

# Newsletter



Latin American and Caribbean Network of Small Fairtrade Producers

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## News from the Bolivian National Fair Trade Network

### Declaration of mission, vision, principles and values for the CNCJ-B



For the purpose of establishing and defining the mission, vision, principles, values and objectives of the Bolivian National Fair Trade Network (Coordinadora Nacional de Comercio Justo Bolivia—CNCJ-B), a workshop was

organized recently and attended by 13 producers and technical personnel from CNCJ-B member organizations.

ANAPQUI, EL CEIBO, RED OEPAIC, CECAOT, ASOCAFE and FECAFEB were the associations that attended the workshop and provided input for the development of the Bolivian Network's by-laws and internal regulations, with the aim of formalizing its legal constitution, as part of the process of strengthening the CNCJ-B.

The workshop was held at FECAFEB's headquarters in La Paz, and lasted approximately seven hours.

### Virtual workshop on "Learning to Interpret Statistics"

The Bolivian Network recently organized a virtual workshop on "Learning to interpret statistics," designed for those involved in commercializing products as well as managers and other leaders of small producers' organizations. Participants were encouraged to conduct an analysis of market perspectives.

The workshop was held in the FECAFEB headquarters, with participation by Jos Algra, in the Commercial Risks Management module.

This workshop provided the opportunity for participation by various members of organizations who are responsible for commercializing products and have difficulties accessing internet in their production regions. It facilitated an analysis of perspectives and tendencies in the coffee market.



## News from the Nicaraguan National Fair Trade Network

### Visits to Small Producers' Organizations, Nicaragua

During the last two months, CLAC—through its Coordinator for Strengthening and Development in Nicaragua, Ma. Asunción Meza—has visited 21 small producers' organizations (19 involved in coffee production and 2 in cacao production). These visits have facilitated the delivery of more complete information, thereby giving an impulse to the process of constituting the Nicaraguan Network of Small Fair Trade Producers' Organizations (Coordinadora Nicaragüense de organizaciones de pequeños productores y productoras de Comercio Justo, or CNCJ-Nic). In addition the Strategy for Capacity-Building of CLAC Member Organizations has been disseminated, and communication has been established, providing a human face to the constant flow of emails. One of the concrete results of these efforts is that the CNCJ-Nic will hold its Constitutive Assembly during the month of November.



## News from the Mexican Small Fair Trade Producers Network

### CEPCO Congress

With the phrase “24 years overcoming challenges with proposals,” the Oaxaca State Coffee Producers Network (Coordinadora Estatal de Productores de Café del Estado de Oaxaca) celebrated its 24th anniversary on September 20-21, 2013. This celebration was held in the context of its 12th Congress, attended by 450 delegates from its 38 associated cooperatives that bring together 4,254 small coffee producers from Oaxaca’s seven coffee regions. The focus was on making proposals for public policies, as well as addressing mechanisms for improving and strengthening the organizations.

### Workshop on “Climate Change Strategies for Small Producers’ Organizations”

On September 28, a workshop on Climate Change Strategies for Small Producers’ Organizations was held in CEPCO’s offices in the city of Oaxaca. There were 23 participants representing 14 organizations.

Some of the topics presented at the workshop were: Climate Change Strategy for small producers’ organizations working for Fair Trade in Mesoamerica; Sustainable Coffee-Growing in the El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve; Environmental Services in Oaxaca; CEPCO’s experience; and what to do in relation to CLAC’s climate change strategy.

The conclusions reached by the participants will undoubtedly strengthen and enrich efforts underway in these areas, facilitated by the Mexican Small Fair Trade Producers Network.



### UCIRI's Campesino Festival

On October 26-27 UCIRI celebrated 30 years since its founding, with the theme of “UCIRI, 30 years of struggle based on organized work in solidarity and justice.” These 30 years have been characterized by intense work, with achievements, challenges and lessons learned. The organization is involved in a long, never-ending struggle to overcome severe poverty and achieve recognition of the indigenous peoples in the zone, including the Zapotec, Mixe, Chontal, Chatino, and Mixtec peoples who are represented among UCIRI’s members.

The celebration began on the first day with sports and cultural events, including a marathon, basketball tournament, the opening of an exhibit with visual information on members’ projects, and in the afternoon, the Calenda with traditional music and a dance in the evening. On the following day there was an ecumenical celebration in which thanks were given to the God of the Poor; the baton was passed to the new board of directors; and awards were presented to the winners of the various sports and cultural activities.

