

Engineering Internships – Water Usage Analysis 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 has helped to develop the community business CADO, an organic sugarcane farmers' cooperative, since 2000. CADO farmers produce organic, Fair Trade aguardiente (cane alcohol) for export to companies such as The Body Shop and Dr. Bronner's Soaps. CADO's farmers in their cultivations and production processes and CADO in its buying and export practices both differ markedly from their non-organic, free-trade counterparts in the region. CRACYP would like to promote the efficient use of all by-products of aguardiente distillation, and one by-product that is not always used efficiently is the milled sugarcane stalks, or *bagaso*.

Objectives

We need engineering interns with appropriate skills and experience to conduct a survey on CADO's water usage. The intern should gather data on the amount of water CADO associates take versus how much goes back to the environment, and any alterations to the quality of the water returning to the environment; if time permits, the intern should also gather data on the water usage of non-organic farmers in the area to contrast their practices with those of CADO associates. The data should be compiled into a report, thorough but accessible to the lay reader, which details the impact on the region's watershed. This information will be used by CADO to monitor and improve water usage, and as a marketing tool for current and future buyers, and by CRACYP in the development and promotion of organic, Fair Trade alcohol production in other locations such as the Galapagos Islands.

Location

You will be based in the picturesque little village of Jilimbi in Bolivar 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 communities with CADO members near the border between the Bolivar and Cotopaxi provinces.

Requirements

Engineering 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, conservation organizations, etc.), if needed. CRACYP's Volunteer Coordinator can help with translation. Spanish language skills would be useful. Interns should also have experience working outdoors in a somewhat physically demanding environment.

How to Apply

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

