

CAFTA-DR Sustainable Agriculture



Costa Rica • Dominican Republic • El Salvador • Guatemala • Honduras • Nicaragua • United States

Strengthening Rural Livelihoods While Protecting the Environment



Eco-certified coffee beans

Sustainable agriculture presents opportunities for protecting habitat and wildlife, while increasing the quality of life in Central American and Dominican rural farming communities. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science (OES) works with its grantees – TechnoServe, Humane Society International, and Rainforest Alliance – in Central America and the

Dominican Republic to protect the environment while raising farmer income and increasing employment through improved productivity and crop quality. The grantees provide training in environmentally sustainable agricultural practices so farmers can sell eco-certified and specialty products in high-value markets.

As part of the Environmental Cooperation Program of CAFTA-DR, OES awarded the above not-for-profit organizations cooperative grants that support sustainable development, including environmental protection.

The grantees are working towards the following objectives:

- **Training** farmers with small to medium-sized farms who cultivate cacao, coffee, and bananas to meet widely accepted ecological certification and specialty standards;
- **Working** to increase the supply of sustainably produced cacao, coffee, and bananas in world markets; and
- **Promoting** sustainable farm management practices within protected areas, biological corridors, and buffer zones by increasing the value of protecting these areas to rural communities.

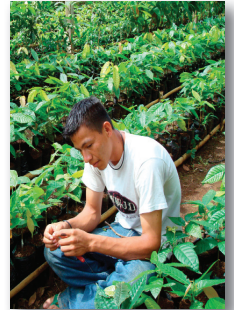


Harvesting shade coffee beans

practices in specialty coffee production and building channels for increasing sales of high-quality coffee in premium markets.

Humane Society International (HSI)

is addressing the needs of 400 small cacao producers in Costa Rica and Nicaragua to meet “green” certification requirements. Other components of HSI’s environmental stewardship work includes distributing native forest and fruit trees, improving the ecological diversity within and around cacao farms, developing a benchmark for gauging the environmental impact of sustainable cacao farming, and developing environmental education courses for local communities.



Local cacao technician: Improving eco-friendly harvests

Rainforest Alliance (RA)

and its partners in the Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) assist coffee, cacao, and banana producers in achieving Rainforest Alliance Certification. Together, these agricultural operations represent over 7,000 farmers. RA is documenting the economic and ecological sustainability of shaded coffee plantations and their use by forest and migratory birds. Consumers in the USA, Europe, and Japan are willing to pay higher prices for eco-friendly shade coffee. Thus, while improving the livelihoods of farm families, shaded coffee production provides shelter for birds and creates forested links to protected habitat.



Winter-over visitor: Tennessee warbler



Cacao pods in Costa Rica

Partner Program Highlights:

TechnoServe works with 160 small to medium-sized coffee farm operations in El Salvador promoting best environmental

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