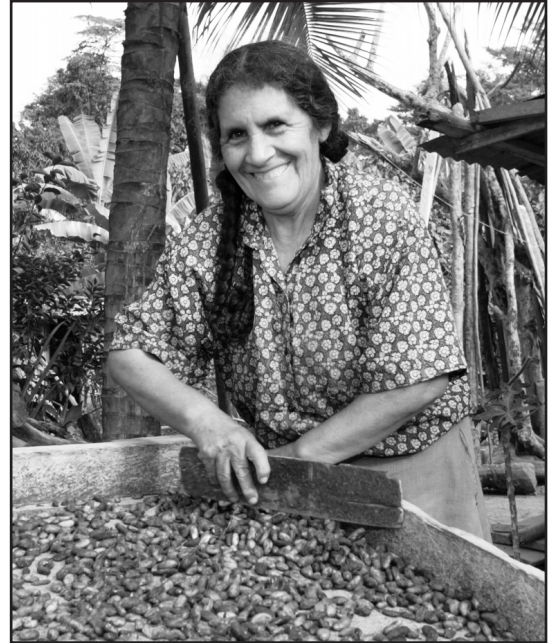


Small Farmers Care for Creation

Fair Trade and the Environment

The Interfaith Program at Equal Exchange, in partnership with ten different faith groups, maintains a strong commitment to furthering Fair Trade and environmental justice together with congregations across the U.S. As a participant in the Interfaith Program, you make a positive impact on the planet and on the people who grow our food through your regular purchases of Equal Exchange fairly traded products.

We invite you, your family, and your congregation to share in this vision of protecting the environment—a vision that connects you to the planet and to the small farmer co-operatives who produce food in a sustainable way.



Julia Najarro La Rosaa, SOCIO DE CACVRA, Peru Co-operative

Our Farmer Partners are Greening the Planet

- Over 90% of the fairly traded products offered by Equal Exchange are certified organic, meaning that no toxic chemical fertilizers or chemical pesticides are used that pollute the air or harm the earth. Farmers and their families steer clear of physical contact with these chemicals.
- Equal Exchange supports small-scale farmer practices such as terracing, water conservation, manual weeding, and crop diversification—all of which lead to greater soil fertility and reduce erosion.
- Farmers in Fair Trade co-operatives are encouraged to plant additional coffee trees and citrus plants to assist and increase bio-diversity and wildlife habitats. These practices also improve pest control, help to avoid soil erosion, and provide other food sources to the community.
- Co-op farmers plant shade trees as opposed to clearcutting trees in conventional monocrop plantations. This helps to preserve songbird habitat, shield farmers from harmful UV rays, cool the planet, and absorb carbon dioxide, a harmful greenhouse gas. All of these techniques help to remedy the extensive landscape degradation and deforestation that has occurred in countries over decades of environmental abuse. Thanks to your support, small farmers have the means to help restore these landscapes as a result of the market access and improved income from the Fair Trade system.

