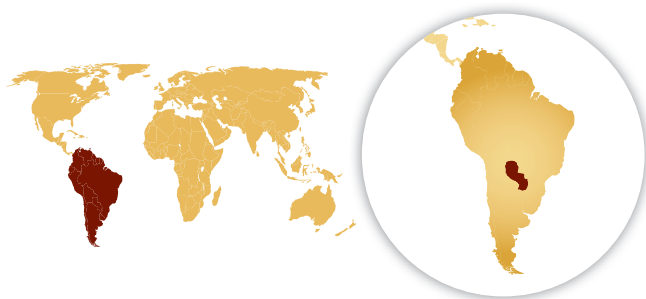


Manduvirá

Paraguay



NAME	Cooperativa Manduvirá
FOUNDED	1975
LOCATION	Arroyos y Esteros, Paraguay
ENTITY	Cooperative (over 1,500 smallholder families)
PRODUCTS	Sugar, sesame, cotton, stevia
CERTIFICATES	Organic, Fair Trade
PARTNER SINCE	2008

www.manduvira.com

General

The Manduvirá cooperative is a leader in the organic farming of sugar cane as well as industrial sugar production in Paraguay. The cooperative serves to improve the incomes of smallholder farmers and increases the quality of life in the region. Half of the profits are returned directly to farmers and their families; the remaining half is invested in economic and social projects that benefit the entire community. Cooperative members receive support in instances of extraordinary or difficult circumstances, be it with low-interest loans, with fixed-sum contributions or with medical care.

Help for self-help

Fair Trade partnerships have enabled the cooperative to hire a factory and process its sugar cane independently into high-quality organic sugar. This could lay the foundation for long-term collaboration with international customers in Europe, Latin America, Canada, New Zealand and Asia.

Investments in infrastructure, education and health

Fair Trade is also synonymous with close cooperation between the cooperative and its customers. The majority of buyers, for example, pay half of the expected price in advance, so that they in turn can support smallholder farmers with low-interest loans. Increasingly more companies are also investing directly in infrastructures, in education and medical care for the local population.

Inside

Manduvirá places great importance on furthering the education that its members receive. Specialists travel to the most remote areas in order to educate the population about sexually-transmitted diseases, AIDS/HIV as well as explain how to deal with waste and parasites in a proper manner. Income-poor members are eligible to receive medical treatments and medicines at no cost. The cooperative offers training programmes in connection

with financial resources and lending and helps farmers in their establishment of organic production. Great importance is also attached to the development of children. Arts courses are offered in addition to ordinary schooling and it has even been possible to establish a community football academy.