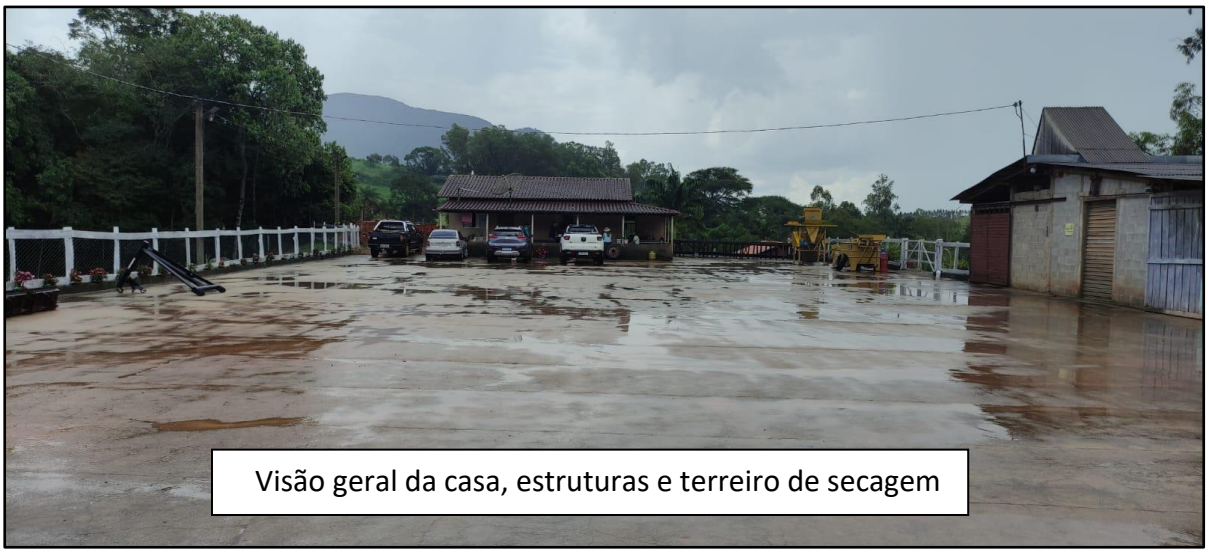
Locality: Poços de Caldas -MG
Data: 19/03/2024
Coffee farmer: ELIANDRO ZANETI

SERRA PETITE ESTATE

VISIT REPORT

Poços de Caldas is a Brazilian municipality located in the southern region of Minas Gerais. It covers a total area of 547.059 km², with an average altitude of 1244 meters. Characterized by predominantly mountainous terrain, the region enjoys a mild climate throughout the year. Its coffee plantations, spanning approximately 3,600 hectares, are particularly renowned to produce specialty coffees.

Mr. Eliandro's properties are situated in close proximity to each other, with the largest area lying at an altitude of approximately 1360 meters. Currently, he manages around 20 hectares of coffee, 18 of which are leased, with the remaining 2 hectares being his own. The predominant cultivars used are Catuaí and Bourbon. However, the average productivity of the plantations has significantly declined due to a frost incident three years ago, from which they have not fully recovered.



Visão geral da casa, estruturas e terreiro de secagem

With nearly 30 years of experience in coffee cultivation, Mr. Eliandro now relies on the assistance of daily workers, including his wife Estefania, who aids in decision-making and coffee processing during the harvest season. They receive guidance from various professionals: Gabriel from Cooxupé for technical matters, Charles from SENAR MG's ATeG project for management, Julia from Cooxupé's Gerações Project for sustainability, and Felipe from SMC for quality and post-harvest management.

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During our visit to the plantations, we observed that they exhibit good health and nutrition. The producer conducts frequent foliar and soil analyses, with weed control managed through herbicides and mechanical mowing.

Currently, the producer does not utilize biological products on their plantations. However, integrating such products into agriculture can contribute to the balance of agricultural ecosystems, preserving beneficial insects and bees, which are currently threatened in various regions worldwide.

