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## Sustainable Organic Coffee Prospects And Coffee Transaction Costs Chain In Timor – Leste (2025)

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### **Abstract**

Introduction: The small island of Timor basically and namely of Timor-Leste plantation Hybrid Coffee is a coffee variety that is resistant disease and climate change adaptation growing on 1000-1500 meters under shade trees special Albizia and Casuarina during Portugues time until now. The Timor coffee base growing in 6 Municipality Ermera, Aileu Ainaro, Manufahi and Bobonaro more them 42% family monoculture Coffee farm. Potential can be developed sustainable economic value because it can only grow under the shade of albizzia and casuarina, but now big problem on sustainable develop. With high economic potential, needs to developed as family economic patrimonial, because more Then 90% population dependent on coffee production every year. Timor - Leste has great potential in developing organic coffee because its tropical and subtropical climate change is created some of conditions very different and geography only have two seasons, namely dry and rainy (wet and dry months). The importance of institutional arrangements in supporting small farmers to develop organic products with high added value is very important, according to progressive nature geographic and conditions are behaved cited by (WB., 2019; Maia J., 2022; Gov.TL, 2024).

**Research Objectives:** This research is aims to look at the strategic development of sustainability is coffee as a family economic asset in improving the welfare of coffee faming families and the impact of transaction cost on the basic price received by farmers, the impact of which is not satisfactory in the motivation for the innovation in development coffee farming business. In addition, to see the factor of institutional development of coffee in the terms of existing customers of coffee agribusiness agriculture sector in Timor-Leste, base of standards coffee in global market decision.

**Research Methodology:** The best method to share by qualitative and quantitative apprised focus on information representative farm, public institutional, private sector and social institution to covered information by the farms and references date during Portugues Time, Indonesia Time and Independent Time, to take comparation production analysis qualitative and quantitative or combination method by institutional analysis with sample propose random site application of in study.

**Result of Discussion:** The economic contribution of coffee farmers managing coffee farming in 6 districts since the Portuguese average 4,65,9%, during Indonesia time after Independence has provided a real contribution of 20-29% coffee farmers livelihood household. The management 90% monoculture farming is managed organically environmentally friendly by local organic material. Farmers' income guaranty from coffee as source of economic, social, educational and health needs. In addition to being source income for farmers, it can absorb 3000-5000 workers every year during the 3-month coffee harvest period from the field the city, especially green ben coffee production factory. Currently, the government and donors through international institutions are working on the development coffee agrobusiness planning culture by the President of Timor - Leste Ramos Horta in 2019. CCT-NCBA the cooperative that has 21,565 base CCT-NCBA Maia de Jesus survey, 2022 permanent members registered organically provides the largest coffee supply to Starbucks Coffee every year, average 2000-3000 tons of green coffee/years, the financial cost transaction higher by transportation, labor cost, information and promotion cost impact directly to coffee price on farmer. Through sales results agribusiness diversification carried out in other farming businesses such cocoa, cloves, vanilla, pepper potential plantation areas to anticipate decline coffee production. Currently, there 5 prestigious plantation crops managed by CCT-NCBA Economic rehabilitation development by USAID to increase rural economic, Rahmadanih, 2022, Institutional strengthening of women farmers group (KWT) in developing household food security. Integrating this cultural heritage into coffee production and trade could bring economic benefits while maintaining cultural integrity.

*Conclusion:* Unlike typical industrialized agricultural models, Timor - Leste coffee sector could emphasize organic farming practices and traditional cultivation methods, which preserve the soil, biodiversity, and local ecosystems, contributing to sustainability. The World Bank's 2023 report said the country's economic growth is expected to increase by an average of 4.1% in 2024 and 2025, thanks to lower inflation and a healthy fiscal position. The report also said the government's emphasis on capital spending and infrastructure development, which has increased the budget from 18.4% of GDP in 2023 to 24.5% of GDP in 2024, is likely to drive further growth.

Keywords: Organic coffee cost transaction chain.

