



🏠 Locality: Poço Fundo-MG  
📅 Data: 19/03/2024  
👤 Coffee Farmer: PAULO JOSÉ ALVES

## CÓRREGO DO OURO PETITE ESTATE

### VISIT REPORT

Poço Fundo is a Brazilian municipality in the state of Minas Gerais, located in the microregion of Poços de Caldas. It covers an area of 475 km<sup>2</sup> with an average altitude of 1039 meters. The terrain is predominantly mountainous, with a mild climate throughout the year. Its coffee plantation spans 10,540 hectares with an average production of 210 thousand bags annually. Poço Fundo has a mountainous coffee farming tradition, benefiting from its altitude and slope.

The property is managed by the couple Paulo and Paula, with Paulo overseeing the cultivation and Paula managing the coffee processing during harvest season. The coffee-producing area spans 6 hectares, divided across 3 different properties, with Córrego do Ouro being the main one. The farmer mentioned that the choice of distant areas is to minimize climatic risks, such as hailstorms, which often occur in specific regions.



The coffee crops are situated between 1000 and 1200 meters in altitude, and the adopted management technique is zero harvest, optimizing manual harvesting and ensuring a higher productivity rate, currently above 30 bags per hectare. In addition to being a coffee grower, Paulo is also a beekeeper, providing a second source of income for the family.

During our visit to the crops, we observed that they display good health and adequate nutrition. The farmer conducts annual leaf and soil analysis, controls weeds through mechanized mowing, and occasionally uses chemical herbicides. Organic fertilizers are supplied by returning coffee husks to the soil. The coffee growers receive assistance from various professionals, with Livia from the Cooxupé Generations Project overseeing sustainability, and Felipe from SMC focusing on quality and post-harvest aspects.

During the renewal of their crops, they opt for cultivars that enhance beverage quality, productivity, and disease resistance/tolerance. This optimizes land and resource use, reducing the need for chemical inputs and minimizing environmental impact.



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In conclusion, while many aspects of sustainability are being met, ongoing attention and adaptation to the changing technical, environmental, and social aspects of agriculture in our country are needed. Below are some key points and actions to be considered:

### 1. ENVIRONMENTAL PILLAR

- **Forest Reserve and PPAs:** Although Brazilian Forest Code exempts properties below 4 fiscal modules from having registered forest reserves, it's important for coffee growers to understand the importance of preservation. We recommend avoiding new coffee areas on hilltops and APPs, and considering transforming currently exploited or future areas into forest reserves. It's also crucial to protect water sources by planting more trees near water infiltration areas and fencing to prevent entry of people and animals.
- **Planting on contour lines:** Some crops are planted downhill, so we recommend planting respecting contour lines in future renewals, the most basic measure for soil conservation.
- **Windbreaks:** Despite having nearby trees, it's advisable to include windbreak planting during coffee crop renewals. This measure reduces the impact of wind on coffee plant leaves, hail damage, fungal diseases, and increases revenue through intercropping with avocados and bananas, which serve as excellent windbreaks.
- **Use of organomineral fertilizers:** Despite returning coffee husks to the soil, we recommend adopting organomineral fertilizers for greater agricultural sustainability, reducing chemical fertilizer use by up to 30%. They also contribute to carbon replenishment, improving soil fertility and beneficial microorganism presence over the years.
- **Use of biological products:** Increasing use of biological products like bioinsecticides, bionematicides, and phosphorus solubilizers contributes to agricultural system balance and preserves beneficial insects and bees, which are threatened in various regions.
- **Pesticide storage:** Expand or build a new storage facility, ensuring space compatible with the maximum volume of products to be stored and allowing personnel circulation. Install a ventilation system to renew internal air according to legal requirements, ensure good lighting for easy reading of labels, and install an emergency shower and eye wash near the pesticide storage area for easy access by operators, ensuring no splashes reach the stock. Pesticide containers should be stored at least 50 cm away from walls, solid products placed above liquid/pasty ones, and enough equipment and materials on-site to handle spills. Improper products (expired, banned, damaged packaging, etc.) should be stored separately and returned to manufacturers with appropriate notification to the competent authority.



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- **Waste separation:** Proper waste separation is crucial for environmental preservation, avoiding recyclable materials ending up in landfills. We recommend starting with organic and dry waste separation, then implementing separation by material type.

### 2. SOCIAL PILLAR

- **Sanitary and Comfort Conditions in Rural Work:** Despite the property's small size and proximity of crops to the headquarters, it's essential to provide easily accessible structures for employees, supplying potable water for meals, rest, and personal hygiene (bathrooms). These areas are crucial for the well-being and comfort of workers.

Below are some images from our visit.

