonstrate that there were only eight percent and nine percent of the Indonesian coffee area certified by 4C and Organic, respectively. Indonesia placed at number fourth of 4C implementation in the worldwide after Brazil, Colombia, and Viet Nam. Indonesia also placed at number fourth of Organic implementation in the worldwide after Mexico, Ethiopia, and Peru. Despite the fact of Indonesia was able to be placed as the fourth largest certified area by 4C and Organic, the sustainability practices via 4C and Organic are still low compared to the total coffee production area. It shows that the voluntary partnership is not working properly for Indonesia. As a result, it weakening Indonesia's coffee trade performance in the global value chain.

#### Recommendations

In the future, the coffee market is estimated to be increased especially in emerging markets (Republic of Korea, Rusia, Turkey, and China). The only way that Indonesia's coffee industry to compete in this potential market, the commitment to implement sustainable standard-compliant in coffee is needed. As a consequent to meet the global market demand especially in traditional markets (Japan, USA, France, Italy, and Germany), Indonesia has to increase the coverage area certified by 4C and Organic.

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