Fair Trade Internships
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

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 is developing mature rum with organic certification and wants to market it on a fair trade basis. They are about to start construction on the "cava" to mature the rum, so will need a marketing strategy, quality control systems and more. Our cacao farmers' consortium is producing organic chocolate, which it is already exporting to a chain of fair trade stores in Italy, but wants formal fair trade certification and more markets.

Objectives

Fair trade interns might help with the organic sugarcane cooperative, the cacao (chocolate) farmers' consortium or other groups on fair trade projects. Depending on your area of studies, there could be opportunities to: develop marketing strategies; evaluate compliance with fair trade/organic regulations and recommend improvements; design & implement a health and safety review; design systems for monitoring compliance in areas such as health & safety, hygiene, recordkeeping, etc.; evaluate and improve quality control. Opportunities available will depend on the current situation and on your skills, experience and education.

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 on projects in or around Jilimbí itself or in any of several villages or member communities of the fair trade projects.

Requirements

Fair trade interns should be studying or have studied a relevant subject (marketing, organic agriculture, fair trade, health & safety, quality control, etc.) and will need to be fairly independent. Telephone or internet support from your university professor could be useful. CRACYP's Executive Secretary has considerable experience in fair trade projects, but he is not based in Jilimbí so interns will only see him infrequently. Interns will have support from a volunteer coordinator who can help with translation, but she is not a fair trade expert. Spanish language skills would be useful.

How to Apply

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