

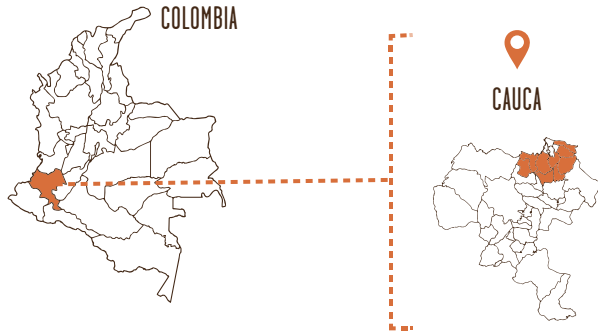
Cafinorte



Cooperativa de Caficultores
del Norte del Cauca

CAFINORTE

Cooperativa De Caficultores del Norte del Cauca



"The QC lab is an important tool for the cooperative because it helps producers to learn and improve. Here we have educated over 1000 young coffee growers in coffee analysis. The associations in the area have also benefitted from it, learning how their coffee is evaluated to then understand how to sell it."

-Esteban Espinoza, Cafinorte

Cafinorte is the coffee farmers' cooperative of the northern region of Cauca department, part of the nation-wide institutional and commercial network of the FNC (Colombian Coffee Growers' Federation). One defining characteristic of Cafinorte is its wealth of diversity within its membership and the organization's prioritization of social inclusion and engagement. The cooperative's constituency spans growing regions with vastly different climates, geographies, cultures, and ethnicities. The area is home to a rich diversity of cultures, traditions, and worldviews, including ethnically indigenous, afro-Colombians, mestizo Colombians as well as many multiethnic and multicultural families and individuals.

In part to honor this diversity, Cafinorte has chosen to engage in partnership local grassroots farmer associations that promote local cultural cohesion and attend to the specific needs of communities. Cafinorte adds value

-  Founded in 1991
-  Regional Focus: Norte del Cauca
-  Producers: 1,181
-  Harvest: March-April & May-June
-  Production: 30,819 bags
-  Altitudes: 1100-2200
-  Varieties: Most Castillo, Colombia, Caturra
-  Processes: Washed
-  Structure: Member owned cooperative

to these organizations sharing resources only attainable at scale, such as a professional quality lab, group purchasing of inputs, and access to the vast FNC commercial network.

A transversal effort that has proved to add value to across Cafinorte's membership and communities is their work to improve cup quality focusing on sensory analysis, constructive feedback to producers, and engaging young people with concepts of high-end specialty coffee production and quality control. Cafinorte's goal that has already begun to be realized is to allow a next generation of coffee growers to apply this technology and feedback to improve competitiveness of their produce in today's and tomorrow's high-end specialty coffee market in order to bring economic stability and prosperous employment to the area, something ubiquitously stated as a prerequisite for lasting peace in the region.