

PRODUCER PROFILE



PRODUCER NAME: Highlands Organic Agriculture Cooperative

(HOAC)

PRODUCTS: Coffee

COUNTRY: PNG

FLO ID: 2897

Fairtrade certified since 2005

Number of members: 2600



*Pictured: Ronah Peve Photographer: Josh Griggs ©2017
Agriculture Cooperative Highlands Organic*

Coffee processing

Members of HOAC use traditional coffee processing methods beginning with hand pulpers which were purchased through the Fairtrade Premium. Following this, members either undertake a dry or wet fermentation process lasting between 24 to 36 hours trailed by drying on African drying beds and under tarpaulins. Members sell dry parchment to HOAC who process the coffee further into green bean at the Purosa dry mill in Okapa. The green bean is then transported and sold to Coffee Connections.

Fairtrade

HOAC is the oldest Fairtrade certified organisation in the Pacific, and since certification in 2005, they have received approximately US\$2.2million in Fairtrade Premium. This money has been used to invest in both developing their business and community projects, benefitting over 15,000 people.

Quality & productivity

HOAC have purchased a large number of quality improvement tools and facilitated quality and processing training for farmers. This includes 1,000 coffee pulpers, over 200 secateurs, more than 500 bow saws and with all 2,600 members trained in coffee quality improvement. Prior to the purchase of coffee pulpers it took farmers could spend four hours a day processing 10kgs of coffee cherries however now the same volume can be processed in 15 minutes.

Transport and Infrastructure

Poor road conditions are one of HOAC's major impediments to transporting coffee, as the quality of the coffee is significantly affected the longer it sits in storage. Through utilising their Fairtrade Premium, and in partnership with the Eastern Highlands Provincial Government, HOAC has restored 35kms of roads and employed over 300 local people who live in the villages along the road. 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.

Further investment has been made into land cruisers, tractors and trucks to transport over 7,000 55kg bags of parchment to the Purosa mill. Prior to this, members were required to travel long distances and pay high prices to transport their coffee. Coffee transport costs have been reduced by up to 50%, allowing members to allocate more income to their family and farming.

Water

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 have built five gravity-fed water supply systems so far, reaching five villages throughout the Eastern Highlands. They have invested US\$150,000 of their Fairtrade

COFFEE PROFILE

Region: Purosa, Okapa, Eastern Highland Province

Altitude: 1300 – 1750 masl

Varietals grown: Bourbon, typica, Mondo novo, Caturra

Screen size: 14–18

Preparation: European preparation

Grade: AX

Process: Washed

Temperature: 17–26°C

Soil: Rich volcanic

Life Zones: Montane/moss forest

Precipitation: 70–80% humidity, average rainfall ~7000mm/annum

Types of Flora: Oak forest, montane forest

Associated Fauna: Bird of paradise, cassowary, possum, echidna, tree kangaroo, wallabies, hornbill, cockatoo

Certifications: Fairtrade and Organic



Photographer: Josh Griggs ©2017

PRODUCER PROFILE CONT/...



Premium into these water supply projects. More than 17,000 individuals, five schools, two aid posts and one health centre have benefitted from this fresh and accessible water supply. As part of the water supply system, five tanks were built with a capacity to hold between 5,000L to 9,000L.

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

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.



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

