

 **Locality:** São Gonçalo do Sapucaí  
 **Data:** 20/03/2024  
 **Coffee farmer:** Augusto Cesar Monteiro (Flavia)

# Fortaleza Estate

## VISIT REPORT

São Gonçalo do Sapucaí is a Brazilian municipality in the interior of the state of Minas Gerais, located in the Mantiqueira Geographic Region, in the southern part of Minas. It covers a total area of 516 km<sup>2</sup>, with an average altitude of 1031 meters. The terrain is mainly undulating to mountainous, with a mild climate practically all year round. Its coffee plantation spans 8000 hectares, standing out for the production of specialty coffees. The average annual production in the municipality is 243,000 bags, highlighting the region, with an average productivity of 30-32 bags/hectare.

The property is managed by the couple Augusto and Flávia, and it has 45 hectares planted with coffee, all in production. The property originally belonged to Mr. Divaldi Betoni, Flávia's father, who previously owned properties in the state of São Paulo, more precisely in the municipality of Fernandópolis, but decided to migrate to the southern part of Minas due to the milder climate and suitability for coffee cultivation. Augusto used to work in the steel industry, and Flávia was involved in positions of trust with politicians, but they decided to return and manage the farm.




In terms of technical aspects, the plantations exhibit good health and adequate nutrition. The producer regularly conducts leaf and soil analysis on the farm. Weed control is done using chemical herbicides and tractor mowing. As part of modern soil conservation practices between rows, we can recommend the use of a mix of seeds from non-commercial plants that are beneficial for nutrient recycling, soil protection, increased green mass, and attraction and protection of natural pest enemies.

The producers do not yet use biological products, so it is important to remember that the use of biological products in agriculture contributes to the balance of agricultural systems and promotes, for example, the preservation of insects of interest such as natural enemies of pests and bees – currently threatened in various regions of the planet.

Another point is to start replacing chemical fertilizers with organomineral fertilizers. The use of organomineral fertilizers provides greater sustainability to agricultural production by reducing the use of chemical fertilizers by up to 30%. Additionally, they contribute to carbon replenishment in the soil, with cumulative effects over the years, improving fertility levels and the presence of beneficial microorganisms.

The producers reported that they have been renewing their plantations, opting for more productive and disease-resistant cultivars, an action that optimizes the use of area and resources, reduces the use of chemical inputs, and brings greater profitability to the same area, minimizing



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the need to open new areas that could be directed towards the conservation of fauna, flora, water, and soil. The farm also uses windbreaks through continuous tree lines.

There is an extensive area of permanent preservation (APPs) and legal reserve demarcated, a preserved area that is well above the minimum required by our legislation. There is also concern for the conservation of hilltops and springs, setting a great example to be followed.

In conclusion, among the various attributes required in the sustainability report, we can consider it very satisfactory, but it is always necessary to pay attention and adapt to the constant changes in the technical, environmental, and social aspects of agriculture in our country.

Below are some images that illustrate our visit and the attributes addressed.



The farm has a concrete patio, which contributes to a better quality of coffee during post-harvest.



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Detail of one of the plots: focus on the line of trees serving as windbreaks in the plantation.

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