Introduction: Small scale organic agribusiness The potential of Timor hybrid coffee as a unique coffee develop base on 6 district potential coffee coffee variety is resistant to disease and climate growing by farmers natural traditionally, Ermera, change, because it grows under the shade of albiz-Liquica, Aileu, Ainaro, Manufahi and Bobonaro zia and casuarina shade trees. The origin of Timor with altitude higher 1000-1500 meters sea, and per- Hybrid coffee is a natural marriage between 2 types manent income from coffee 90% household, the of arabica and robusta varieties (Arabica Cafe) and livelihood income low under 0,1 base viability ques Robusta (Canephore) with phenotypic and genotypstudy, Maia de Jesus, 2017. Timor - Leste category ic genes 2x=22 and 4x=44, very far, according to tropical island with raining time dan dray time and science biologically impossible, but with the power big her complication on climate changes impact. of natural shamans and culture ecologically this

Maluhui village, Mata nova, Fatubessi village, Mu- members registered organically and provides the nicipality of Ermera Timor-Leste Lets' through de- largest coffee supply to Starbucks Coffee every tection by Portuguese government Coffee managers year, average of 2000-3000 tons of green coffee. in 1917 when world coffee was attacked by a dis- Through the sales results, agribusiness diversificaease called Hymeliavastarixt, where all coffee trees tion can be carried out in other farming businesses died but one parent tree survived fresh and could such as cocoa, cloves, vanilla and pepper potential bear fruit at that time,. These products are a rele- plantation areas to anticipate decline coffee producvant resource for a deeper knowledge of the situa- tion. Currently, there 5 prestigious plantation crops tion and for the setup of proper correction strate- managed by CCT-NCBA Economic rehabilitation gies to optimize the cultivation and increase development Coffee, Cocoa, Cloves, Vanilla and productivity. They will support the ordinary and Pepper to anticipation climate changes impact, just extraordinary territorial management activities by the key point on implementing coffee organic cited dedicated Entities, Valeria Donzellia, 2019, Prepa- by (Horta JR., 2019; Maia J., 2022; Gomes LM., ration of a National Coffee Sector Development 2023). Plan for Timor-Leste

Timor Hybrid Coffee is a coffee variety that is re- the strategic development of sustainable coffee as a sistant to disease and climate change. This potential family economic asset in improving the welfare of can be developed sustainable economic value be- coffee farming families and the impact of transaccause it can only grow under the shade of albizzia tion costs on the basic price received by farmers, and casuarina. With high economic potential, needs the impact of which is not satisfactory in the motito developed as family economic asset. The eco- vation for innovation in developing coffee farming nomic contribution of coffee farmers managing businesses. In addition, to see the factor of institucoffee farming in 6 districts since the Portuguese, tional involvement of coffee in terms of existing Indonesia after Independence has provided a real coffee institutions in developing the coffee agricontribution of 20-29% coffee farmers. The man- business sector in Timor - Leste, based on the agement 90% monoculture farming is managed or- standards of coffee in regional and global market. ganically is environmentally friendly. Farmers' income from coffee as source of economic, social, Research of Methodology: The method of reeducational and health needs. In addition to being search by qualitative method and quantitative source of income for farmers, it can absorb 3000- method apprised base information representative 5000 workers every year during the 3-month coffee farm, public Institutional, private institution and harvest period from the field to the city, especially social institution to covered information by the the green ben coffee production factory. Currently, farm, and reference data on Portuguese Time, Indothe government and donors through international nesia Time, and Independent Time, to take comparinstitutions are working on the development of cof- ation production analysis qualitative and quantitafee agribusiness by planning coffee as culture by tive or mix method by Institutional analyze with the President of Timor - Leste in 2019. CCT- sample propose random site applications ...

natural marriage occurred in one location, namely NCBA the cooperative that has 21,565 permanent