Organic fertilizers, including coffee husks returned to the fields, are employed. Additionally, the producer has previously used organomineral fertilizers, which enhance agricultural sustainability by reducing chemical fertilizer usage by up to 30% and promoting carbon replenishment in the soil, thereby improving fertility levels and the presence of beneficial microorganisms.

In both the establishment and renewal of their plantations, they have opted for cultivars that are more productive and disease-resistant, optimizing resource utilization and minimizing the need for chemical inputs, thus enhancing profitability and conserving natural resources.

In pursuit of higher quality, the producer has acquired equipment such as a washer/separator, a peeler/pulper, and a coffee dryer, aiming to optimize post-harvest processes and, ultimately, improve coffee quality.

While there are no legally designated permanent preservation areas (APPs) or legal reserves on the property, there is a commitment to conserving hilltops and water sources.

In conclusion, while many sustainability criteria are being met, ongoing attention and adaptation to evolving technical, environmental, and social aspects of agriculture are essential.

Below are some images from our visit showcasing the addressed attributes.

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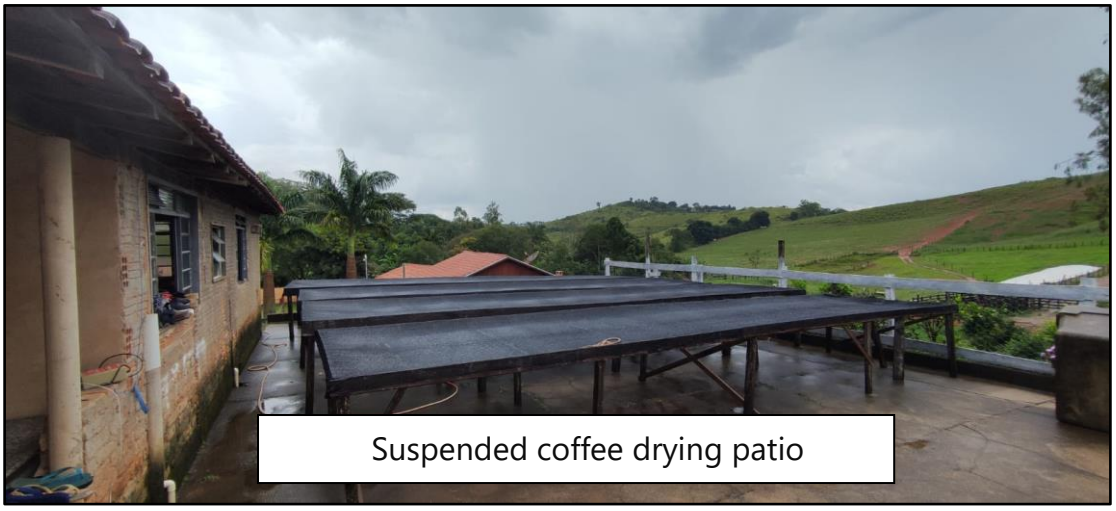
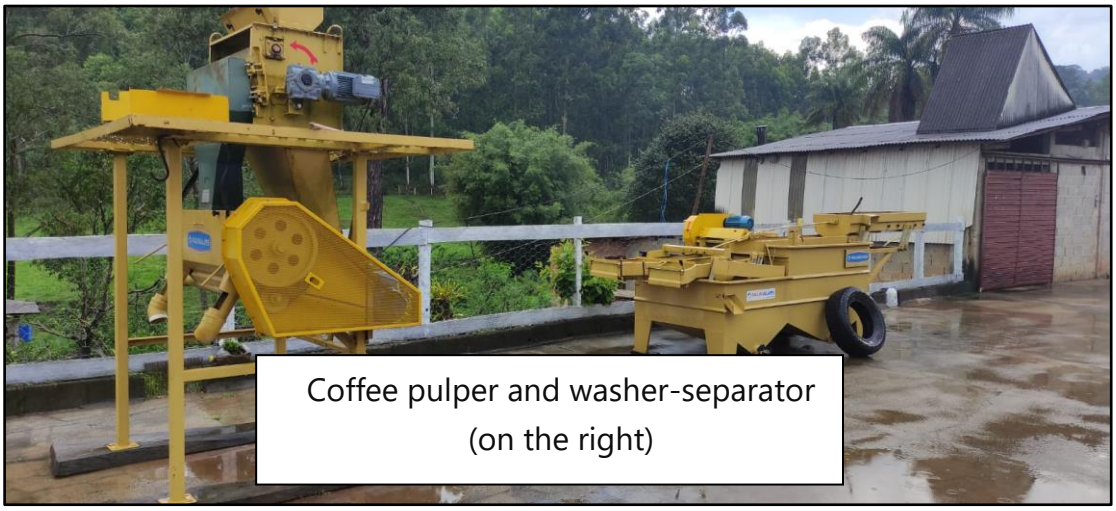
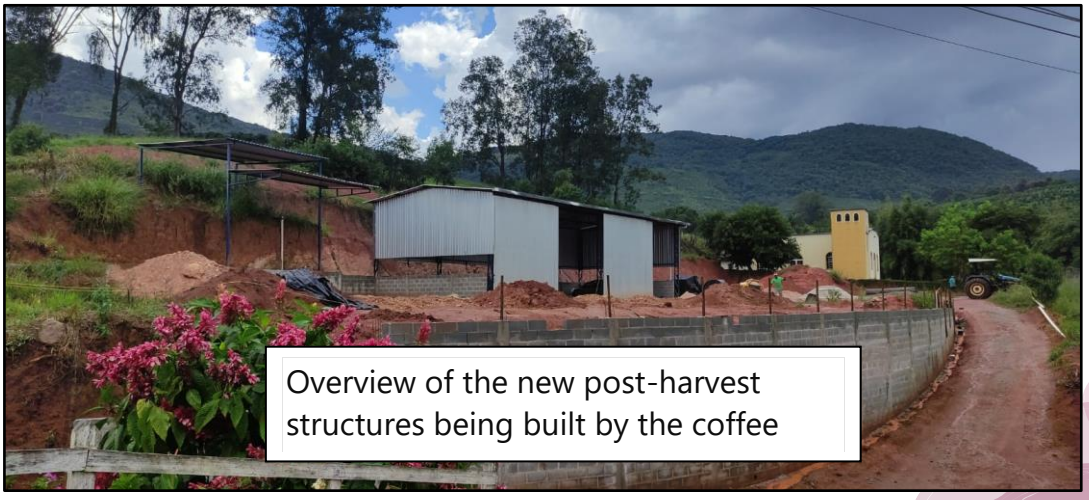


Suspended coffee drying patio



Coffee pulper and washer-separator (on the right)



