



EQUAL EXCHANGE is an independent, co-operatively owned organisation where worker owners have an equal stake—and an equal vote—in our business.



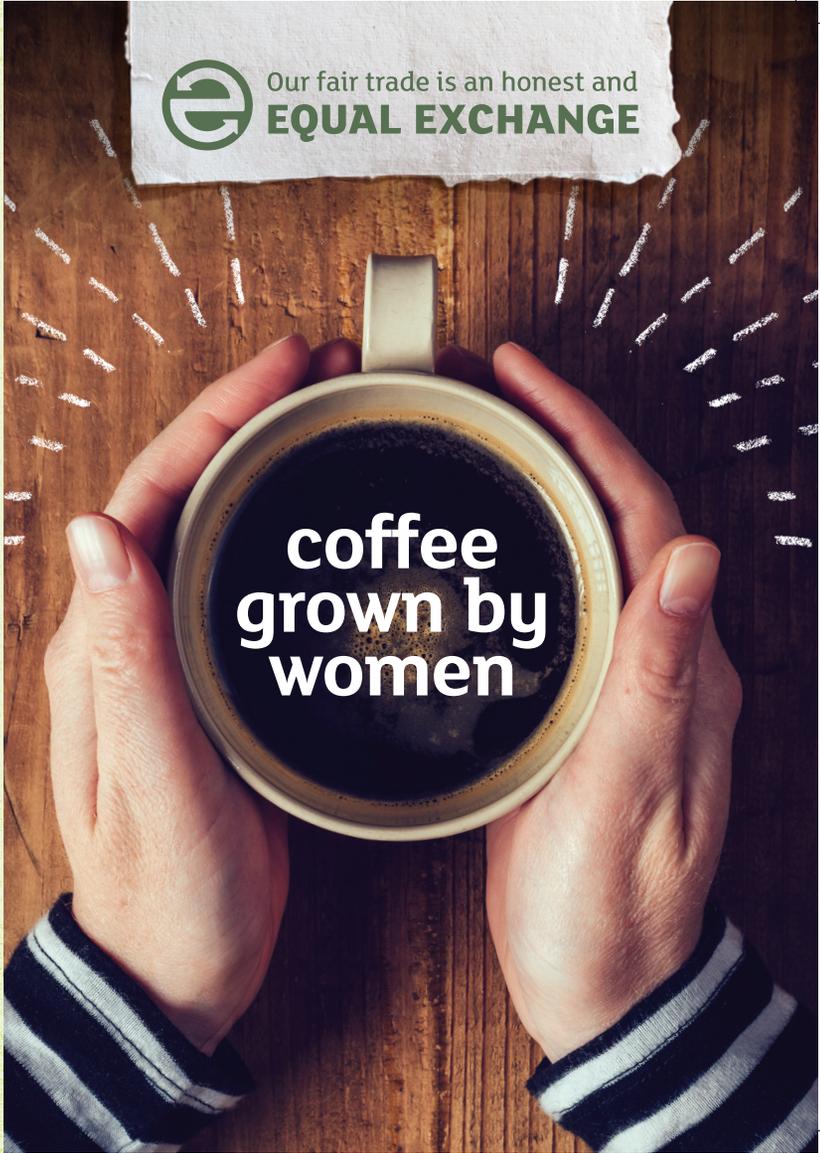
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www.equalexchange.co.uk

Find us   



Our fair trade is an honest and
EQUAL EXCHANGE



coffee
grown by
women

----- EQUAL EXCHANGE -----

MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE

One of the major challenges of the 21st Century is to recognise the value of female farmers in our food chains and to work on greater gender equality. Women should have the same access to choices, income and training as men.

Coffee drinkers have been unaware for decades of the level of work done by women farmers to bring us our daily cup of coffee. In our quest to bring farmers and consumers closer together we think this is an important story to tell.

- Despite women doing up to 70% of the work on a coffee farm it is still mainly men that are the members of co-ops, receive training and crucially, receive payments.
- Women have limited access to the decision-making process.
- In some areas women find it hard, if not impossible, to legally own land.
- At the same time women still carry the bulk of the work involved in running the household.

Equal Exchange wants to address this by working with co-ops to develop gender policies and to find ways to allow women to be members in their own right. The goals are to:

- Close the gender gap
- Increase rural income by improving coffee quality and productivity
- Leads to nutritional benefits for the families as well as an increase in educational attainment

Giving women access to training can also strengthen their resilience to climate change providing benefits to their own farms and the wider coffee community.



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EQUAL EXCHANGE Grown by Women products are sourced exclusively from female farmer members of the co-operatives we work with, this includes UNICAFEC in Peru and Sopexca in Nicaragua. They provide us with speciality grade, washed arabica coffee. The coffee is included in our organic Medium, Dark and Espresso coffee products and also into our flagship Grown By Women Blend. This blend of speciality coffees is medium roasted to let the smooth honeyed apricot and almond notes speak for themselves.

By choosing to buy our Grown by Women coffees you are helping women, their families and the wider communities in a very real way.

Maria Asuncion Mejia
La Union Cooperative in Dipilto,
primary co-op of PRODECOOP
in Nicaragua



unicafec
Unión de Cafeteros Ecológicos



Flor Del Carmen Merino Garcia
Peru, UNICAFEC

“As a woman and a farmer, I have lots of dreams and goals, but the main ones are to improve my family’s quality of life; to continue improving our processing facilities to obtain a high-quality coffee, both in terms of production and in the cup; and to receive personalised technical assistance to help us improve our production.”