### Soil and Nutrient Management







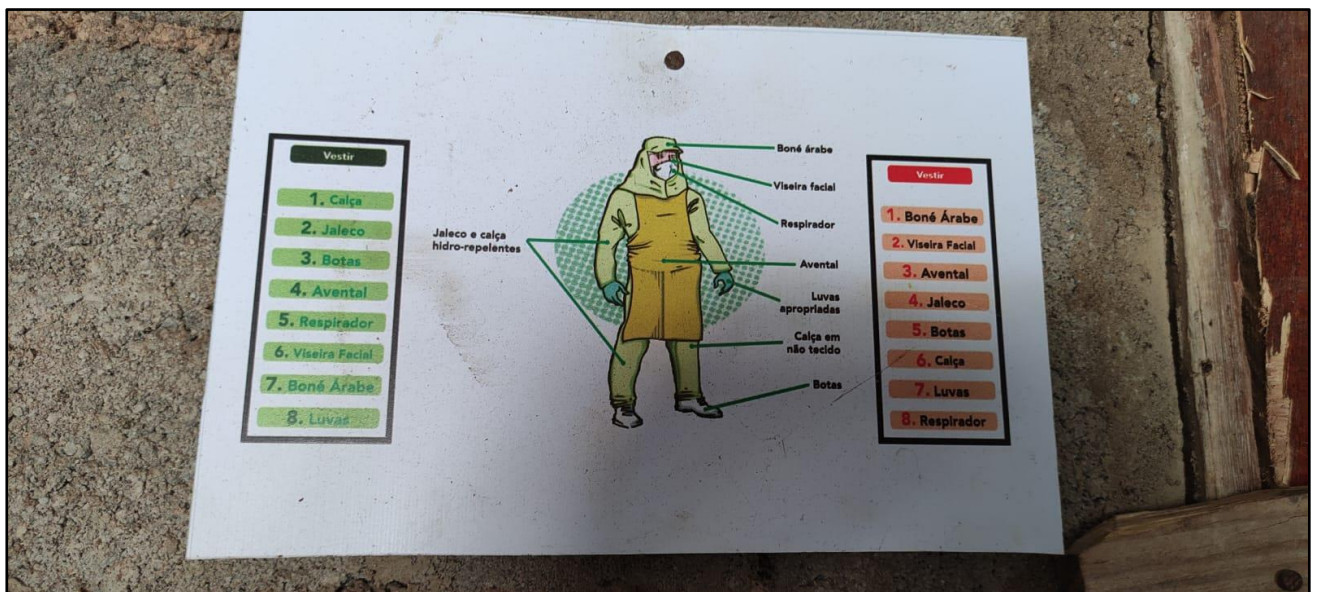
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## Crop Protection



## Agrochemicals







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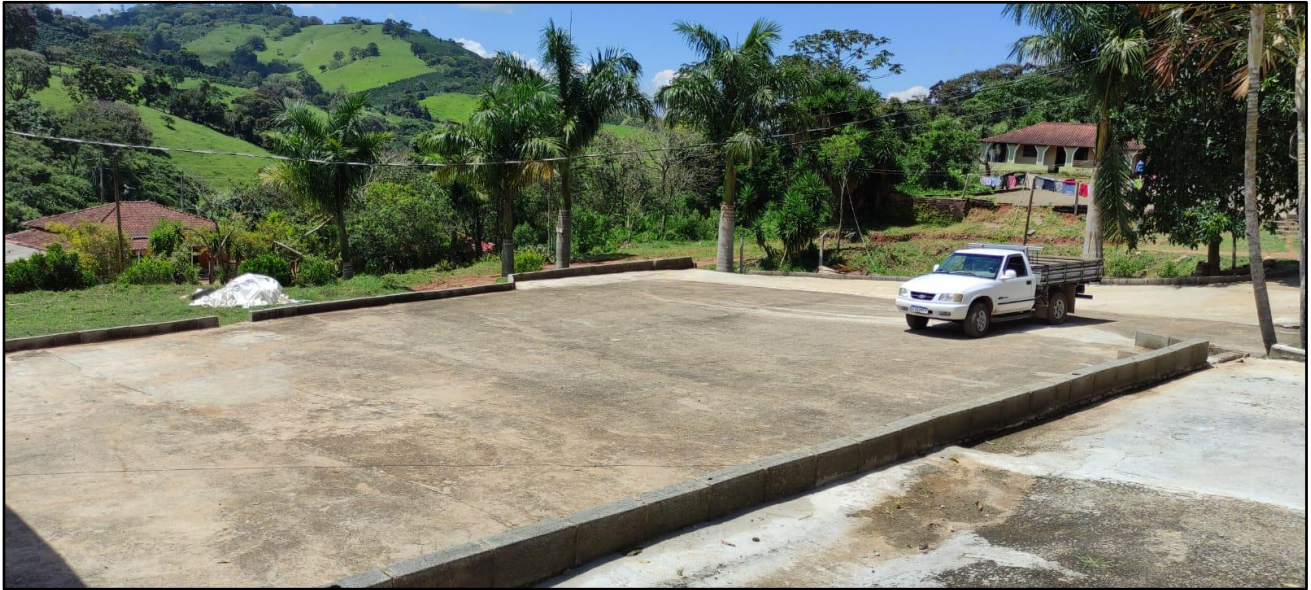




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## Coffee Processing Area





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Other photos from the visit







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