

IRSA - CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DE SOCIOLOGIA RURAL (01/10/2025 A 20/01/2026) - IRSA 07 - THE GOVERNANCE OF LOCAL PRODUCTIVE SYSTEMS AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT: ANALYSIS AND CASE STUDIES

**INDICACIONES GEOGRÁFICAS, GOBERNANZA Y DIVERSIDAD
SENSORIAL: UNA PERSPECTIVA COLABORATIVA DESDE EL SECTOR
CAFETALERO DE COSTA RICA**

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This study examines how geographical indications (GIs) and designations of origin (DOs) can strengthen collaborative governance, territorial cohesion, and a more equitable distribution of value within Latin American agri food systems. The Costa Rican coffee sector is presented as a case study to analyze the evolution of territorial differentiation, including the country's first DO developed from a preexisting GI—an institutional innovation that integrates quality, traceability, and territorial identity.

The objective is to understand how signs of origin can support inclusive development and promote community participation. The research adopts a qualitative and comparative approach, drawing on document analysis, institutional review, and a regional perspective on Latin American regulatory frameworks. It considers the effects of the reorganization of productive zones,

the overvaluation of highly specialized lands, and the importance of safeguarding diverse sensory profiles, as in the case of Costa Rican coffee, which historically comprised eight regions and today consists of seven. The Central Valley's "Finca El Hatillo" stands out: in 1893, it received a gold medal, a recognition that highlighted the superior quality of its coffee and positioned Costa Rica on the international coffee map.

The analysis shows that Latin American countries operate under heterogeneous legal frameworks, generating opportunities for innovation, socioeconomic development, and identity building, which makes regional cooperation particularly valuable. In contrast, the European experience presents a harmonized legal architecture with shared technical and quality criteria, strengthening a complementary and constructive governance approach.

The conclusions indicate that signs of origin can act as bridges between communities, institutions, and markets when participatory mechanisms and sustained dialogue are in place. Without these foundations, there is a risk of reducing sensory variability and limiting truly inclusive progress, as illustrated by the current configuration of seven coffee regions.

Palabras-chave: gobernanza; signos de calidad; diversidad sensorial; café; desarrollo territorial.