

Papua New Guinea

Profile:

Name: HOAC Highlands Organic Agriculture Co-operative

Established: 2003

Fairtrade Certified: Since 2005

Members: 2,600

Area/Region:

Region: Eastern Highland province of the Purosa/Okapa Region

Soil Type: Volcanic

Temperature: 15 - 24 C

Altitude: 1300 - 1750 m

Life zones: Hill and montane forest

Associated fauna: Bird of paradise

Type of flora: Araucaria, oak and laurels

Economic

One of the major concerns for the Fairtrade growers and the local communities in the area around HOAC is poor road access, making it difficult for them to trade their produce. To address this problem a proportion of HOAC's Fairtrade Premium was allocated to the improvement of the local roads and to cover the cost of the petrol to run the grading machines. The improvements in the road network has improved access to market and hence improved business for small coffee farmers, and permitted better access to education and health services for locals. The maintenance of the roads is done by local residents that live along and near to the roads, providing them with much needed paid work.

Additionally, HOAC are planning to purchase a disused mill in a neighboring district and start milling their coffee ready for export. This will provide greater returns for farmers as they move up the supply chain capturing more of the value for processing their coffee.



HOAC communities have been able to utilize the Fairtrade Premium to improve their machinery and water access. Sourced from www.fairtrade.org.nz

Social

Water is not in short supply in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, however access to drinkable water has been challenging especially as activity upstream has contaminated water ways for those further downstream. HOAC, through their Fairtrade Premium, has recently funded a water supply project for the community. Water is now being piped directly from the source in the hills behind the village. Currently there is one tap for every 3 houses, but the community plans to eventually extend the supply directly to each household. HOAC are now carrying out a needs assessment with other communities for similar water projects.

Education for next generation is a key concern for the farmers. This is not surprising when you consider that only 50% of Papuans have had three or more years of education (with many of those stopping at the end of elementary school). The Okapa region has often been overlooked by government for basic health and education services due to its remote location.



Fairtrade Premium was invested into a new school building (right) to replace the previous building (left). Sourced from www.fairtrade.org.nz

Over the past few years HOAC have been working to rectify this by investing Fairtrade Premium into purchasing textbooks and desks for community schools as well as building new schools for different communities. To date, HOAC have built four permanent elementary schools with materials towards construction of another two schools.

The cooperative also purchased new beds, mattresses and essential medicines to four Health Centers and aid posts.

Flavor Profile

Aroma: Floral, sweet, vanilla, chocolate

Fragrance: Intense floral, chocolate

Cup: Clean and balanced

Acidity: High

Body: High

Lively, well balanced coffee with bright acidity, dark chocolaty, nutty flavor and a slightly fruity finish. It holds well under all brewing methods.