Research of Objectives: This study aims to look at

Results of Discussion: Base on the analysis quali- production average 600-900kg read been chary coftative and quantitative analysis conduct from the fee /hectares, with base price 0,30-0,50 Non-Linear research to know how about Institutional contribu- every year impact directly not satisfied of farmer. tion on organic coffee sustainable develop signifi- The indicator due to the loss of people's plantation cant or now, and what indicators aspect impact on areas due to road construction and climate change agrobusiness coffee develop and transaction cost as well as the age of the plants and the age of the chain impact motivation farm organic coffee grow- shade which was quite old or aged between >50 ing during 450 years by Portuguese and economic years for coffee plants, and shed tress reaches 100 contribute 4,65,9%, Indonesia time first 24 year last years. The impact of climate change is a crisis in coffee more contribution Timor economic develop the fertility of coffee plantation land and causing innovation until 1999 Timor - Leste referendum on production to decline, causing many farmers to 30 August. And 20 years after independence. In switch land functions, Farmer Informant consent by this study, researchers have strong indicators on the survey conducted of research mentioned by (Maia problem of farmer character, institutions and access J., 2022). to transportation, infrastructure can create high transaction costs contribute to low minimum price. Contribution of the economic value of coffee is Externally factors climate change affects the sus- very fundamental. tainable development of farmer agrobusiness coffee The since 1920, coffee production from Timor conactivities. This will affect the income of coffee tributed more than 1865 tons (more than 50%) of farmers in 6 municipalities whose family income is the value of coffee exports in the Portuguese colo-90 % from coffee on 20-29% income benefited by nial time, at that time coffee from Timor promoted coffee production every year, according to the reali- its identity internationally even though it experity-based options are available for coffee of Timor- enced quite severe challenges to complications, de-Leste in market local, regional and International clining production, coffee remains a source of (Horta JR., 2022; WBG., 2023).

and external aspects that influence strategic devel- (population census data, 2022). This is evident opment through the role of government, private through CCT-NCBA as a National and Internationsector in terms of cooperatives, economic institu- al institution that has been active in the coffee agritional institutions, social institutions, cultural cus- business in Timor - Leste on 1994 until now has toms in the sociology of coffee farming culture in 6 21,565 organic farmers, with an area of coffee planmunicipalities of Timor-Leste in maintaining the tation\_+ 42000 hectares, 21,565 farmers as the largexistence of hybrid coffee as an economic asset for est coffee supplier to Starbucks coffee every year sustainable farming families. Timor - Leste coffee between 1000-2500 green bean coffee, but the inplantation potential was recorded at 72,000 hectares come from coffee compares by the benefited finanduring the Portuguese time as a good productivity cial analyze cost not satisfaction correlation factors. coffee, but after independence the number de- But In addition, coffee contributing to the income

economy until now the coffee farming community earns income from coffee 20-29% of the total popu-The researcher's focus will be to see the internal lation of Timor Lets' 1,340 million currently creased to just 51,000-52000 hectares with quantity of coffee farmers, it can absorb labor every year from the field to the coffee export production unit cation up to grade of elementary school in the Porbuilt by CCT-NCBA since the Indonesian time un- tuguese time, moreover, ordinary people's children til now. It is undeniable that CCT-NCBA has been found it difficult to obtain higher education, but present in Timor- Leste since the Indonesian time after 24 years with Indonesia and after independthrough political approval by. Prof. Dr. Bustanil ence everyone has the same rights in obtaining edu-Arifin SH through the Director of NCBA Mr. Sam- cation, health and socio-cultural access through uel D. Filiace and 2 Timorese Sir Abel Ximenes coffee income, some can even build houses with and Sir G. Amaral, the struggle for Timor-Leste coffee income from permanent or semi-permanent independence at that time brought organic coffee houses. This fact shows that there is an economic activities into Timor-Leste through PUSKUD un- change in the coffee farming community in six muder the Ministry of Cooperatives and BUMN. From nicipalities cited by (Tilman CB & Maia J., 2025). the results of organic activities began to develop in Ermera organic farm registration in village of PDB and GNP National Contribute in develop-Liquimea and Talimoro (Lodudo) registered organ- ment Countryside. ic farmers and developed to 6 coffees producing In terms of GDP and GNP contribution nationally, municipality in Timor-Leste. Initially from this or- coffee has made a real contribution, where CCTganic activity began the openness of the market and NCBA's national GDP contribution is second only basic coffee price competition between PT- to oil and natural gas, not counting other private DENOK in terms of the management of BUMN companies, in national figures the coffee sector's coffee (Former SAPT) of the Portuguese govern- contribution reaches \$10 million/year to national ment which was left in 1975. Timor - Leste coffee income. However, one problem faced by CCTbegan to be certified organically by OCIA until NCBA and other private companies is road infra-2005 and continued by SKALINT-CUC, then structure, causing high labor and transportation C.A.F.E. Practice until now. The entry of organic costs so that sometimes, many coffee companies coffee activities in Timor - Leste is an advantage not commitment invest continuity coffee develop. of the existence of market openness and price com- Moreover, the local managerial character causes petition until now carried out by international and low transaction costs in the middle of the road, international competitors such as Timor Global, making investors increasingly reluctant to invest. Timor Corp. Coffee, ETO, PWJ Cafe with CCT- There are no local or national entrepreneurs who NCBA until now, but they do not have clear mem- are able to invest in coffee agribusiness, because bership from the beginning, only because of free the operational costs are high and the production economic politics, the market is open to buyers and processing chains are long according to organic with basic price competition between 0.30-0.50 criteria. CCT-NCBA is a strong national and intercents / kg of red fruit coffee beans in the communi- national institutional organization that has survived ty. Viewed from a microeconomic perspective, alt- until today, 26 years of being active in coffee agrihough coffee production is low, there are changes business activities, but seen from the results in the in the economic, socio-cultural and educational ac- field, there has been no change in the character of

