

Cooperativa de Producción Agroindustrial, Ahorro y Crédito Manduvirá Ltda

Fair Trade, organic sugar from the birthplace of organic sugarcane



PARAGUAY

 Agriculture  FAIR TRADE Fair trade  Green

Cooperativa de Producción Agroindustrial, Ahorro y Crédito Manduvirá Ltda (Manduvirá) is a cooperative producing organic sugar. Its members are sugarcane growers, reapers and workers at the sugar factory.

Although the district Arroyos y Esteros is known as 'the birthplace of organic sugarcane' and produces various crops besides sugarcane, such as pineapple, lemon, stevia and cassava, there is a general lack of job opportunities, and most young people migrate to the country's central department of Asunción to seek new opportunities.

Manduvirá creates access to markets for local farmers, so that they can receive fair prices for their produce.

As a consequence of high transport costs, sugarcane farmers are often forced to sell to buyers situated close to their farms, leaving them open to extortion. In 2008 Manduvira temporarily solved this problem by renting a factory to produce organic sugar for the sugar cane farmers; unfortunately, the factory was nearly 100 km away, meaning the provision of a suitable factory in the Arroyos vicinity was of paramount importance in terms of reducing costs and increasing efficiency.

The cooperative's dream was to open its own environmentally-friendly sugar factory. A loan from Oikocredit and other investors turned the dream into reality in April 2014.

Partner info

FACTS	
Loan of	2,900,000 USD
Sector	Agriculture
Website	manduvira.com

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