## News from the Costa Rican National Fair Trade Network

### CoopeAgri R.L.: solidarity response to coffee rust

The 2011-2012 coffee harvest will be remembered in history because of the consequences from coffee rust, which seriously affected numerous coffee fields in the region. The affected producers have found it necessary to confront this disease by applying agro-chemicals and cutting back coffee plants, in some cases partially and in others completely. In response to this serious problem in the coffee sector, CoopeAgri R.L. immediately assumed a leadership role in solidarity with producers, and carried out the following actions: diagnosis of the degree of damage in members’ coffee fields; joining the National and Regional Commission for fighting coffee rust—which advocated for the declaration of a national phytosanitary emergency in response to this disease; full availability of resources from the Coffee Technical Assistance Program for fighting this disease; distribution of agricultural inputs provided by the government to regional producers; and others.

### Anniversary of the COOPEVICTORIA Cooperative

The COOPEVICTORIA R.L. Cooperative, officially founded on October 12, 1943, recently celebrated its 70th anniversary. This cooperative is dedicated to the production and industrialization of sugar cane. With its criteria for quality, ongoing improvement, efficiency, justice, fairness, solidarity and respect for national legislation and the environment, this cooperative promotes the socio-economic development of its affiliates, producers and collaborators, and the inhabitants of Cantón de Gracías and the areas in which it operates.



## News from the Ecuadoran Fair Trade Network

### Workshop on Cost Accounting

The Ecuadoran Fair Trade Network (Coordinadora Ecuatoriana de Comercio Justo—CECJ) conducted a workshop on Cost Accounting on September 18, 2013 in the city of Machala. Participating in the event were 20 persons representing four banana organizations. During the workshop, which was sponsored by ALADI and CLAC, software was provided and installed in the computers used in the Accounting Department of each organization. A user’s manual was also provided, together with the necessary individualized training and consultation. As a result of this assistance, the organizations now have a tool for defining their production costs.



### National Food Sovereignty Festival

On October 16, the Ecuadoran Fair Trade Network participated in a march organized on World Food Day and the National Day for Food Sovereignty. Over 2,000 campesinos from the Costa, Sierra and Oriente regions participated in a procession that began at the Plaza del Centenario, continued down the Nueve de Octubre Avenue and then onto Malecón. The purpose was to increase public awareness regarding the risks involved in agriculture based on industrial chemical use, as well as the harm to public health and the environment caused by agro-toxics and genetically modified organisms. Within this framework, the aim of the Food Sovereignty Festival was to offer citizens a demonstration and explanation of alternatives that reclaim the importance of rural family agriculture and product diversity.

Ecuador has become the first Latin American country to constitutionally declare itself as free from genetically modified seeds and crops, and to enact legislation requiring that imported genetically modified food be labeled as such.



## News from the Honduran Fair Trade Network



### Small Producers’ Organizations participate in Workshop on Risk Management in Coffee Production

A workshop on “Risk Management for Coffee Organizations” was held recently in the city of Santa Rosa de Copán in Honduras, with participation by Jos Algra.

Attending the workshop were 52 representatives from approximately 35 coffee producers’ organizations and support and financing organizations, and involved in the sale of their products in their organizations. The event was financed with Progreso funds and coordinated with support from CLAC, TWIN, the Honduran Small Producers’ Network (Coordinadora Hondureña de Pequeños Productores—CHPP), OIKOCREDIT and the Santa Rosa coffee processor.



The workshop enabled participants to learn more regarding important topics such as Risks, Fairtrade Prices and Contracts, and the Analysis and Foundations of Markets, Stock Markets and Price Fixing.

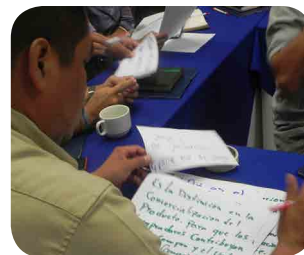
## Pilot Project on Community Monitoring of Children in the CARUCHIL Cooperative makes progress in collecting data associated with its first phase of implementation

The project entitled “Inclusion of Children in Community Monitoring in relation to child labor in Fairtrade coffee production in CARUCHIL” is making it possible to develop a system that identifies the work of children in communities. This has been an initiative of FLO International with support from Plan International, Aportes and CLAC, and headed by the CARUCHIL Cooperative. CLAC is one of the main actors through its representation of producers and its support.