between 3000-5000 people for 3 months starting guese time, where children could only achieve edu-

tivities of farmers' children compared to the Portu- farmers or managers who are established and expe-

world market in terms of implementation.

the character of this farming business is indeed dif- activities every year are 10-15%. This makes farmficult to this day, even though many things have ers feel at a loss in coffee investment and must conbeen done well, training and technological innova- vert land functions. Land conversion activities evetion in agrobusiness have been carried out by CCT- ry year are 10-15%. Viewed from the aspect of hu-NCBA through USAID grant activities through man development, the character of farming has not TERDP (Timor-Leste economic development pro- been formed well in managing its coffee plantation ject) for 15 years in the development of the coffee business properly, there are activities that are finanplantation sector, but until today CCT itself has not cial assistance so that they prey on farmers with been able to stand alone as a coffee agribusiness money. The result of farming is to increase their actor in Timor-Leste still needing assistance from own income. The management elements in terms of NCBA (National Cooperative Business Associa- middle management are not yet serious in impletion) to seek funding from donors. A question that menting a good farming system, and assistance to needs to be sought is what is really going on, farmers by field PPLs, makes the community relucwhether the institutional elements or the strategic tant to continue their activities properly. The govmodel that has been built have not hit the target, or ernment's legislation in determining the strategic human resources in a managerial manner, or are development of the coffee plantation sector has there other factors behind this. A question that very little investment in the agricultural, plantation, needs to be sought is what is really going on, fisheries and livestock sectors, even though the agwhether the institutional elements or the strategic ricultural potential is very large to be developed. model that has been built have not hit the target, or The government's legislation in determining the human resources in a managerial manner, or are strategic development of the coffee plantation secthere other factors behind this. In institutional theo- tor has very little investment in the agricultural, ry according to Norman Uphoff 1986, that strong plantation, fisheries and livestock sectors, even and healthy institutions can involve the community/ though the agricultural potential is very large to be farmers as decision makers, and they feel they have developed. The role of local, social and religious the right to vote and the right to speak in institu- institutions has not fully supported coffee agrobusitional activities is very importantly about it for the ness activities in Timor - Leste, making it difficult coffees cited by (Tilman CB & Maia J., 2025).

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that has been built since long ago to farm coffee as egos of parties in developing national development a source of main income, but the coffee production strategies through the National RPJP, because of

rienced in managing this community coffee planta- results each year decreased from 900 kg to 800 kg, tion sector well according to the expectations of the 700 kg, even 600 kg/hectare of red coffee or equivalent to 200-400 kg of original horn coffee. This makes farmers feel at a loss in coffee investment One thing that needs to be realized is that building and must convert land functions. Land conversion for local institutions to be independent in participating in sustainable coffee plantation manage-Problems of Coffee Agrobusiness Development ment. The lack of academic research that supports the government's program in developing the coffee The people of Timor - Leste come with a character plantation sector. The existence of strong political institutional structure of the government, has ham- ment of the coffee plantation sector. Examples of pered national development, especially in the de- project failures as mentioned. In reality, there has velopment of the people's coffee plantation sector. been no change in the character of farmers and the The coffee industry in Timor - Leste has the poten- pattern of coffee farming activities that are fixed tial to grow through institutional strengthening and and appropriate in developing the coffee plantation reducing transaction costs in agribusiness. The sector in Timor- Leste. Through CCT-NCBA has Coffee and Agroforestry Livelihoods Improvement helped education and health through Fair Trade Project aims to train 2,000 farmers on good agri- premium funds and the development of coffee procultural practices and access to finance. Further- duction facilities in the central coffee areas of Ermore, the importance of collaboration between mera and Ainaro Maubissi. From year to year, stakeholders, including government and communi- training and demonstrations or demo plots have ties, is recognized to ensure sustainability and in- been carried out everywhere (coffee production crease farmer incomes. Investment in research on areas), but cannot be imitated by the community, climate-resilient coffee varieties is also needed to (Maia J., 2022). If we look at the contribution of increase the sector's resilience to climate change is several private institutions and cooperatives that the message (Gomes LM., 2023; cited by Tilman are currently involved in coffee agribusiness activi-CB & Maia J., 2025), official channel https:// ties, there is very big competition, but in terms of www.ajmcrr.com.

