Community Development Internships – Health and Safety with CRACYP for Progreso Verde ("Green Progress")

2012

Introduction

This document should be read in conjunction with the Internship Information Pack available at www.progresoverde.org/internship.html

CRACYP developed and mentors the community business CADO, an organic sugarcane farmers' cooperative, since 2000. CADO farmers produce organic, fairly-traded aguardiente (cane alcohol) for export to companies such as The Body Shop and Dr. Bronner's Soaps for use in cosmetic products and perfumes. CADO's farmers in their cane cultivation and production process differ markedly from their non-organic, free-trade counterparts in the region, as does and CADO in its buying and export practices. CADO has recently received a Fair Trade certification from IMO Fair for Life, with notes of a few areas for improvement over the next year. CADO's existing producer families with organic certification are now making the last few improvements, while new members and those still in transition to organic production are just starting the process of conforming their farms and distilleries to IMO's health and safety standards.

Objectives

We need interns who have studied health and safety training and/or community development to assist CADO's farmers in conforming to IMO's health and safety requirements, such as best practices for worker safety or the installation of safety equipment on trapiches (sugarcane mills) or distilleries. This may include, but is not limited to, the development and piloting of training programs through community workshops and farm visits, and by working with the central CADO office to create a training manual for future use.

Location

You will be based in the picturesque little village of Jilimbí in Bolívar Province, close to the border with Cotopaxi Province. The nearest town you might find on a map is Moraspungo, about an hour's journey up into the mountains from the main road between Quevedo and Ventanas. You will work in various communities with CADO members near the border between the Bolivar and Cotopaxi provinces.

Requirements

Health and safety interns will need to either be fairly independent or else have access to advice by email from their university or other sources (e.g. former employer, community development organization, etc.), if needed. CRACYP's Volunteer Coordinator has some experience with health and safety training, and she will be available for support such as translation if needed. Spanish language skills are essential. Interns should also be fit enough to walk between communities as local transport is limited or non-existent in much of the area.

This post could also be available as a volunteer opportunity rather than an internship, for those not requiring to use the experience as part of their studies – download the Volunteer Information Pack from www.progresoverde.org/volunteer_ecuador.html in this case.

How to Apply

Read the Internship Information Pack or Volunteer Information Pack for details of how to apply.