



Coffee farmers receive support to prevent COVID-19

Seeds for Progress Foundation, Mercon Coffee Group, and the Dutch Development Bank FMO promote the prevention of coronavirus in coffee farms in Nicaragua.

Managua, July 24th, 2020 – Seeds for Progress Foundation and Mercon Coffee Group joined efforts to mitigate the impact of coronavirus in the most vulnerable coffee growing regions of Nicaragua during the 20-21 harvest. This is possible thanks to a € 100,000 euros relief fund that has been allocated to them by the Dutch Development Bank (FMO).

This relief fund will have a direct impact on more than 4,000 coffee farmers and their families nationwide. The fund will be invested on 3 fundamental elements: communication and awareness, education, and the supply of prevention kits to ensure that farmers have all the necessary tools for the 20-21 harvest.

"Coffee producers are agents of change who have always been at the forefront of the progress of their communities. We are proud of their work and of being able to develop alliances that contribute to the well-being of their families. We are honored to channel these funds and give back to the communities that give the world so much" said Rosa Rivas, Director of Seeds for Progress Foundation.

These efforts will start during the month of July and conclude in September as the coffee harvest begins. All communication and awareness efforts will focus on providing vital information to prevent the spread of COVID-19 during the harvest including supplying informational materials to place on the farms and providing hygiene kits along with portable sinks in production areas.

"Caring for our communities is part of our purpose to build a better world of coffee. In the midst of the global crisis we are experiencing as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, it is our duty to take concrete measures to prevent the spread of the virus and safeguard the well-being of our beloved coffee-growing communities as the new harvest approaches." said Jorge Eslaquit, Regional Manager of Mercon Coffee Group.

The Seeds for Progress Foundation, together with Mercon Coffee Group, promote access to quality education in coffee communities as one of the most powerful instruments to achieve sustainable economic growth and improve the quality of life of its beneficiaries.

About Mercon Coffee Group

Mercon Coffee Group is a vertically integrated global green coffee supplier, with a vast experience in farming, production, trading, logistics, and risk management, being one of the leading coffee companies in the world. It has a trajectory of more than 65 years in the business granting them global access to the coffee supply chain. Their operations in Nicaragua are led by CISA Exportadora, the leading export company in the country. Mercon Coffee Group is a portfolio company of AMERRA Capital Management.

About AMERRA Capital Management

AMERRA is an independent asset management firm, providing strategic capital to upstream and midstream food and agri-businesses in Europe and the Americas. AMERRA brings unique value to its portfolio companies through its extensive network, in depth knowhow and a sole focus on the field. Throughout its dedicated strategies of private credit, special situations, and private equity, AMERRA adheres to best Environmental & Social practices and belongs to the United Nations Environment Program – Finance Initiative. Backed by long-term institutional capital with more than US\$ 1.7bn in assets under management, AMERRA has invested over \$5.2 billion since its inception in 2009. For more information about AMERRA please visit www.amerracapital.com.

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