



Fair Trade Internships – Certification Compliance 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, CADO, markets organic alcohol for use in cosmetics. 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 to work with local sugarcane farmers to achieve full compliance with and maintenance of CADO's fair trade certification. This will probably involve spending several days on various farms helping producers achieve a variety of goals laid out in the certification documents. You may participate in a wide range of activities from helping producers understand their rights and obligations under the certification, to installing safety equipment on machines in the micro-distilleries, from training producers in first aid to planting organic gardens to ensure food security. You might also work with office staff to document fair trade compliance and to develop protocols to enhance communication between producers and administrators. Full compliance with fair trade guidelines is key for CADO's relationships with clients and for producer health and safety.

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 where CADO farms are located.

Requirements

Fair trade interns should be studying or have studied a relevant subject (business, management, 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 are vital for this project, as it involves working directly with CADO members.

How to Apply

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