Overview of the new post-harvest structures being built by the coffee

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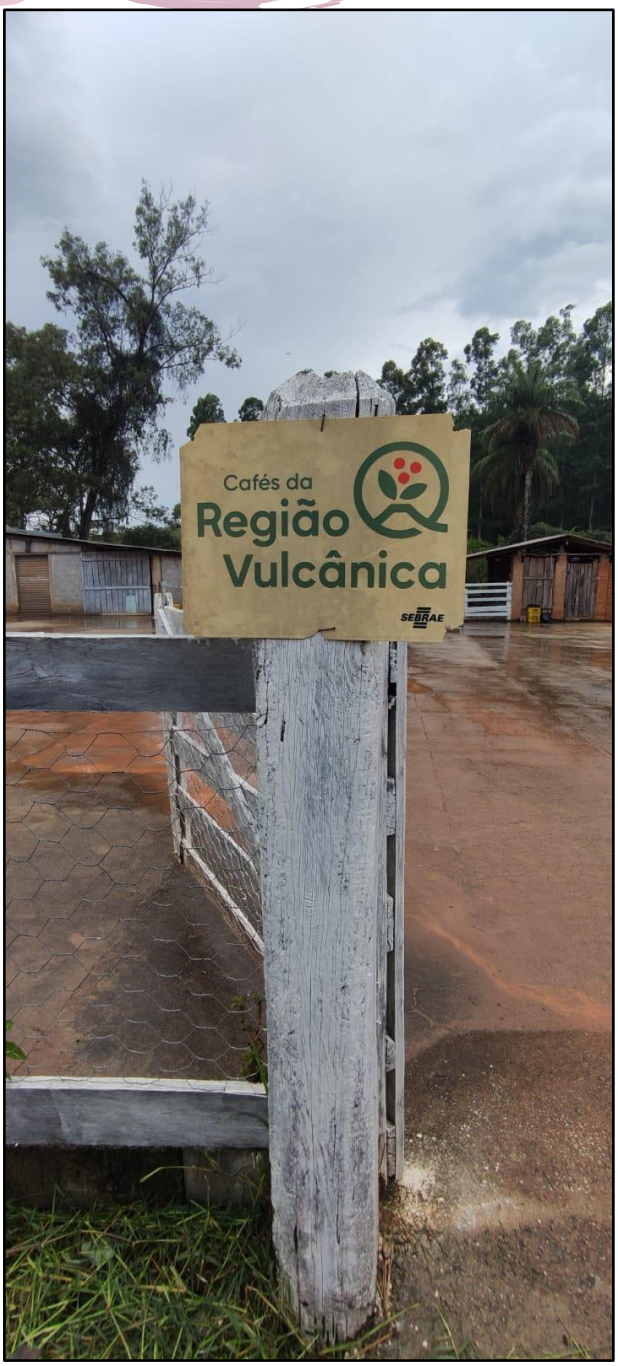

