

Cooperative Coffees

“Cooperative Coffees is a green bean buying collective comprised of fair trade roaster/members. We are committed to working in partnership with our associated coffee producer cooperatives in order to create more equitable trade mechanisms. We strive to promote fair trade and sustainable development alternatives in both the North and the South, while continuing to sell the highest quality coffee on the market.”

Members’ Operating Covenant

Cooperative Coffees is comprised of small-scale, fair-trade roasters who are building their businesses upon the ideals of alternative trade. We came together to form a legally structured buying cooperative, because the volumes we need as small-scale roasters, would make it impractical to import directly (one of the main tenets of fair trade) from a variety of coffee farmer cooperatives. Collectively, as Cooperative Coffees, we have established commercial relationships with nine coffee cooperatives based in democratic and participatory development models in seven different producer countries.

As members of Cooperative Coffees, we strive to purchase all of our coffees from our partner cooperatives, or from other like-minded producer cooperatives, in strict adherence to the following fair-trade criteria:

- ♦Paying fair prices to the producers
- ♦Offering support for cooperative workplaces
- ♦Promoting greater consumer consciousness
- ♦Encouraging environmental sustainability
- ♦Providing financial and technical support
- ♦Respecting cultural identity

However, our intentions as fair trade coffee traders go beyond the simple act of buying and selling excellent quality coffees. We also unite under the common desire to ***demonstrate through our own example that alternative rules to trade are possible*** both at home and abroad.

We understand that to speak of a collaborate spirit within our cooperative, we must make an ongoing effort to maintain mutually beneficial relationships and a sense of collectivity amongst the roaster/members of our cooperative. Meanwhile internationally, we strive to maintain open, two-way communication and to build “partnerships in development” with the farmers who supply us with the coffee we roast and sell. To this end, each member of Cooperative Coffees agrees individually to:

- ♦Disseminate honest and accurate information amongst the members and to the greater consuming public about our business’ fair trade activities;

- ◆Respect the general operating norms of Cooperative Coffees, including adherence to each of our purchasing agreements, and refraining from becoming a green bean reseller to non-member roasters;
- ◆Be respectful of other Cooperative Coffee members and strive to work with each other in ways that are mutually beneficial and non-combative;
- ◆Become an active voice in one of more of Cooperative Coffees working committees and/or projects to make our organization as representative and participative as possible, and to help our associated producer partners thrive and develop as functioning fair trade cooperatives.

Current Coffee Sources

Country	Cooperative	Region
Guatemala	Manos Campesinos/Apecaform	San Marcos
Guatemala	Maya Civil/Santa Anita	Quetzaltenango
México	Mut Vitz	Chiapas
	Maya Vinic	Chiapas
Nicaragua	CECOCAFEN	Matagalpa
Costa Rica	COOCAFE/EI Dos	Puntarenas
Sumatra	Gayo Mountain Organic Farmers	Ache
Ethiopia	Oromia	Yirgaceffe and Sidamo
East Timor	Café Timor	Maubesse
Colombia	Fondo Paez	Popayan
Kenya	Embu	Embu
Peru	Pangoa	Pangoa

Company Name

Representative's Name

Signature

Date