



CAFÉ FEMENINO

NICARAGUA PROGRAM

Cooperative »

CORCASAN

Producers »

270 women

Production »

21 hectares of Café Femenino production annually

Certification »

Organic



PRODUCER BACKGROUND

The Café Femenino Nicaragua Program began in 2009 with the initiative and guidance of Diana Martinez, director of the influential nonprofit known as La Fem. Martinez has spent most of her life working with the marginalized rural women of Nicaragua and helping them overcome oppressive obstacles and hardship they face in remote, coffee-growing regions. When Martinez learned of Café Femenino's commitment to providing women coffee farmers with compensation and tools to rise up from unfair, poverty-stricken circumstances, she knew that she had found a program committed to the same values, and results, to which she had devoted her career.

La Fem soon began working with a group of women farmers who went on to join the Café Femenino program after forming their own cooperative, Las Diosas. When roya hit, destroying their coffee plants, the women persevered despite a shortage in specialty coffee to produce and export. During this shortage, the women farmers worked with the Café Femenino program to create a 5-year strategic plan to organize a second Nicaragua Program through the CORCASAN cooperative. This program joined the Café Femenino program in 2017.

COFFEE PROFILE

Aroma »

Chocolate, nuts and slightly floral

Cupping »

Creamy mouthfeel, bright citrus acidity, dark chocolate, walnut

Varietals »

Caturra, Catuai, Bourbon, Catimor, Maragogype

Process »

Washed and sundried in raised beds

Harvest »

April - September

Elevation »

1,200 meters on average

“It is important that we are now organized as Café Femenino producers inside of the cooperative, as we now have the decision-making power and resources like never before.”

—Gladis
Café Femenino Nicaragua
Program member

BECOME A PART OF THE CAFÉ FEMENINO STORY.

The network of organization, communication, and access to resources that the women have built through the Café Femenino Nicaragua Program has allowed them to plan for a better future for their families, communities and themselves. Notable successes include:

Family Education »

The women of Café Femenino Nicaragua voted to increase the income of their families by receiving their Café Femenino premium individually. With this added income controlled by the women themselves, the women have been able to fund educational necessities for their children and to send their daughters to school—often making them the first women in their families to receive formal education.

Community Health »

The women have requested, received and administered grant funding through the Café Femenino Foundation to provide reproductive health and cervical cancer screening to the women in their communities. Through their initiative, the women have been able to offer this essential health screening to women across five distinct communities in remote and rural areas who would otherwise not have access to even the most basic preventative health support.



**ECONOMIC AND
IDEOLOGICAL EMPOWERMENT**

Since organizing in 2009, the women farmers of the Café Femenino Nicaragua Program have emphasized creating spaces where women can focus on what matters most to them, and to question—and confront—the powers that have historically oppressed them. In fact, the first initiative of the Café Femenino Nicaragua Program was organizing the Social Construction of the Woman Workshop, an opportunity to analyze the powerful, often negative, social forces at work in their communities, and strategize approaches to building better, more fair lives, for themselves, their families, and generations to come.

Over the years, the Café Femenino Nicaragua Program has remained committed to not only providing their members with economic autonomy never before reached by the women in their communities, but also to providing their members with the educational tools needed to rise up from generations of ingrained societal and psychological oppression.

“ We have a right to run things ourselves, to avoid violence in our families, and to live free from humiliation.”

—Daysi
Café Femenino Nicaragua
Program member

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