**Locality:** Santana de Caldas (Caldas-MG)
**Data:** 12/03/2024
**Coffee farmer:** EDIR JOSÉ DE CARVALHO

# PORTELA
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## VISIT REPORT

Caldas is a Brazilian municipality located in the interior of the state of Minas Gerais, situated in the Immediate Geographic Region of Poços de Caldas, in the Southern part of Minas. It spans a total area of 712 km2, with an average altitude of 1270 meters. The terrain is predominantly hilly to mountainous, with a mild climate almost throughout the year. Its coffee plantation, covering 1311 hectares, has significantly evolved over the past 8 years, primarily known for family-owned producers and the production of specialty coffees.


Mr. Edir and his family own a property in the locality of Santana de Caldas, covering 3.63 hectares, with 3 hectares already in production. Mr. Edir, who was previously a sharecropper in the municipality of Cabo Verde, acquired the property in 2004, planting his first crop in 2005. Today, his son Thales works with him on the farm, engaging in a process of family agriculture and succession in estate management. Their average productivity is currently 23-24 sacks per hectare, which is close to the regional average, although it was higher in the past. However, previous droughts and frosts have reduced crop yields.

Coffee farmers receive guidance from various professionals. Technical support is provided by Acácio from Cooxupé, management assistance is offered through the ATeG project by SENAR MG, sustainability initiatives are supported by Livia from Cooxupé's Gerações Project, and quality and post-harvest management are overseen by Felipe from SMC. The proximity and presence of Cooxupé on the property are significant, as they reportedly sell 100% of their production to the cooperative, either through the common platform or through SMC (dedicated exclusively to specialty coffees). The production of specialty coffees has been instrumental in sustaining the family's activity, as the higher remuneration allows for greater profitability on the same area with lower production. This has also motivated Thales to seek additional knowledge, and he is currently enrolled in an MBA offered by Cooxupé, a course exclusively available to cooperative members.

In terms of technical aspects, the plantations exhibit good health and adequate nutrition. The producer conducts annual foliar and soil analyses, and weed control is done through chemical herbicides and manual mowing. Among modern soil conservation practices, the use of a seed mix

of non-commercial plants beneficial for nutrient recycling, soil protection, increased green mass, and attraction and protection of natural enemies of pests is recommended between rows.

Currently, the producer does not yet use biological products, which could contribute to a more sustainable management approach. Biological insecticides are recommended for leaf use, and biological nematicides and fungicides for soil use. The use of biological products in agriculture contributes to the balance of agricultural systems and facilitates, for example, the preservation of insects of interest such as natural enemies of pests and bees - currently threatened in various regions of the planet.

Regarding organic fertilizers, coffee husks are returned to the plantation, and it would be important to start replacing chemical fertilizers with organominerals. The use of organomineral fertilizers enhances agricultural sustainability by reducing chemical fertilizer usage by up to 30%. Additionally, they contribute to carbon replenishment in the soil, with a cumulative effect over the years, improving fertility levels and the presence of beneficial microorganisms.

The producer also mentioned that as they renew their plantations, they opt for more productive and disease-resistant cultivars, optimizing land and resource use. This reduces the need for chemical inputs, increasing profitability on the same area and minimizing the necessity for opening new areas, which can instead be directed towards fauna, flora, water, and soil conservation.

There are no permanently protected areas (PPAs) designated due to the property being below 4 fiscal modules, which is the minimum area required for conservation. However, the family is concerned with conserving hilltops and water sources.

In conclusion, among the various attributes required in the sustainability report, a significant portion is satisfactorily addressed, although constant attention and adaptation to the ever-changing technical, environmental, and social aspects of agriculture in our country are necessary.

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

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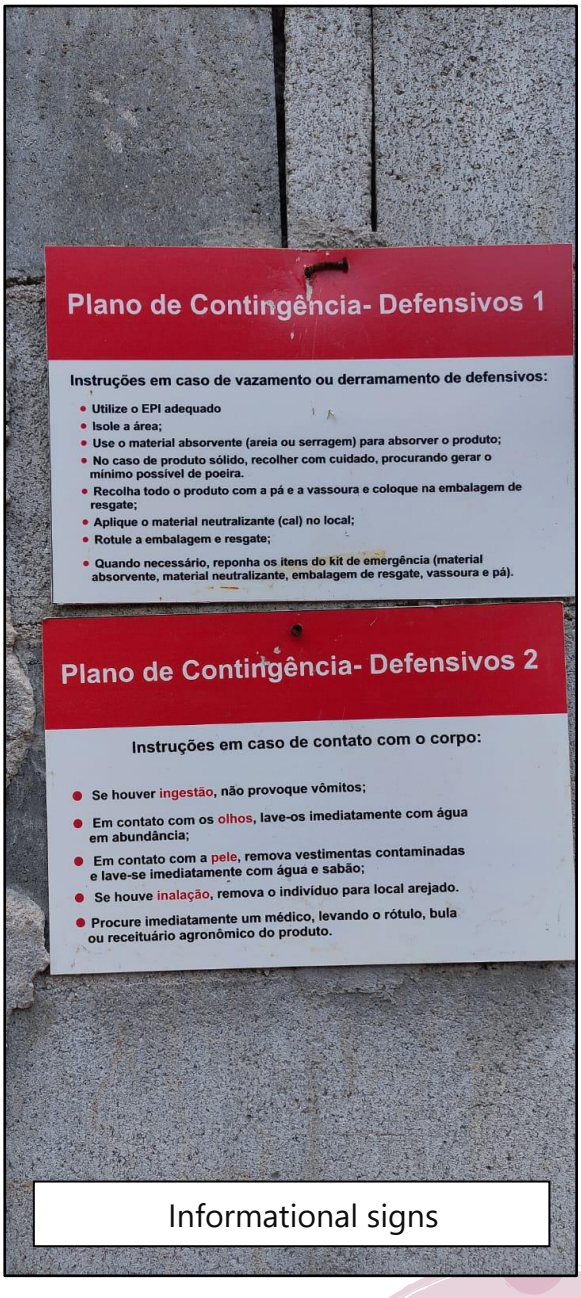
Totem with multiple informational signs.




Informational signs

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Pesticide storage facility


Coffee drying patio

Informational signs

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Coffee drying patio


Coffee drying patio

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