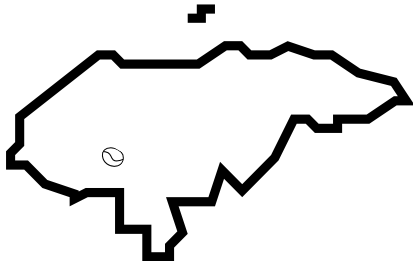


COMSA

CAFE ORGANICO MARCALA SA

HONDURAS



Producer Profile

COMSA was founded in December of 2001. Many members of the co-op belong to the indigenous Lenca tribe, and partly because of this influence many of their traditional sustainable organic farming practices have endured or been adopted. Since their traditional techniques made the production costs outweigh the obtainable prices through the conventional commodity market, adopting farming practices geared towards organic certification and high quality was seen to be a solution. It also served as a way to reduce pollution, maintain the integrity and fertility of the land on which the community depends, alleviate poverty, and increase employment in the area. Since the majority of community members depend on farming for their livelihood, the secondary benefits of the knowledge acquired through these farming and processing practices are many.

Honduran farmers have endured lifetimes of corruption and neglect at the hands of the country's elite political class but despite this, COMSA shines as a true social enterprise that brings countless benefits to its members. In addition to a variety of markets through which to sell their coffee, members have access to an international school that teaches English, music, and cultural studies. The leadership of COMSA sees education as the only thing that will lift their rural community out of the cycle of poverty and oppression. This has led to a rural education program that teaches members of the small rural communities in the area how to teach their children at ages as young as 18 months. In the words of the General Manager, "it's a cultural renaissance for our members".

Marcala, Honduras is the first Central American region to receive a "Denomination of Origin" designation for coffee.

Country: Honduras

Region: La Paz, Marcala

Process: Washed

Altitude: 1300-1800m

Cup Profile: medium acidity, sweet, citrus, raisin, milk chocolate, tobacco

Varietals: Lempira, IHCAFE90, Catuai, Paraneima

Harvest: December-April

Certifications: SPP, Organic



Just Us! Coffee Roasters
Co-operative
www.justuscoffee.com



Mission

We are a company that, while commercializing quality organic and conventional coffee, with competitive prices, promotes, starting from the implementation of an innovative, reflective and analytical education, the full transformation of the human being, to change their way of life.

Vision

Contribute, from the practice of organic agriculture, in the formation of true human beings, through the implementation of an innovative educational methodology, to ensure a promising future for future generations and continue to position itself as a competitive, profitable company recognized for its quality of coffee.

FINCA LA FORTALEZA

Finca La Fortaleza is COMSA's demonstration farm in Marcala, Honduras. La Fortaleza is the embodiment of their holistic and thoughtful approach to organic coffee farming. Not only are they experimenting with coffee varieties and farming techniques, they're training co-op members on best farming practices and running a large organic fertilizer production operation as well.

COMSA, besides providing education to many coffee producers in neighboring countries, are innovators in some very exciting organic farming techniques and experiments. These include studies into carbon sequestration and new ways of drying harvested coffee, currently a challenging issue in this and other damp areas with heavy rainfall - notorious for ruining green coffee in the last stages of processing. They are also pioneers in recycling the wastewater and byproducts of ready-to-export coffee to create a nutrient-rich compost tea. They use manure, husks and mucilage of the coffee beans, other plant matter, powdered volcanic rock and ash to balance the pH and enhance nutrient content of the wastewater. This is then used to grow vegetable and grain crops in less fertile soil (without resorting to chemical pesticides, inorganic fertilizers and unsustainable farming practices) or sold to other farmers. This important project is one many other organic coffee farming communities are emulating, since it contributes significantly to improved maturation and tissue re-growth in coffee plants afflicted by la roya or coffee rust, a devastating epidemic that will likely reduce global coffee production by 30-35% in the next year or two (and accordingly producers' incomes).