This is a pilot project implemented in a small producers’ organization in Honduras. It is the first of its kind in the world in association with Fairtrade coffee production. The first of three phases began in January 2013 and with a planned duration of 11 months, it is expected to be completed in November of this year. The purpose of this initial phase has been to collect data and identify risks and cases of child labor through various research tools such as focal groups, community maps and surveys conducted in homes. The methodology includes creating a Children’s Protection Committee, and policies associated with child protection and child labor have been established.

The plan is for the project to continue to move forward into its second phase, on the basis of the data collected. To this end a process of systematizing the information from the first phase is underway, and a proposal for its continuation is being developed for presentation to both FLO and Plan International. The valuable experience gained thus far has also been shared with CLAC’s Board of Directors.

## News from the Salvadoran Fair Trade Network



### Fairtrade Standards Meeting with Member Organizations of CESSPO and CLAC

On September 4, 2013 a meeting on Fairtrade standards was held with member organizations of the Salvadoran Network Association of Small Producers (Asociación Coordinadora Salvadoreña de Pequeños Productores—CESSPO) and CLAC. The meeting was held in the city of San Salvador and attended by 13 participants representing the following organizations: Los Pinos cooperative, Jabalí, Siglo XXI, APRAINORES and ATAISI. The last one in this list attended due to its interest in becoming certified with the Fair Trade seal. Participants were individuals who are involved in the seal and implementation of its standards. Some of the topics addressed during the meeting were Fair Trade as certification, consumer and producer countries, standards and their structure, a development plan and the Fair Trade bonus.



### Members of three Salvadoran Cooperatives (Los Pinos, Jabalí and APECAFÉ) learned about the production experiences of COCAFAL and COCAFELOL in Honduras

On September 20-21, 2013 members of three Salvadoran cooperatives (Los Pinos, Jabalí and APECAFÉ) had the opportunity to learn from the experiences gained by COCAFAL and COCAFELOL, cooperative organizations located in CAPUCAS, San Pedro de Copán and La Labor Ocotepeque, Honduras. Both of these Honduran organizations have excellent experience in organic coffee production and in the research and development of organic inputs. During the encounter, the Honduran organizations shared some of their successful experiences in managing plant tissues, incorporating organic matter into soil, applying foliates and managing coffee rust. The Salvadoran participants also learned a bit about the diversification of varieties, and the plant nurseries and projects carried out by the Honduran producer organizations. This event was made possible by financial support from BCIE and was coordinated through CLAC. A total of 24 producers participated in this special experience, in anticipation of replicating some of the practices used by the Honduran organizations.





## News from the Peruvian Fair Trade Network

### Workshop on the Current Situation and Prospects for Fair Trade

A workshop on “The current situation and prospects for fair trade” was held on September 20 at the CENFROCAFE auditorium located in the city of Jaén in the Cajamarca region. Participants included 28 coffee producers, technicians and administrators from 16 agricultural organizations in the Northeastern Region. In addition members of the Board of Directors of Peru’s National Small Fair Trade Producers Network (Coordinadora Nacional de Pequeños Productores de Comercio Justo de Perú, CNCJ-PERÚ) were in attendance. Topics addressed included: “global tendencies in coffee production, and the supply and demand of coffee in fair trade,” facilitated by Manuel Aguirre, the liaison official of FLO eV for Peru’s Northern Region; “New scenarios and challenges in fair trade,” facilitated by Lorenzo Castillo, the director of the National Coffee Board; and “The General Standard of the Small Producers’ Symbol,” facilitated by Arnaldo Neira, a member of FUNDEPPO’s Board. Lastly, the President of the National Coffee Board and leader of CENFROCAFE, Anner Román Neira, gave a presentation on the process of strengthening CENFROCAFE and its transformation from a second-level central with over 2,000 members into a base-level cooperative. This has enhanced its business-member dynamics and made it possible to make use of tax benefits.