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to the development of coffee agribusiness for cof- Timor - Leste according to the (Gomes LM., et al, fee farmers shows that there is market openness, 2023),, Identity The Level of Sustainable Arabica social services for members, product diversifica- Coffee Farming Insights Three Municipalities tion based on market demand, but human character based on the fields study conducted. development in terms of farmers and managers has not shown significant results because there has Acknowledgements: It's important to understand been no technological innovation by farmers how the country's unique coffee heritage can be through activities carried out in each region or area. leveraged for sustainable development. Here is a For 26 years, CCT-NCB has done many things, potential outline of the novelty that could be dissuch as people's economic development activities cussed within the proposal:1). The approach of patthrough crop diversification activities, but farmers rimonial economics, rooted in the understanding of do not feel that they have an institution and contri- local heritage and resources, focuses on using trabution. Many activities have been carried out but ditional knowledge and the socio-cultural heritage failed, namely TERDP USAID, New Zealand aid of coffee production as a foundation for economic with RICE program the government through the development. Coffee in Timor - Leste is not only

the system of dismantling and reassembling the and appropriate pattern and policy for the developphysical development, technological innovation is very low, what is the cause of this problem, it is The role of CCT-NCBA in 26 years' experience necessary to conduct an in-depth study in this research to make an academic recommendation in the In the real terms, the contribution of CCT-NCBA development of coffee agribusiness activities in

Ministry of Agriculture has not determined a fixed an economic commodity but also a symbol of local

identity and history. Integrating this cultural herit- nomic commodity but also a symbol of local idenage into coffee production and trade could bring tity and history. Integrating this cultural heritage economic benefits while maintaining cultural integ- into coffee production and trade could bring ecority.2). Unlike typical industrialized agricultural nomic benefits while maintaining cultural integrity. models, Timor -Leste coffee sector could empha- b).2. Unlike typical industrialized agricultural size organic farming practices and traditional culti- models, Timor - Leste coffee sector could emphavation methods, which preserve the soil, biodiver- size organic farming practices and traditional cultisity, and local ecosystems, contributing to sustaina- vation methods, which preserve the soil, biodiverbility. Involving local communities in the value sity, and local ecosystems, contributing to sustainachain through cooperatives or social enterprises bility. Involving local communities in the value could provide fair trade opportunities, ensuring that chain through cooperatives or social enterprises profits are distributed equitably and help lift rural could provide fair trade opportunities, ensuring that communities out of poverty.3). The novelty lies in profits are distributed equitably and help lift rural combining the heritage of Timor – Leste coffee cul- communities out of poverty c).3. The novelty lies ture with modern branding techniques. This could in combining the heritage of Timor - Leste coffee involve leveraging the distinct flavors, origins, and culture with modern branding techniques. This sustainable practices that make Timor - Leste cof- could involve leveraging the distinct flavors, orifee unique, thus appealing to the global market, gins, and sustainable practices that make Timor particularly to eco-conscious consumers. Develop- Leste coffee unique, thus appealing to the global ing marketing campaigns that tell the story of Ti- market, particularly to eco-conscious consumers. mor – Leste coffee – from its colonial history to its Developing marketing campaigns that tell the story role in contemporary society – would add signifi- of Timor – Leste coffee – from its colonial history cant value and authenticity to the product.4). By to its role in contemporary society - would add sigadopting a patrimonial economic approach, Timor - nificant value and authenticity to the product d).4. Leste can prioritize long-term sustainability, both By adopting a patrimonial economic approach, Tienvironmentally and economically. This includes mor - Leste can prioritize long-term sustainability, promoting agroecological systems, reducing the both environmentally and economically. This inenvironmental footprint, and ensuring that farmers cludes promoting agroecological systems, reducing benefit from more stable and equitable incomes. , the environmental footprint, and ensuring that it's important to understand how the country's farmers benefit from more stable and equitable inunique coffee heritage can be leveraged for sustain- comes. Timor- Leste Leste's coffee sector could able development. Here is a potential outline of the benefit from stronger collaboration between govnovelty that could be discussed within the pro- ernment institutions, local communities, internaposal: a).1. The approach of patrimonial econom- tional organizations, and coffee roasters. These ics, rooted in the understanding of local heritage partnerships can facilitate capacity building, access and resources, focuses on using traditional to markets, and investment in sustainable farming knowledge and the socio-cultural heritage of coffee practices. Integrating the local knowledge of coffee production as a foundation for economic develop- cultivation and the community's understanding of

