



## MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

World Coffee Research (WCR) works with roasters, suppliers, research institutions, and organizations across the coffee value chain to grow, protect, and enhance supplies of quality coffee while improving the livelihoods of the families who produce it. WCR works towards this goal by:

- Working collaboratively with WCR member companies and with other industry stakeholders, including national coffee institutes in producing countries, and research partners from advanced research institutes across the globe;
- Mobilizing investment for coffee agricultural research, particularly for producing-country researchers, to strengthen the development of a pipeline of innovations - knowledge and technologies - that contribute to reducing farmer risk, ensuring stable supplies of quality coffee and increasing the economic, social and environmental sustainability of coffee production;
- Strengthening capacity of coffee researchers at origin and serving as a bridge between the industry and coffee research in producing countries to advance a shared research agenda through partnership and support; and
- Solving problems that matter and ensuring the availability and accessibility of relevant agricultural innovations for coffee farmers and the industry.

### Qualifications for Membership

Membership is open to any company whose business depends on or involves coffee, whose beliefs are consistent with WCR's mission, and who shares the same ethical standards of practice and commitment to the long-term sustainability of the coffee sector, its people, and communities (i.e. commitment to [the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact](#) for corporate sustainability). If a company meets these qualifications, membership is effective upon receipt of the application form. Other companies or individuals may contribute funds to WCR; however, they will be considered supporters, as membership is based on alignment with the categories and levels of the membership fee structure.

### Subscription and Application of Funding

Members shall pay an annual fee, as determined by the WCR Membership Fee Structure, found [here](#)<sup>1</sup>. WCR will invoice members during the month(s) identified in the application form. Applications can be reviewed for eligibility and affirmed by the board of directors at their convenience. In the rare event a membership is not approved/renewed, applicants may address the outstanding questions of eligibility with the board of directors and will receive a full refund of their dues if they remain ineligible.

### Period of Membership

Membership is on a calendar year basis. A member may choose to end their membership by notifying WCR at least sixty (60) days in advance of their renewal date. After membership dues have been paid for a calendar year, membership status and benefits remain active until the close of the year. At the end of the year, the departing member must cease communications about membership status, including usage of the WCR logo.

### Member Benefits

WCR member benefits are available upon receipt of the application form and found [here](#).

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<sup>1</sup> During the implementation phase (2022-2023), this amount may be adjusted as necessary by notifying WCR.

### **Tax Information**

WCR is an organization exempt from income tax under Section 501(c)(5) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. As such, contributions to WCR by members of the coffee industry are not deductible as tax-exempt charitable contributions according to the U.S. IRS tax code, but may be deductible as business expenses under applicable U.S. federal and state tax law. Please be advised, however, that for 2022, two percent (2%) of your membership dues are not tax-deductible as business expenses due to WCR's lobbying activities on your behalf. Each member should consult with its tax adviser as to the appropriate treatment of WCR's annual membership dues.

### **Use of Trademarks and Logos**

Each member provides WCR with a limited, revocable license during the term of its membership to use a member's name and logo to indicate that the organization is a funder of WCR; otherwise, WCR agrees to obtain advance approval from the member for any other use of its name or logo (or any other intellectual property). WCR provides each member with a limited, revocable license during the term of membership to use WCR's name and logo to indicate that it is a funder of WCR; otherwise, the member agrees to obtain advance approval from WCR for any other use of WCR's name or logo (or any other WCR intellectual property).

### **Research Independence and Mission**

WCR's large global membership provides financial strength and diverse perspectives. Our members, contributors and funders provide the resources that allow WCR to deliver research and development activities necessary to fulfill our mission and find solutions for existing and emergent challenges in coffee agriculture. To ensure the greatest return on investment in alignment with our mission and strategy, WCR maintains a position of independence when reviewing proposals, selecting scientific advisors, awarding funding for research projects, implementing programs, producing publications, and creating resources for coffee producers, nurseries and growers or any other work within the scope of WCR's mission. WCR and its board of directors may decide not to accept restricted funds or implement activities that would contribute to mission or strategy drift or create a legal liability for WCR.

WCR is committed to transparency and makes the findings of our research and activities available through peer-reviewed scientific publications, presentations at scientific conferences and coffee trade association events, our website, and various media channels.

### **Other Disclosures**

WCR is registered as a lobbying organization under the United States Lobbying Disclosure Act.

As WCR strives to ensure the relevance of our work to the broader industry, we engage with members in activities and collaborations in the course of our work, such as member company participation in cupping candidate coffee varieties. These partnerships and collaborations are fully disclosed in our annual report and/or the website.

### **Useful Contacts**

Address: 10940 SW Barnes Road #334, Portland, OR 97225, USA Website: [www.worldcoffeeresearch.org](http://www.worldcoffeeresearch.org)  
Contact Person: Alexa Heinicke, Corporate Partnership Manager, [alexa@worldcoffeeresearch.org](mailto:alexa@worldcoffeeresearch.org)

*The above are the standard terms for membership with World Coffee Research, as set forth in July 2021. These standard terms, which members agree to abide by, may be updated from time to time in the discretion of WCR; any such updates will be posted to WCR's website. Revised version published February 25, 2022.*