



The Presbyterian Small Farmer Fund – Furthering Support for Small Farmers



Maria Teresa Cisneros, Tierra Nueva Co-operative, Nicaragua

When you participate in the Presbyterian Coffee Project, you support small-scale farmers all over the world through your purchases of fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa and snack products from Equal Exchange. Through Fair Trade, farmers receive a fair price for their products, affordable pre-harvest credit, and support for environmentally sustainable farming.

Your purchases go even further to support small-scale farmers through the Presbyterian Small Farmer Fund. For each pound of fairly traded products that Presbyterians purchase from Equal Exchange, Equal Exchange donates 15 cents to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to support small farmer projects in coffee growing regions. In 2007, Presbyterian purchases generated \$23,591 for this fund. The fund is administered by the Presbyterian Hunger Program. www.pcusa.org/hunger

Putting your pounds to work

For 2007, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) used their Small Farmer Funds to support a project with the Tierra Nueva coffee co-operative in Nicaragua called "Planting Trees for Life." The project focuses on planting coffee and citrus trees in two coffee farming communities in the Boaco region of Nicaragua. It has also provided fuel-efficient cook stoves to 16 families. The project provides ongoing training for co-operative members in forest management and grafting techniques. This project will increase biodiversity and improve incomes of farming families, and reduce deforestation in the region.

Pedro Rojas, president of Tierra Nueva, spoke about the farmers' dedication to sustainable agriculture. "When we started growing organically, we did it to get a better price. But organic sustainable agriculture has now become a way of life. It sets us apart from other farmers. Our soil is more fertile, our water is cleaner, our forests are protected. Families are living better. The more benefits we see, the more enthusiastic we've become. We're excited to keep experimenting with new ways to farm."

Learn more about how Equal Exchange's small farmer partners are improving their farms and greening the planet by visiting our new blog at: www.smallfarmersbigchange.coop.

Donate to further support the Presbyterian Small Farmer Fund. Contributions are payable to the **Presbyterian Church (USA)**, with "Small Farmer Fund, Account H000111" in the memo line, and can be mailed to: **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Individual Remittance Processing, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.**



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