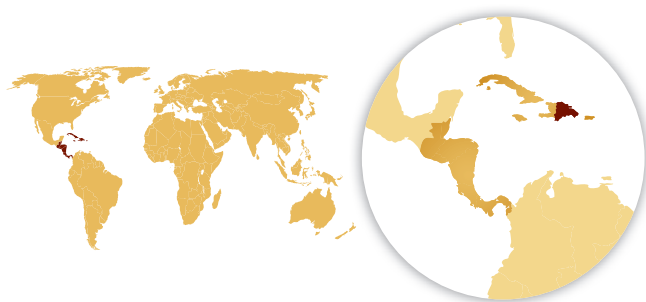
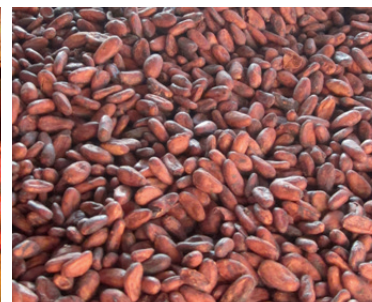


Conacado

Dominican Republic



NAME	Confederación Nacional de Cacaocultores Dominicanos
FOUNDED	1988
LOCATION	San Francisco de Macoris, Dom. Republic
ENTITY	National Confederation of Dominican Cocoa Farmers (8,500 members)
PRODUCTS	Cocoa, sugar (coffee and tobacco)
CERTIFICATES	Organic, Fair Trade
PARTNER SINCE	2005

www.conacado.org

General

Conacado is one of the three major cocoa exporters in the Dominican Republic. The 8,500 affiliated farming families produce 25 percent of the country's entire cocoa crop, this being between 6,500 and 13,300 tonnes per year. Approximately 85 percent of the total amount of crop has received organic certification. The formation of a confederation has allowed forces to be concentrated. Of central importance is a high-quality production process, the products of which can be sold at fair prices directly to traders and companies. As a consequence of this, farming families can be assured of receiving a regular income. Sales revenues are invested in infrastructure projects such as the construction of roads and bridges, education, health and medical care.

Fair Trade products since 1995

Conacado has been Fair Trade certified since 1995 and has been able to increase its share of Fair Trade products from an initial 10 percent to 50 percent today. This also increases the selling price which, in turn, has allowed further invest-

ments to be made in quality improvements through to organic certification. Part of the profits are also invested equally in projects for members, for example in irrigation systems. The schooling fees for children from poorer farming families have however also been funded, as have repairs and improvements to buildings and infrastructures.

«Fair Trade, through its direct collaboration with retailers, gives cocoa farmers a fair say in how their future will be shaped. We place great importance on securing a dependable market for our cocoa in order to create a long term and sustainable livelihood. Our price structure and the Fair Trade premium have allowed us to invest in both our business and in our community and thereby secure a better future for our families, farmers and friends.»

Santos Mendoza, President

Inside

Irrigation for 150 houses

The 68-year-old widow Ramigia Moya is the mother of five grown children and lives with her daughter and son-in-law in the Quebrada Honda community. Thanks to the Fair Trade premium, her cooperative was able to set up an irrigation system that now supplies 150 houses with water. The one-kilometre trek to the nearest river is now no longer required and farmers have more time for their work on the farm. There are plans to invest in a filter in future to also make the water drinkable.

A good education for all children

For over 30 years Mariano Manzuela has worked a half-hectare smallholding and has benefited from the Fair Trade premium in several ways. The 64-year-old and his wife have eleven children, four of whom still attend school. His colleagues in the cooperative have approved a loan in order to allow his house to be repaired and extended. Thanks to the Fair Trade premium, his children can attend school – two have even been awarded scholarships to undertake further study. Mariano Manzuela's greatest wish is for all of his children to attain a high standard of education.