ment. Coffee in Timor - Leste is not only an eco- land management into the national agricultural pol-

while respecting the cultural practices that have both physically and financially, are the major detergust 15, 2024. (Nanda Sabrina at al, 2023; Maia J., novation technologic, financial support base strate-2022).

Conclusion: This study shows that the farmers who nomically attractive to large coffee trading compaproducers to large scale coffee farmers, and repre- coffee varieties and adoption of improved agriculdenotes that the F1 hybrids have the potential to promoted the first generation of Coffea arabi-The results from the farmers' survey are in line and diseases and able to grow under shade, Nureia, with the conclusions from the recent agronomic Turreia,2022. performance study of Marie et al. (Hendry, 2024).

The agricultural sector, including coffee plants, is These observations serve to point directions for fugreatly affected by climate change or uncertain cli- ture research coffee development in Timor Let's to mate crises. The climate crisis causes extreme chain family economic household in the future. The weather, unpredictable rainfall, landslides, pro- quantity of coffee production is decreasing, the longed heat and other weather conditions that can quality of coffee can also decrease due to prolonged make it difficult for farmers to determine the plant- dry months of more than 3 months (Willson, 1985). ing and harvesting seasons for their crops. So, what The increase in the intensity of climate variability are the concerns and steps of coffee farmers in deal- (such as El Nino and La Nina) due to climate ing with these extreme conditions to coffee plant on change can cause prolonged dry months to occur tropical area. Farmers adopt the F1 hybrid varieties more often and the intensity of rainfall is not evenly because they offer higher and more stable yields, distributed throughout the year, but the sustainable fruiting precocity, uniform maturation, better plant development program adaptations in new model growth, satisfactory management and excellent cup and actually condition cited by (Gomes LM., et al, quality, as well as fewer risks than other coffee va- 2023; Tilman CB & Maia J., 2025), official channel rieties, as they are more resistant to P&Ds, which https://www.ajmcrr.com makes them a safer investment than traditional vari-

icies could enhance productivity and sustainability eties. Nevertheless, having access to the plantlets, been passed down through generations. World Cof- minants for adoption. Farmers who have adopted fee Research projects a robusta coffee shortage of them are willing to continue growing them despite up to 35 million bags by 2040. Declining productiv- the costs of the plantlets because of the rapid inity and increasing demand worsen the global coffee vestment return perspective to Timor Leste coffee market. "Climate change with unpredictable weath- sectors development by Institutional harassment er, such as rain when coffee is flowering, greatly develop base on potential sectors to contribute Nareduces productivity per hectare," said the Director tional economic develop. Providing easy to follow of Minister transportation and trad, Prayudi quoted guidelines for farmers to make farm assessments from Zona Business, on Metro TV, Thursday, Au- and select the most suited varieties cultivation, ingic plan. This would increase the independence of smallholder coffee producers, who may not be ecohave adopted the F1 hybrids range from micro- nies, In the light of a changing climate, resilient sentative large latitudinal and altitudinal area. This tural practices are need by Agronomic studies have adapt to different environments and farmer types. ca hybrid cultivars (F1 hybrids) as resistant to pest

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