### Second Andean Fair Trade Conference

The city of Cusco, the capital of the Inca empire, will be the setting for the Second Andean Fair Trade Conference to be held on November 6-7. This conference will bring together leaders from small producers’ organizations in Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru. It will be held at the Casa Campesina at the Centro Bartolomé de las Casas, as announced by Raúl Claveri Jarandilla, the President of the Board of Directors of Peru’s National Small Fair Trade Producers Network. He acknowledged the benefits obtained by families of small producers in countries in the South, and commented that growth in the international fair trade market has led to an improvement in the quality of the products offered, including coffee, banana, cacao and others. He added that new seals and certifications have emerged, and that this process has also produced new challenges in terms of competition with other operatives that have enormous logistical and financial capacities. He also emphasized that climate change is modifying ecosystems, causing the appearance of pests like yellow rust and red spot that are severely affecting coffee and banana production, respectively.

In light of this situation, approximately one hundred leaders and representatives of small producers’ organizations (involved in the production of cacao, coffee, bananas, quinoa, panela, mangos, honey, aromatic herbs, crafts and other products) from Andean countries will meet at this regional event to evaluate the effects from climate change and agree on strategies for confronting the challenges in the current situation characterizing the fair trade system. Those in attendance will also make a visit to the COCLA central, which joins together 23 cooperatives, with over 8,000 members. They will see the processes this organization uses to produce coffee, cacao, honey and tea for fair trade, and will learn about the diversification of its business-economic activities, as a sustainability strategy. This event is being supported by CLAC’s continental platform.



## CLAC's operations team in training

For the first time CLAC represents and provides services to workers in FLO-certified organizations who are hired laborers. CLAC has also defined an operational structure for providing support to associated organizations, small producers' organizations and workers' organizations.

CLAC has sought to train its personnel in the best way possible in order to address the needs of workers, and as part of this effort, a training session was held on September 23-27, 2013 in the Ecuadoran city of Quito. It was organized for the Strengthening and Development Coordinators who work with hired laborers' organizations in their countries, including Mexico, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru. Also participating was a special guest from Colombia, Alexis Martínez Palacio, a worker at the Grupo Agrosiete banana plantation who shared his experiences with CLAC.



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## First Competition on the Transition from One Generation to Another, through our Progreso Network platform

After a period of a month and a half, the Competition through the Progreso Network on the Transition from One Generation to Another was closed on October 15. This Competition invited participants to share their positive experiences in involving young people in their organization's work and in agricultural activities.

In all, 12 proposals have been received, primarily from Nicaragua, Honduras, Colombia and Peru, and the jury is currently evaluating

them. The jury is composed of individuals from TRIAS, a Belgium NGO with considerable experience in working with youth; from the EARTH University in Costa Rica (which educates many young people in agricultural areas); from the Progreso Foundation, the founder of the Progreso Network; and from CLAC. The plan is to announce the winning proposal in mid-November.

The winning proposal will receive an award of US \$3,000, and the five best proposals will be systematized and shared on Cla@se, which is CLAC's educational platform for the benefit of the general public.



## CLAC Board of Directors meeting in Panama

The second face-to-face meeting of CLAC's Board of Directors was held on October 15-16 in Panama City. For the first time a representative of workers was in attendance. Milton Patricio Ortega was elected in May to serve as this representative on CLAC's Board of Directors.



One of the important agreements reached during the Board meeting is that CLAC will create its own child protection policy, benefitting from the experience shared by Caruchil from its pilot project in Honduras. It was also agreed to send a Statement regarding CLAC's commitment to communicate with all interested parties within the Fairtrade System. Other memorandums will be sent to clarify certification issues, to present and explain the new market initiative in the United States (Fairtrade America United), and covering other topics. Also during the Board meeting, operations and financial reports were presented and CLAC's Operations Plan was evaluated.



## CLAC takes its first solid steps in taking ownership of the issue of child protection and well-being

During CLAC's Board of Directors meeting held in Panama City, the Honduran Caruchil organization gave a very interesting presentation on its experience in a pilot project for child protection and well-being in their communities. With assistance from a FLO expert who has been in charge of the methodology used in this project, Caruchil communities have developed their own policy on child protection and well-being, as well as an entire community monitoring system focused on this issue.

On the basis of this experience, CLAC's Board of Directors has decided that it is important to also develop a CLAC policy on child protection and well-being, and has made a commitment to including this issue in its work agenda.

As an initial concrete activity in this area, training has been provided to CLAC's Strengthening and Development Coordinator, Anneke Theunissen. The aim of this training, focused on field work methodology, is to share this new knowledge with the entire Strengthening and Development team, so that all team members can address this issue in their countries, where interest is expressed. The plan is to provide training to personnel during 2014.