



Students in SOPPEXCCA's 'Muchachitos del Café' program show off their workbooks.

Society of Small Producers for Coffee Export (SOPPEXCCA)

SOPPEXCCA is an association of coffee cooperatives representing 650 farmers in Jinotega, Nicaragua. The association has established two projects: the Young Environmentalist Movement works with adolescents, and the Coffee Children Project serves young children at rural schools.

Project participants learn about democratic processes and leadership, work together to identify local environmental issues, and carry out environmental education campaigns in their communities.

Community Need

The formal education system in Nicaragua does little to encourage active participation, individual decision-making or leadership in students. This is especially true in poor rural areas, traditionally neglected in terms of educational resources.

SOPPEXCCA initiated the youth projects in 2006 to provide educational opportunities for their children and to promote concepts that are essential to development, such as individual expression, teamwork, leadership and social awareness. SOPPEXCCA sees a great need to create opportunities for young people to meaningfully participate and make decisions.

Coffee Kids and SOPPEXCCA

Coffee Kids' partnership with SOPPEXCCA began in 2006 with support for their Coffee Children Project. In 2007, support was expanded to the Young Environmentalist Movement. These projects nurture a new generation of leaders with the education, confidence, and skills to improve their own quality of life and that of their community.

Project participants learn about democratic processes, work together to identify local environmental issues and carry out educational campaigns addressing these issues in their communities. SOPPEXCCA also provides workshops on organizational administration, youth leadership, communication techniques, gender issues, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, and environmental legislation

2009 Results

- The Coffee Children Project involved 839 children in five schools.
- Five schools received materials to create vegetable gardens, costumes for traditional dance courses, and supplies for painting courses.
- Cultural Pride Courses were attended by 156 children (110 in painting, 14 in music, 8 in traditional dance, 24 in drama).
- The Environmental Youth Project involved 213 young men and women in nine communities.
- The nine Young Environmentalist Groups received training, seeds and materials to build tree nurseries with native fruit plants, flowers and trees.
- A course in Democratic Values in Education and Teaching was presented to 32 teachers.