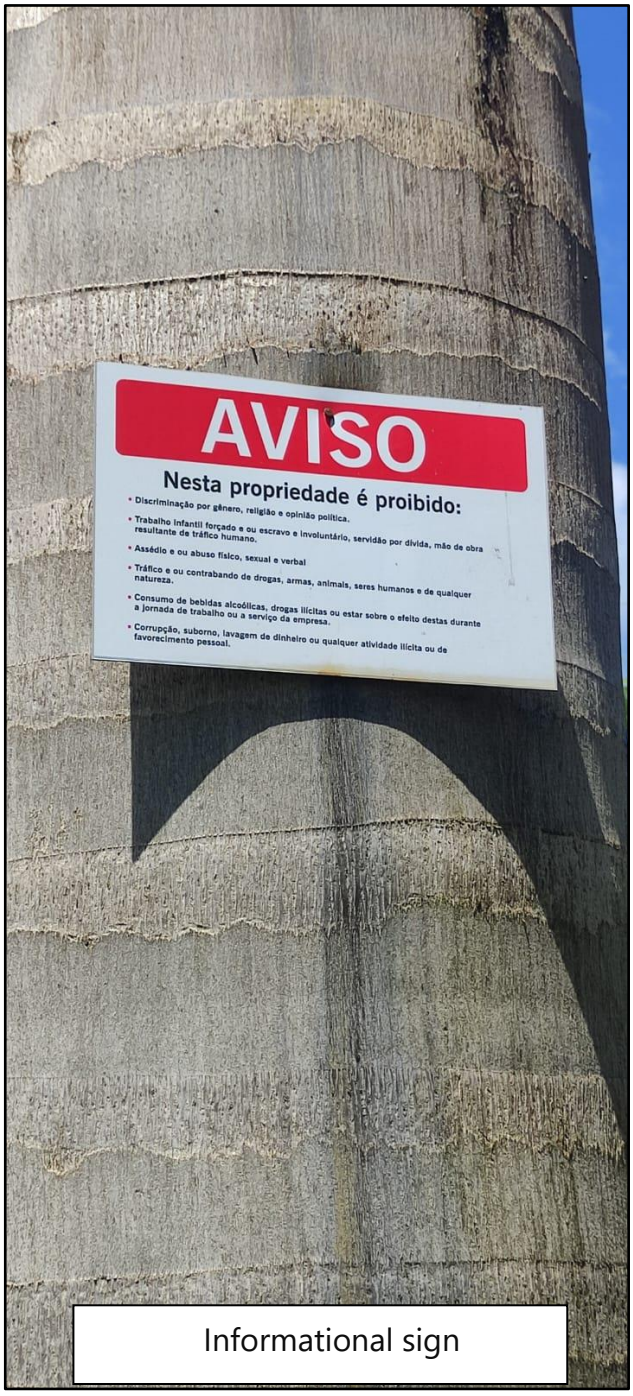

Informational sign

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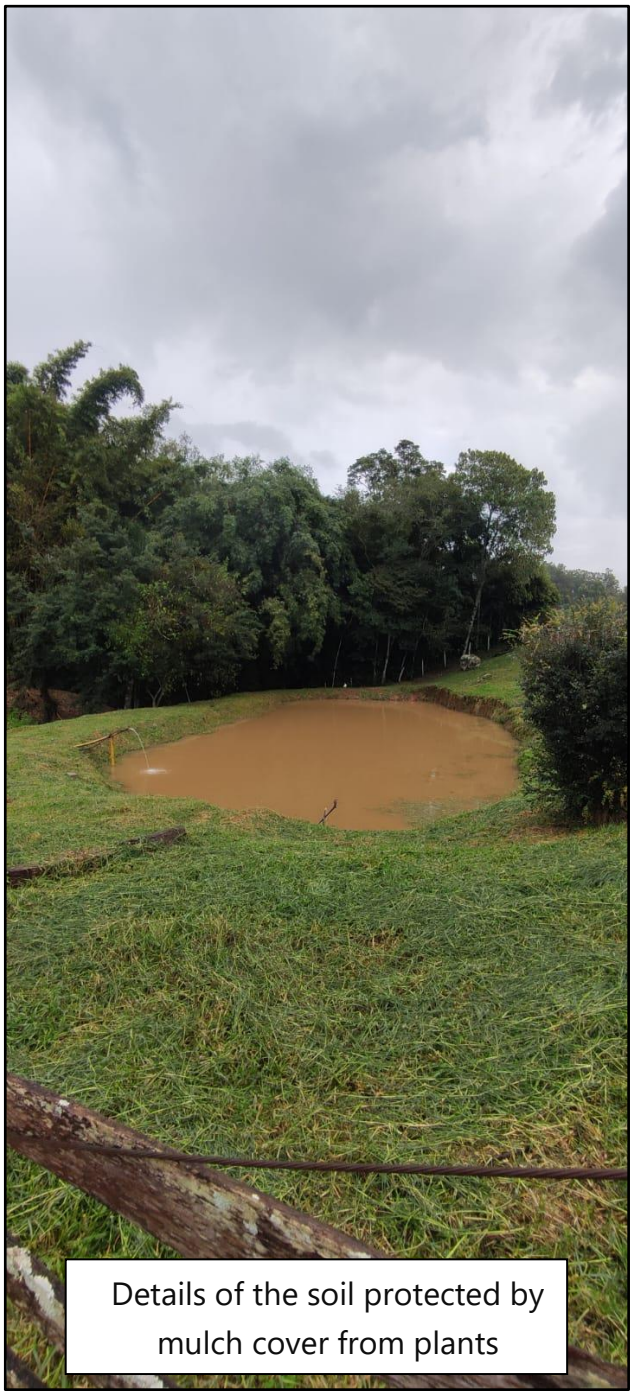
Pesticide storage facility.



Details of the soil protected by mulch cover from plants

Flávio Meneses Soares
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CREA: 14946D