

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH FAIR TRADE



COSTA RICA

COOCAFE affiliates nine cooperatives across Costa Rica, and is the only fair trade exporter in the country. COOCAFE co-ops include the most marginalized producers who have the least access to infrastructure and healthcare programs.

Cooperatives affiliated with COOCAFE share the aim of practicing efficient technology. The fair trade premium is used to support various social funds including an Agricultural Workers Fund for credit, and an Education Fund for the children of coffee growers.

COOCAFE also sells a brand of roast coffee, Café Forestal. Proceeds are used for forest conservation, improvement of biodiversity, and research and education regarding sustainable coffee production and processing methods.

COOPETILA, one of COOCAFE's affiliates, exports macadamia nuts as well as coffee. At their processing plant macadamia shells are used to fuel the coffee dryer to avoid cutting trees for firewood. COOPETILA has a forest protection program in which members are paid \$40 U.S. annually for the conservation of each hectare of primary forest on their land.



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Another member, COOPELDOS, is the first coffee processing plant to be certified with ISO 9002, the international standards for quality. In accordance with ISO standards, the COOPELDOS processing plant must reduce water use and clean the water used, and aim for energy efficiency.

The co-op has installed new dry processing machines to replace the traditional fermenting tanks which cause heavy water pollution. COOPELDOS offers organic coffee from its model organic farm.

Text and photos Bronwen Gillespie
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