

Fair Trade / Business Internships – Cost Analysis with CRACYP for Progreso Verde (“Green Progress”)



2013

Introduction

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

Fair trade is a priority area for CRACYP in its productive projects with communities and consortiums of agricultural producers. We encourage agricultural communities to farm organically and in a socially responsible way, and facilitate organic and fair trade certification to ensure there is an economic incentive for the farmers to care for the environment and the community.

Our organic sugarcane farming cooperative, CADO, markets organic alcohol for use in cosmetics to several cosmetics companies. These companies are interested in CADO because it is a socially responsible, community-run business. CADO also recently received its first fair trade certification and will now be able to market and sell its alcohol at a more favorable price for producers.

Objectives

We need a fair trade intern with business experience to do a cost analysis on the administration and management side of the alcohol business and identify cost savings. The more efficient we can make the business, and the lower we can make the cost of administration, the more competitive the price of the alcohol can be and so the more farmers can benefit as we gain more buyers.

As a business intern, you will shadow the management staff and work with financial records to produce an analysis of costs and processes. You'll need to break the costs down into relevant categories and demonstrate the percentages. You will identify areas for cost reduction and suggest means of achieving this, along with challenging but achievable cost reduction targets.

Your reports should be created in Spanish, so that CADO staff and farmers can have access to the information. You will also need to leave a template so that the analysis can easily be updated to reflect the improvements we hope to make based on your recommendations.

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 may work in or around Jilimbí itself or might need to visit any of several villages or member communities where CADO farms are located.

Requirements

Business interns should be studying or have studied a relevant subject (business, management, finance, etc.) and will need to be fairly independent. Telephone or internet support from your university professor could be useful. Interns will have support from a volunteer coordinator who can help with translation, but he is not a fair trade or business expert. Strong Spanish language skills are vital for this project, as it involves working with CADO staff who do not speak any English.

How to Apply

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



Photo by intern Beth Leonhardt