

# Central Piurana de Cafetaleros, Peru

*Fair trade has allowed me to give my children a better education. I have 6 children, 4 who are professionals and 2 who are finishing university.*

--- Segundo Alejandro Guerrero Mondragón –  
Chonta - Mo



CEPICAFE is an association of 90 small-scale coffee co-ops formed in 1995 in the Piura region of northwestern Peru. Before becoming Fair Trade certified by Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International (FLO) in 1996, the local farmers sold their coffee to local intermediaries at extremely low prices, causing many farm workers to leave the region in search of work. The cooperative aims to improve the quality of life of coffee-growing families and is an important contribution to the sustainable development of the region.

The Fair Trade premium has enabled Central Piurana de Cafetaleros to establish various social and productive programs.

## **Education:**

CEPICAFE's scholarship program funds secondary and university studies for members' children.

## **Productive Investment:**

A two-story headquarters complete with a warehouse, office space and a café was built for the cooperative, and community centers have been constructed for several municipalities. CEPICAFE has also purchased de-pulpers, humidity detectors and other equipment to improve product quality and efficiency. The cooperative encourages its members to diversify their production.

## **Environment:**

The co-op provides training and technical assistance in land management, irrigation, quality control and organic farming methods. The cooperative also invests in organic fertilizers.

## **Credit Program:**

Low-cost credit programs are available to producers, as is financing for home construction and improvement.

## **Women's Programs:**

Women in the community receive training in producing handicrafts to sell at market. In addition, female cooperative members receive training in organization strengthening and leadership classes.

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