

2004

NEWS

Green Development Foundation

Business tour CAC Oro Verde Ltd.

May 17-27, 2004

Within the cooperation agreement between Green Development Foundation and CICDA-Peru, the first business tour was executed. CAC Oro Verde Ltd. was the cooperative who made this tour. This organization is located in Lamas, San Martin, Peru. The cooperative's General Manager, Engineer Hiderico Bocangel was able to visit coffee importers in The Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and France. Some very important financial organizations were visited too, such as the Rabobank Foundation, from which the cooperative currently obtains financial support for the contracts pre-financing.

For CAC Oro Verde, this is the first time they make a tour of this kind, and the results achieved are so far very successful, not only because of the knowledge and experience obtained, but for the coffee contracts that up to date have been awarded.

SCAA

April 21-26, 2004, Atlanta, USA

During April this year, the annual Specialty Coffee Association Convention took place in Atlanta, USA. The activities started with a two day Fair-trade forum organized by Trans Fair USA. There was an emphasis in the developments of the coffee market, trends, quality and the position of Fair Trade producers in the market.

There was a very interesting exchange of ideas and experiences, besides this, presentations from very important roasters, importers from the USA and the producers were made. All the producers from Progreso were present in the Fair Trade Forum and in the convention.

Trans Fair, together with Green Development Foundation, made sure that every cooperative had a place at the convention. After five very intensive days, the producers went home with new information and contacts to work with for the next year!



Field Visit Oromia

June 13-18, 2004, Ethiopia

As part of Progreso, last June we visited the Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union. This cooperative has been part of the Progreso Coffee Program for the last three years.

The goal of our visit was to plan the Progreso activities for the coming year as well as to evaluate the advances and developments that Oromia has made.

Together with Oromia's General Manager, Mr. Tadesse Meskela and William Foote from Ecologic Finance, Green Development's Jimmy Navarro and Janneke Aarts travelled five days through the coffee areas of Ethiopia. The still young cooperative is growing strong holding around 23,000 members. Together we discussed the problems that make more difficult the position of small coffee producers in the area. In spite of a shortage of water and limited infrastructure, the producers at Oromia know how to produce an excellent coffee and are making positive changes to their situation!

National Cacao Conference Peru

June 11-12, 2004, Lima, Peru

Together with CICDA in France, Sospaim in Belgium and Green Development in Holland, three cacao cooperatives took the initiative to organize a two day conference to analyze the possibilities and limitations of the cacao sector's performance in Peru. It was a great idea to invite stakeholders from all levels to generate a very interesting debate. The number of participants was massive (85). Rabobank Foundation and the CBI from Holland were also present and shared their vision and ideas. The main results achieved during this conference were:

- The cacao from Peru has a bright future for the internal and export market.
- The cooperatives play an important role in the quality and image improvement.
- There is not a coordinated plan for the improvement of the production, infrastructure, certifying and market approach.

The most important result was the initiative for the creation of a commission which will create a national organization for cacao producers in the country. A very important step where we can expect a lot of great things!!

Progreso Café

May 2004, London

In a joint effort between Oxfam-England, the Scottish roaster Matthew Algie and Green Development Foundation, last May 13 in the centre of London, was launched the idea to start the operation of a coffee shop chain that will be called 'Café Progreso'.

This effort's objective is to merchandize the best organic coffees from Progreso members, with honesty and conscious for the social and environment matters. The cooperatives from Progreso will provide the coffee and will be partial owners from the stock. The coffee will be bought at a fair trade price, increasing the volume the cooperative sells its coffee under this scheme.

Please visit www.progreso.org.uk for further information regarding this important initiative.





NEWS

Exchange between NACOBTA and FTSA in Namibia

July 2004, Namibia

In July 2004 an exchange was carried out between NACOBTA (Namibian Community Based Tourism Association) and FTSA (Fair Trade in Tourism, South-Africa). The goal of the exchange was to strengthen the capacities of the organisations through learning from each other. FTSA came to Namibia and had the opportunity to see how NACOBTA is working internally, and how NACOBTA carries out CBTED (Community Based Tourism Enterprise Development). The main reason for this is that NACOBTA has been involved in CBT development for a long time, where as for FTSA this is a sector where they can still learn. NACOBTA explained what developments had been taking place and what results had come out of the developments. The experience was all very useful for both NACOBTA and FTSA.

Sawadee Travel brings first tourists to Vulindlela Community Tourism Enterprises in Kwazulu-Natal

South-Africa

Co-operation between Sawadee Travel, Green Development and the Vulindlela Association has brought the positive outcome of Sawadee Travel bringing the first groups of tourists to the Southern Kwazulu-Natal region. The tourists visited some of the communities, had a chance to experience community life, meet the people, stay in a local guesthouse and have a traditional meal.

GDF will be in touch with Sawadee Travel to see what improvements could be made so that next year the number of tourists/groups visiting the area, can be expanded.